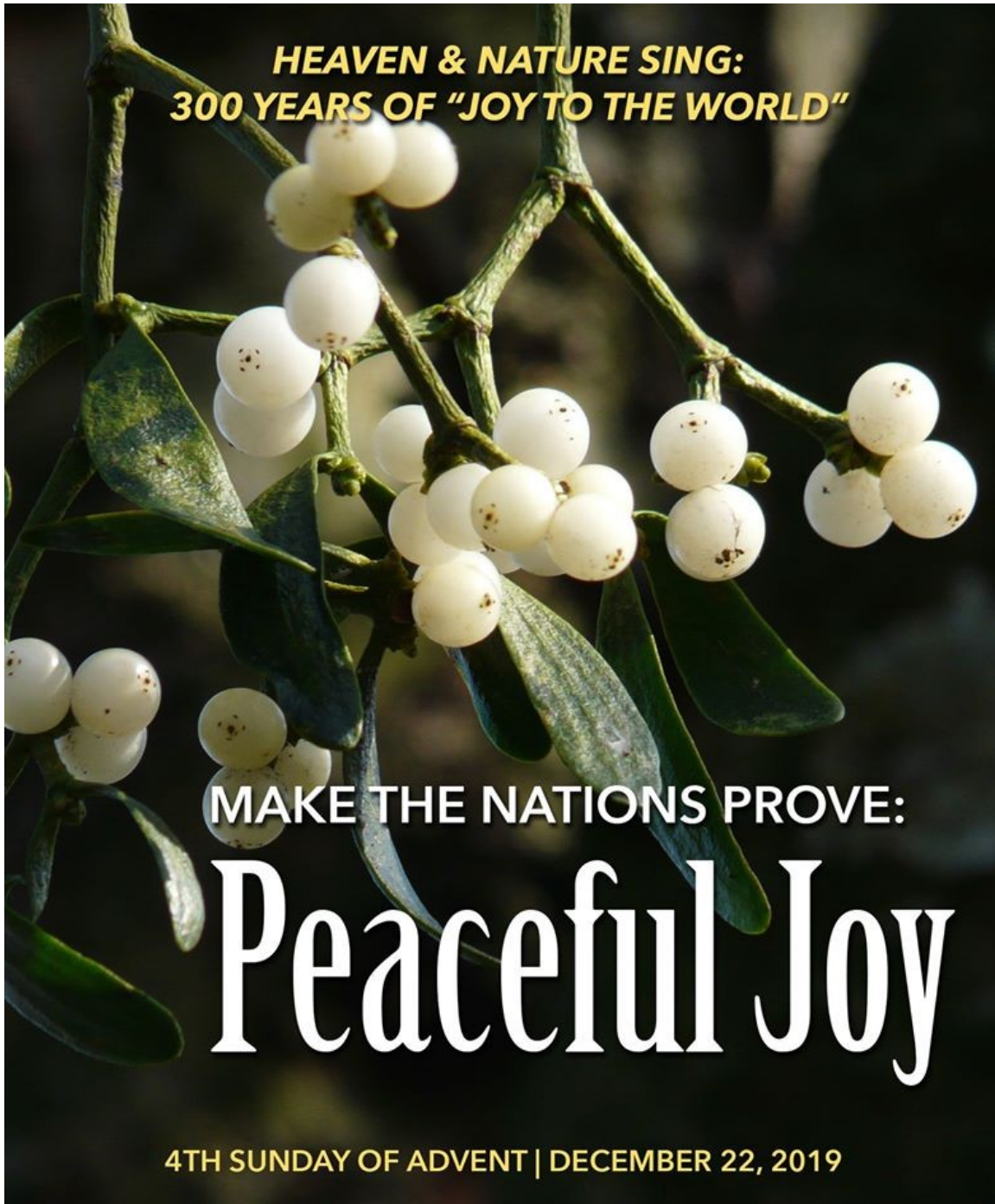


Memorial Presbyterian Church



**HEAVEN & NATURE SING:
300 YEARS OF "JOY TO THE WORLD"**

MAKE THE NATIONS PROVE:

Peaceful Joy

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT | DECEMBER 22, 2019

PHOTO BY HANS BRAXMEIER FROM PIXABAY

EXPANSION OF OUR HEARTS

We gather together to worship the One Who Is Joy and as we come together, our hearts are expanded. We remember that the heavens declare God's praise as the sun rises and light multiplies. And we witness that all of nature (including us) yearns to reach and expand toward the Light so that all might know joy.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Of the Father's Love Begotten Wilbur Held

BRINGING THE LIGHT

FOCUSING ON PEACEFUL JOY Heaven and Nature Sing

**Sing a new song to the Lord
Lift your hearts with gratitude
Sing a new song to the Lord
Lift your hearts with gratitude
and Joy,
Peaceful Joy!**

**Your steadfast love and faithfulness
Is ever present in our lives
Your steadfast love and faithfulness
Is ever present in our lives
with Joy,
Peaceful Joy!**

**We sing
We sing
Joy to the World
Heaven and nature sing
Joy to the World
Heaven and nature sing
With joy
Peaceful Joy**

THE WREATH

*SONG OF JOY O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Hymnal, No. 88

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel!
You call us each by name and invite us to follow you.
But we—like sheep—do not heed your voice;
we stray from your path.
Now we call upon your name.
Save us from all that ensnares our lives!
Restore us, O God!
Let your face shine, that we may be saved.
You claim us for service and assure us we have nothing to fear.
But we are timid disciples
who discount dreams and discredit messengers,
for we do not believe you can use a flock like us

to usher in your reign.

Restore us, O God!

Let your face shine, that our faith may be made strong.

You come among us to enfold us with love.

As we await the babe of Bethlehem,

give us the steadfast faith of Joseph

and the expectant hope of Mary,

that we, too, may come in wonder

to worship the newborn king.

Restore us, O God!

Let your face shine, that our trust may be renewed.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

*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.

*SONG OF RESPONSE

Gloria

Hymnal, No. 113

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

RECEPTION OF GOD'S WORD

As we open to receive the Word and interpret its meaning for our lives, we connect to the depths of our being where the River of Joy is always flowing. We have only to dip into it for, we have the "joy, joy, joy, joy, down in our hearts."

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Joan Cole

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Karen Girdner

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 7:13-15

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Page No. 554

ANTHEM

A Waiting Song

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:46b-55

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Page No. 783

MESSAGE Peaceful Joy Tracy L. Evans

*SONG OF FAITH While We Are Waiting, Come Hymnal, No. 92

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM—Jaya Sema Kamani and Babila Phareii Ngamchua
PRESENTATION

There is one body and one Spirit,
just as you were called
to the one hope of your calling,
**one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
one God and Father of all,
who is above all and through all and in all.**

*PROFESSION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed Hymnal, p. 35

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise....

THE BAPTISM

*It is the tradition of our Cameroonian siblings to make
a special offering at baptisms and other special occasions.
The Christian Women's Fellowship will lead the offering
procession with song and placing offerings in the
baskets on the communion table. Worshipers may join
in the procession or stay in their pew as desired*

TRANSFORMATION OF OUR LIVES

Connecting with our deepest selves, we are able to accept that all of life resides within joy's possibilities—not only the happy moments, but also the sorrows and difficulties of life. Like the work of our hearts, all that flows in can be given new life and pumped back out with renewed oxygen, giving us strength and courage for all circumstances.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

The Lord's Prayer Hymnal, p. 35

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits

*DOXOLOGY Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise Hymnal, No. 648

**Thankful hearts and voices raise;
tell everyone what God has done.
Let everyone who seeks the Lord**

rejoice and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your promises
and lead your people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving.
Alleluia, alleluia.

*DEDICATION PRAYER

COMPASSION FOR THE WORLD

Connecting to Joy can compel us to want this connection for all beings. We leave this place "with passion" (com-passion) for adding our love, peace, hope, and joy to the world.

*SENDING SONG Love Has Come Hymnal, No. 110

*TAKING LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

We sing
We sing
Joy to the World
Heaven and nature sing
Joy to the World
Heaven and nature sing
With joy
Peaceful Joy

*POSTLUDE Toda la Tierra Alberto Taulé

*Please rise in body or spirit.

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 29: Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23.

The **Food and Shelter** item of the month for December is **soup and crackers** and cheese. Please place your donations in the box by the church information table.

Hearing-assistance devices and **large print hymnals** are available from the head usher.

Ushers for today's service are Will & Jessica Farris.

You are invited to join us for the **Christmas Eve service at 7:00 pm** on Tuesday, December 24. It will be a JOYFUL celebration of lessons and carols and our traditional candle-light service

Reminder there is **no Kid's Club** on December 18 and 25, January 1 and 8 for Christmas Break.

SUNDAY	December 22
9:30 A.M. – Sunday School	
10:30 A.M. – Fellowship and Refreshments	
10:55 A.M. – Worship Service	
TUESDAY	December 24
7:00 P.M. – Christmas Eve Service	
WEDNESDAY	December 25
OFFICE CLOSED	
SUNDAY	December 15
9:30 A.M. – Sunday School	
10:30 A.M. – Fellowship and Refreshments	
10:55 A.M. – Worship Service	

KNOWN JOYS & CONCERNS

Those who seek healing

Lola Carroll
Sandy Clarke
Jan Cunningham
Laura Eckel
Doug Forsyth
Blair Lanning
Judd Lanning
Jayelle Martin
Emily Ryther
Gary Thraikill
Jona Thiessen
Devyn Upton
Karen Upton
Janann Yeager
Melinda Clements
Darrell Hinson (Karen Upton's father)
Paul Gallagher (Karen Upton's biological father)
Carole Jo Evans (Tracy Evans' mother)
Jim Leseney (Vince Leseney's father)

Those who Experienced Recent Loss

Samuel McCann whose grandmother died December 11.
Mike and Joan Cole whose brother Jim Cole died November 12.
Linda Eckel and family whose husband Jim Eckel died October 31.
Lisa Upton whose father Nolan Spaugy died on October 30.

Seminary Graduate

Samuel McCann, Pittsburgh Theo. Seminary

We lift up in prayer the country of Cameroon and pray for the unrest our brothers and sisters are experiencing there.

Birthdays

December 22– Jim Burns
Everett Forthman
December 23– Kay Martin
Betsy Pennington
Norma Taylor
December 27– Brooke Hesse

Anniversaries

December 27– Tim & Jona Thiessen

As part of the **ecumenical prayer cycle**, we ask you to pray for a particular region of the world each week: **Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Taiwan**

We **give thanks** for:

- the prophetic witness of Christians in Japan and South Korea
- the distinctive temples, art and cultures in the region
- education and economic developments that have improved the lives of many
- Japan finally reaching a settlement with Korea over “comfort women” from the second world war
- how the council of churches in Japan has promoted reconciliation with the rest of Asia
- the great religious tolerance exhibited by the Taiwanese and their pioneering of contextual theological education
- the Ecumenical Forum for Peace, Reunification and Development Cooperation on the Korean Peninsula, which with others has sought to reunify Korea, to defend human rights, and to work for peace and justice.

We **pray** for:

- an end to repression of people and to threats of military confrontation, especially on the Korean peninsula
- the reunification of Korea, that peace and justice might prevail
- peaceful resolution of the many disputed claims to islands in the South China Sea by Taiwan and its neighbours and for greater understanding and cooperation between Taiwan and mainland China.
- women and other marginalized groups, and the inequalities they experience
- greater acceptance of immigrants that they might make a positive contribution
- new hope and meaning for the young, amid pressures of competition and consumerism.