



# Memorial Presbyterian Church

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent

December 23, 2012

*Let all who enter enjoy the fellowship of friends until the bells call us to worship.  
Let us then, in oneness of spirit, turn our reverent attention to the worship of God.*

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

*O Shepherd of Israel, from whom comes forth one who shall feed your flock, we gather as those who dwell in the folds of your embrace and care. Your love envelops us like swaddling cloths wrapped around a babe in a manger. Your countenance shines like a star that led the wise men one night. We behold your radiance as we enter your sanctuary and praise your name for the Christ who brings us salvation.*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Charles Ore

### BRINGING THE LIGHT

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus is coming, as God's love for us.

**The promise of God is sure: 'But you, O Bethlehem... from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule... and he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord.'**

In this season of Advent, we celebrate the coming of Jesus as God's gift: 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.'

**Until the day when the world is filled with God's promised eternal life, we receive and rejoice in the sacrificial love with which Jesus loves us.**

As the candle of love is lit, take the love of God, revealed in Bethlehem's child, and use it to help transform the world.

**We pledge ourselves as God's beloved partners to love the world God loves, not counting the cost.**

ADVENT SONG

*He Came Down*

Trad. Cameroon

*He came down that we may have love (3x)  
Hallelujah, forevermore.*

PRAYER

**Lord Jesus Christ, as we celebrate how you reveal God's love, make us mindful of the loveless lives we often overlook but which have immense value to you. Open our hearts and hands to love the loveless, lift up the forgotten and restore the lost. Amen.**

\*SONG OF PRAISE

*People, Look East*

12

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*ADMITTING OUR BROKENNESS

**God our Savior, we ask for your mercy. Though we have heard Mary's song, we still seek security in pride and power and possessions. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you. We pass by those considered lowly in this world. We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend. Make us messengers of the peace you bring. As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.**

\*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

\*SONG OF RESPONSE

*Gloria in excelsis Deo*

23 (refrain)

**\*THE PEACE**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.  
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES**

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

**PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Micah 5:2-5a

Page No. 802

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Luke 1:39-46a

Page No. 888

Luke 1:46b-55

*Song of Mary*

Lucy Lanning, Cantor

*Book of Common Prayer, alt.*

**Bruce Ford**

The Al - might - y has done great \_ things for me,  
and \_ ho - ly is \_ God's name.

Music from *The Hymnal 1982*, copyright 1985 The Church Pension Fund.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

*Love Came Down at Christmas*

**MESSAGE**

*Mary the Vulnerable*

Tracy L. Evans

SONG OF FAITH                      *O Little Town of Bethlehem*                      44

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

“...Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.”**

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 16

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

David Cherwien

\*DOXOLOGY

*To God the Father, God the Son*

Hymn 4, v. 4

DEDICATION PRAYER

### **FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

\*SENDING SONG

*In Bethlehem a Babe Was Born*

34

\*TAKING LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

CHORAL BENEDICTION

*Love Is a Flame that Burns in Our Heart*

\*POSTLUDE

*Il est né, le divin Enfant*

Alice Jordan

\*Those who are able may stand.

We invite anyone who wishes to consider membership in this church to contact the pastor or a member of the session. You may also indicate interest in membership by checking the appropriate column in the ritual of friendship booklet. Membership in this church is a step made by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith or transfer of church letter.

**Lectionary Readings** for December 30: 1 Samuel 2:18-20; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52.

**The Urban Mission** item of the month for December is **cereal**. Please place your donations in the box by the church information table.

Please join us for a candlelight **Christmas Eve** service tomorrow night at 7:00 P.M. Through a service of nine Lessons and Carols, we will celebrate the entry into this world of Jesus, our Emmanuel, as a humble baby. There will be many opportunities for singing favorite Christmas carols. Come early — prelude music begins at 6:45 P.M. Please share this invitation to worship with your family, friends and neighbors.

**End of year giving:** As the end of the year approaches, we would like to remind you that contributions are deductible in the year in which they are made. Checks must be received by the church or postmarked before January 1, 2013 to be included in this year's contribution statement.

We are well on our way in raising funds for **new hymnals**—we have received donations for 99 pew hymnals and 7 large print hymnals. We still need another 121 pew hymnals and 3 large print hymnals. If you would like to donate, it would be helpful to do so by December 30 — the more hymnals we can order before New Year's, the less the total cost will be. We will continue to raise funds for hymnals and Bibles as needed. Thank you to all who have donated funds.

For Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, the Worship & Music committee has planned a special service for **Epiphany**, the day we celebrate the arrival of the Magi to the Christ child. You are invited to bring your own wise men (or women!) from a favorite nativity for that day's worship.

**SUNDAY****December 23**

9:30 A.M. – No Sunday School for Youth & Children

10:30 A.M. – Fellowship and Refreshments

10:55 A.M. – Worship Service

**MONDAY****December 24**

7:00 P.M. – Christmas Eve Service

**TUESDAY****December 25**

Office Closed – Merry Christmas!

**WEDNESDAY****December 26**

No Wednesday Night activities

**SUNDAY****December 30**

9:30 A.M. – No Sunday School for Youth & Children

10:30 A.M. – Fellowship and Refreshments

10:30 A.M. – Chancel Choir rehearsal

10:55 A.M. – Worship Service