

SIGNS *of* PROMISE



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE CANDLE *of* JOY

DECEMBER 13, 2020

LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY ARE:

Christopher Edmonston, Pastor

Grier Booker Richards, Associate Pastor for Discipleship

Anne Galliher, Pastoral Resident

Kirsten Homdrom, Associate Director of Music

Karl Zinsmeister, Director of Music

Terry Preston, soprano

Aimée White, alto

Brian White, tenor

Bill Preston, bass

WHITE MEMORIAL
— PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH —

ORDER OF SERVICE

Greeting

Prelude - *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Glory to God, Hymn 97, stanza 1

(All singing)

Watch-man, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are. Trav-ler, what a
won-drous sight: see that glo-ry - beam-ing star. Watch-man, does its beau-teous ray news of joy or
hope fore - tell? Trav -ler, yes; it brings the day, prom - ised day of Is - ra - el.

One: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

All: Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy;

One: The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

All: Restore our fortunes, O Lord,

One: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

**All: Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.**

Psalm 126:1, 2a, 3, 4a, 5-6

The first two candles of Advent are hope and peace!

Today we light the candle of joy!

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,

the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,

and rejoice with joy and singing. (Isaiah 35:1)

Let us pray.

Almighty God,

you have made us and all things to serve you,

now prepare the world for your rule.

Come quickly to save us,

so that wars and violence shall end,

and your children may live in peace,

honoring one another with justice and love;

through Jesus Christ,

who lives in power with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn 88 - *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

stanza 1: ALL; stanza 2: Low Voices; stanza 3: High Voices; stanza 4: Organ with ALL on REFRAIN;
stanza 5: ALL; stanza 6: Organ; stanza 7: ALL

Prayer of Confession

We confess, God of joy, that we have not always looked to you for guidance. Forgive us when we lose hope. Forgive us when we practice conflict and not peace. Forgive us when we have slumbered instead of remaining awake to the power of your Holy Spirit and the joy which it alone can provide. Help us to avoid the trappings of the world. Help us to resist allowing the world's fears to become our fears. Allow us to see your signs of promise in these days of Advent that we might feel the fullness of your power to restore and renew. Prepare our lives to celebrate the birth of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

New Testament Lesson

John 1:19-28

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?"

²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah."

²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not."
"Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No."

²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.

²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?"

²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know,

²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal."

²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

A Time with Young Disciples

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 61:1-4; 8-11

¹The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;

²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

³to provide for those who mourn in Zion — to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁸For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Sermon - Signs of Promise: "Dressing the Part for Joy"

Musical Offering – Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God

Handel/Hopson

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Responding in Faith

Affirmation of Faith

(adapted from *A Brief Statement of Faith*, 1977)

**Jesus Christ stands at the center of the biblical record.
The Bible is the account of God's word and action in history,
together with the people's response in faith.
It tells how the Lord has moved with Israel and the church towards the kingdom of God,
which is God's just and loving rule over all.
It is the story of the one God, who is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
That story is still unfolding and in faith we make it our own.
It forms our memory and our hope.
It tells us who we are and what we are to do.
To retell it is to declare what we believe.
And we believe God works beyond our imagining throughout the universe.
We must not set our ultimate reliance on any other help.
To worship God is highest joy. To serve God is perfect freedom.**

Hymn 137 - He Came Down

First time - light; second time - joy

Charge and Benediction

The congregation is invited to remain seated/logged on for the Postlude during the season of Advent.
Following the Postlude, in-person worshippers are asked to depart through the doors at the front of the Sanctuary.

Postlude - Andante from Sonata in D Major, Op. 28

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Chiming of the Trinity

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Cover art

All Nature Sings from “*A Mystery Revealed*” by James Fissel
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Music included in today’s service

Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring; Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750); Public Domain

HYMN 97 *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*; Text and Music Public Domain

HYMN 88 *O Come, O come, Emmanuel*; Text and Music Public Domain, arr. John Weaver 1990

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GENEROSITY CAMPAIGN 2021 UPDATE

As of Wednesday, December 9, we have received 798 pledges totaling \$3,458,787. If you have not already, please consider making a pledge at www.whitememorial.org/generosity.

UNIDENTIFIED STOCK

Will the generous donors of Yum Brands, Cigna Corp., and Vanguard Index stocks please call Jody Grayson at 834-3425, ext 204 to identify your gift so that we can give you proper credit?

Please note that all year-end contributions must be received in the Finance Office by 5:00 PM on December 31, 2020 or postmarked by December 31, 2020 to be claimed as a 2020 donation.

88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge
 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>5 O come, thou Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heavenly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.</p> | <p>6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
 our spirits by thine advent here;
 disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadows put to flight.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.</p> |
|--|--|

- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
 all peoples in one heart and mind;
 bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
 fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

One stanza of this paraphrase of the great O Antiphons may be sung on each of the last days of Advent as follows:

Dec. 17: O Wisdom (2)

Dec. 20: O Key of David (5)

Dec. 23: O Emmanuel (1)

Dec. 18: O Lord of might (3)

Dec. 21: O Dayspring (6)

Dec. 19: O Root of Jesse (4)

Dec. 22: O Desire of Nations (7)

These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas; their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

He Came Down

137

He came down that we may have love; he

came down that we may have love; he came down that we may

have love; *Leader:* Why did he come?

hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.

Additional stanzas:

- ... that we may have light
- ... that we may have peace
- ... that we may have joy

First time - light; second time - joy

Because this traditional Cameroon piece begins with the refrain, it does not initially reveal that it is cast as a call-and-response song. Assigning the answers to the congregation rather than to the leader is a notable affirmation of the corporate wisdom of God's people.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT WMPC?

MONDAY | DECEMBER 14

Women's Monthly

Fellowship Virtual Luncheon

12-1:00 p.m. | Live Stream from the Sanctuary | FB Live

All women are cordially invited to our virtual luncheon presentation as we have our annual communion service this month (have bread or crackers and juice available.) After our communion service, grab a sandwich and listen as Eric Nanz, Associate Director of Music and Worship Arts shares his musical talent with us. The Presbyterian Women's project for December is collecting gently used coats, new hats, gloves and scarves for cold weather for men, women and children. These can be dropped off in the red crates in front of the Witherspoon Building.

TUESDAY | DECEMBER 15

Men's Breakfast & Bible Study

7:30 a.m. | Zoom | [Registration required](#)

WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 16

Boxed Dinners To Go

Pick-up between 5:00-6:30 p.m. | McDonald Lane
\$7.00/per boxed dinner

StepUp Ministry is hosting this week's Boxed Dinner to Go. On the menu is chicken gumbo over basmati rice, green peas, french rolls and dessert. StepUp will be collecting toiletry items and warm socks for children and adults.

Midweek Advent Evening Prayer

6:30 p.m. | Live Stream

This Advent season we invite you to share Wednesday evenings with us as a time of reflection, prayer and music.

THURSDAY | DECEMBER 17

Keenagers

10:00 a.m | Zoom

If you are 55 years old +, we invite you to join Keenagers via Zoom on Thursday as Jim Ferry shares The Christmas Story: *The 3 Gospels: Difference and Similarities*. Please contact Tonya Higgins at thiggins@whitememorial.org to receive your Zoom link.

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CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

Live Stream only

● Children's Christmas Eve Bell Service | 3:00 p.m.

● Candlelight Service | 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Stroll | 4:30-8:00 p.m.

with live music 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Enjoy a walk down McDonald Lane and through the heart of our campus where you'll find prayer and craft stations and live music. During the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, we invite you to join us in lighting a candle at home. We are offering small candles with a drip protector, which can be picked up in the Witherspoon lobby. Supplies are limited, so we ask that you take only what you need for your family. Pick-up is available 9:00 am – 4:00 pm December 14-23, and 9:00 am until noon on Christmas Eve.

CHRISTMAS SHARE

Christmas Share, an alternative giving program, has put over one million dollars in our community and toward our international partnerships. Started almost 30 years ago by Presbyterian Women, it continues to be an important Christmas outreach opportunity. One check is sent to each agency for the total amounts contributed. [You can find forms online to make a donation](#) or contact Gloria Johnson at gjohnson@whitememorial.org for more information.

ADVENT GREENERY/MEMORIALS AND HONORARIA

Contributions in memory of a loved one or in honor of a family member, friend, or member of the church family are welcomed. All of those honored or memorialized will be listed in the bulletin on December 20 and Christmas Eve. All requests must be in the church office by noon on Monday, December 14. [Forms can be found online](#). Questions? Contact Rebecca Turner at rturner@whitememorial.org.

NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR NEW OFFICERS

The Churchwide Nominating Committee starts meeting in mid-January to consider nominations for church Elders and Deacons, class of 2024. Please give prayerful consideration to placing a church member into nomination for these critical leadership roles. The nomination form can be found at: www.whitememorial.org/church-officers. All recommendations must be received by January 11, 2021. This form may be 1) returned electronically to rturner@whitememorial.org; 2) dropped off at the church; or 3) mailed to the church office.

Registration for most events can be found on our website www.whitememorial.org/register