

WHITE MEMORIAL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 24, 2017
8:30 A.M.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Greeting

One: The love of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Kirsten Homdrom

All: And also with you.

One: Let us prepare for worship.

Preparation for Worship

God of grace, you chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Savior. Now fill us with your grace, that with her, we may rejoice in your salvation and, in all things, embrace your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Gathering Hymns

Christian Welcome and Announcements

Please pass the Friendship Register to your neighbor; include all requested information.

Gary Fulton

Children through fifth grade are invited to come forward for the lighting of the Advent wreath, after which they may return to their seats for the rest of the service.

Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Candle

One: I am about to do a new thing, says the Lord.

All: God will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

One: O sing to the Lord a new song,

All: for God has done marvelous things.

Isaiah 43:19; Psalm 98:1

(lighting of the Advent candle)

One: Let us pray.

All: Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress, remembering past promises with present faithfulness. Amen.

Glory to God: Hymn 99, stanza 5

*Hymn 98 - *To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary*

stanzas 1-4

ANNUNCIATION

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

We confess in the name of Jesus that we are wary of endings. Our blessings are so many, and we resist their culmination. The hope, peace, joy and love of Advent blessings have shaped our hearts and our faith. We have heard, "all good things must come to an end," and we would rather this not be true. So today, at the intersection of the end of Advent and the coming of Christmas, we pray for your guidance. Help us, God. Keep our faith strong. Forgive our sin and prepare our hearts to receive the unbridled light of Christmas in all its fullness and glory. In the name of Jesus, the child of Bethlehem we pray. Amen.

*Declaration of Good News

*Passing of the Peace

*Gloria - Hymn 583

Taizé

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!**

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Epistle Lesson - Romans 16:25-27

pew Bible, p. 155

Anthem - Ancient Peoples Searched the Sky

Sally Ann Morris (pub. 2014)

Ancient peoples searched the sky, voicing our eternal "why?" Heaven answered with a sign: a star, proclaiming love divine. Sages journeyed from the East bearing gifts for prince and priest. Seeking wisdom, starlight-stirred, they worshiped God's incarnate word. Chasing starlight still today, people dream, explore and pray. God is with us – given birth as starlight leads to love on earth.

Youth Choir; Kelly Gold, director; Lora Zinsmeister, accompanist

Gospel Lesson - Luke 1:26-38

pew Bible, p. 53

Sermon - End of Advent? Beginning of Faith? Either, or Both?

Christopher Edmonston

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*Hymn 100 - *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Robert Galloway

**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.**

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Anthem - Night of Silence

arr. John Ferguson (b. 1941)

Cold are the people, winter of life, we tremble in shadows this cold endless night, frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping, flowers that will echo the sunrise, fire of hope is our only warmth, weary, its flame will be dying soon. Voice in the distance, call in the night, on wind you enfold us, you speak of the light, gentle on the ear you whisper softly, rumors of a dawn so embracing, breathless love awaits darkened souls, soon will we know of the morning. Spirit among us, shine like the star, your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar, shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely, rising in the warmth of your Son's love, star unknowing of night and day, Spirit we wait for your loving Son. Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright round you virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace.

Youth Choir

*Offertory Response Hymn 147 - verse 6

THE FIRST NOWELL

**Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.**

***Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in God,
the creator and giver of life,
who brought all creation to birth,
who mothers us and fathers us,
protecting, nurturing and cherishing us.

We believe in Jesus Christ:
God born among us as a fragile baby,
embodying both love and the need for love,
and calling us to rest in God
as trustingly as a tiny child.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
breathed into us at our birth,
always drawing us on to be born again,
encouraging, exhorting, comforting,
nourishing our growth
and inspiring our living.

We believe in the reconciliation
of the world to God, through Christ.
Hunted at birth
and humiliated at death,
Christ entered our fearful darkness
so that we might enter his glorious light
and share the life of his resurrection.

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

Hymn 113 - *Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

***Charge and Benediction**

The congregation is invited to be seated for the postlude during the season of Advent.

***Chiming of the Trinity**

Postlude - *Carillon on ANTIOCH*

See Hymn 134.

Mary Beth Bennett (b. 1954)

Ushers: Don Munford, chair, Bruce Broadbelt, Laura Broadbelt, Steve Cadwallader, Carol Fogartie, Bonnie Elam.

Service Assistants: Barnes Mason.

Treasurer's Assistants: Wesley Jones, Gary Pendleton.

Shuttle Driver: Morgan Grimes.

Advent Wreath Lighters: Youth Choir members.

The Advent Banner in the sanctuary is a gift of the Sanctuary Choir in honor of Brock Downward, Director of Music Emeritus. It represents Hymn 348, *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending*.

IN THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

David Richard White, Sr. - December 18, 2017

WELCOME TO WHITE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PC(USA)

We are glad you are worshipping with us.

Visiting? Stop by the Welcome Table in Jane Bell Gathering Space for information, directions and a friendly greeting. New members are received after a one-day Beginnings Class.

Visit whitememorial.org/join

or contact Elizabeth Viohl at ext. 206 for details, class dates and registration.

THINGS TO KNOW:

- Shuttle buses run every Sunday at five- to ten-minute intervals, 8:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m., from Carolina Place, 2626 Glenwood Avenue, across from Glenwood Village Shopping Center.
- Restrooms are located in the Luther Building immediately behind the sanctuary/Jane Bell Gathering Space.
- Childcare is available for children up to four years old.
- Church School is offered at 9:30 a.m. for all ages.
- Refreshments are served in Carol Copeland Courtyard or Pickard Hall on Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
- The sanctuary has a loop hearing aid system and an FM system.
- Live-streamed services are at whitememorial.org.
- Radio, WPTF 680 AM, every other Sunday at 11:00 a.m.: December 31, January 14 and 28.
- Bulletins left in the sanctuary following worship services are recycled as part of our care for God's creation. WMPC is a certified Earth Care congregation of the PC(USA).
- We are a Stephen Ministry congregation.

PASTORAL & PROGRAM STAFF:

CHRISTOPHER EDMONSTON, PASTOR
CYNTHIA BAGGETT, DIR. OF WEEKDAY SCHOOL
JAMES BENTON, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
LAURA BOYD, DIR. OF HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY
GENEVIEVE BROOKS, DIR. OF MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY
TRACEY DANIEL, ASSOC. PASTOR FOR FAITH FORMATION
BROCK DOWNWARD, DIR. OF MUSIC EMERITUS
JIM FERRY, INTERIM PARISH ASSOCIATE
GARY FULTON, ASSOC. PASTOR FOR ADMINISTRATION AND OUTREACH
ROBERT GALLOWAY, PASTORAL RESIDENT
KIRSTEN HOMDROM, ASSOC. DIR. OF MUSIC
KATHY HOWELL, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
GLORIA JOHNSON, ASSOC. PASTOR FOR COMMUNITY MINISTRY AND MISSIONS
PAGE KING, NURSERY COORDINATOR
LINDA NUNNALLEE, STEPUP DIRECTOR
JUDY PIDCOCK, PARISH ASSOC. FOR SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY
CHIP POPE, ASSOC. PASTOR FOR YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES
GRIER RICHARDS, ASSOC. PASTOR FOR DISCIPLESHIP
RICH RICHARDS, ASSOC. DIR. OF MUSIC
ART ROSS, PASTOR EMERITUS
LYNN SPRINGFIELD, DIR. OF ELEMENTARY MINISTRY
MARTHA STEVENSON, EDUCATOR EMERITA
AGNES VAGLIO, DIR. OF CHILDREN'S MUSIC
GWEN WHITEMAN, DIR. OF YOUNG CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
JEAN WILLIAMS, PARISH NURSE
KARL ZINSMEISTER, DIR. OF MUSIC
PASTOR ON CALL: 919-605-4593

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 24 (Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-33)

Advent IV

- 8:30 a.m. - Worship (Sanctuary)
- 9:00 a.m. - OnPoint House Band (Pickard)
- 9:30 a.m. - Fellowship Time; No Church School
- 10:00 a.m. - OnPoint@1704 Worship (Pickard)
Christmas Eve
- 3:00 p.m. - Bell Service (Sanctuary)
- 4:00 p.m. - Bell Service (Sanctuary)
- 5:30 p.m. - Candlelight Worship (Sanctuary)
- 7:00 p.m. - OnPoint House Band Warm Up (K100)
- 8:00 p.m. - Candlelight Worship OnPoint@1704 (Pickard)
- 11:00 p.m. - Candlelight Worship (Sanctuary)

Monday, December 25 (Ps. 98; Micah 4:1-5, 5:2-4; 1 John 4:7-16; John 3:31-36)

Offices and Church Buildings Closed - Holiday

Tuesday, December 26 (Ps. 119:1-24; Wisd. of Sol. 4:7-15; Acts 6:1-7, 7:59-8:8)

Offices and Church Buildings Closed - Holiday

Wednesday, December 27 (Ps. 19; Prov. 8:22-30; 1 John 5:1-12; John 13:20-35)

8:00 p.m. - Al-Anon (C100)

Thursday, December 28 (Ps. 110; Isa. 49:13-23, 54:1-13; Matt. 18:1-14)

- 8:00 a.m. - Labyrinth Open for Walking (Chapel)
- 12:30 p.m. - Praying Our Church Into Its Future (Chapel)
- 1:00 p.m. - Labyrinth Open for Walking (Chapel)

Friday, December 29 (Ps. 132; 2 Sam. 23:13-17b; 2 John 1-13; John 2:1-11)

8:00 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous (C100)

Saturday, December 30 (Ps. 89:1-18; 1 Kings 17:17-24; 3 John 1-15; John 4:46-54)

C=Calvin Building
K=Knox Building
L=Luther Building

W=Witherspoon Building
S=Sanctuary Annex (Jane Bell Gathering Space, choir rooms, sanctuary, nurseries)

Christmas Eve Worship Schedule

Morning Worship

- 8:30 a.m.: Sanctuary; live-streamed
- 9:30 a.m.: Church-wide Fellowship - No Church School
- 10:00 a.m.: OnPoint@1704, Pickard Hall
- Note: There will be no 11:00 a.m. service.**

Bell Services

3:00 & 4:00 p.m.: Sanctuary; live-streamed

Candlelight Lessons & Carols

- 5:30 & 11:00 p.m.: Sanctuary; live-streamed
- 8:00 p.m.: OnPoint@1704, Pickard Hall