



THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2017

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music – *Three Christmas Preludes*
Smith

I. Sing We Now of Christmas

II. Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

III. Emmanuel

Prayer of Preparation (*you may wish to prepare for worship by praying silently*)

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on his shoulders; and his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. Come Lord Jesus, come!

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements

J T Johnson

Call to Worship – From Psalm 96 (*responsive*)

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord all the earth!

Sing to the Lord, bless His name; proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day!

For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; splendor and majesty are before Him.

Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

Come, let us worship the Lord, our God!

* Hymn of Praise 119 – *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

We confess to you, dear God, that our minds are jumbled, our agendas are full, and our hearts are struggling to focus on the true meaning of your Advent. We pray that you would forgive us for our distractions, and that you would rest your spirit upon us so that we might feel that peace that passes all understanding. Cleanse our hearts, O God, and prepare us to receive you properly with reverence and awe. Forgive, also, the sins we now name in silence . . .

* Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

Christ died for our sins.

He made a full atonement for us.

We are forgiven and have the promise of eternal life.

May we feel this forgiveness in our hearts!

We are his children, and our hearts have been cleansed!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

- * The Congregation's Response: *Of the Father's Love Begotten* (vs. 1) Hymn 108

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD IN SCRIPTURE AND IN SONG

The Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

The Brooks family

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson – Isaiah 9:2-7

pew Bible pg. 555

The Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem – *What is This Lovely Fragrance?* arr. Healy Willan

What is this lovely fragrance wafting like to the scent of flowers in spring?

Shepherds o tell us, whence such beauty, hear you not heavenly caroling?

What is this lovely fragrance wafting like to the scent of flowers in spring?

What is this light so fair, so tender, breaking upon our wond'ring eyes?

Never the morning star so radiant! Follow his course 'oer eastern sky.

What is this light so fair, so tender, breaking upon our wond'ring eyes?

Shepherds, o haste with eager footsteps, seek ye the savior born today!

Lo at his feet we lay our treasure, heart's adoration, love for aye.

Shepherds, o haste with eager footsteps, seek ye the savior born today!

Second Lesson – Luke 2:1-14

pew Bible pg. 832

The Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon – *Ordinarily Extraordinary*

Tommy Suttle, Director of Discipleship

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

- * Affirmation of Faith: (*unison*) (Hymnal pg. 35)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the
Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was
crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he**

rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and life everlasting. Amen

- * Hymn of Thanksgiving 129 – *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Prayers of Intercession 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.

Offertory – *Pastorale on 'What Is This Lovely Fragrance'*

Lovelace

- * The Doxology – Hymn 606
- * Prayer of Dedication

GO IN GOD'S NAME

- * Hymn of Consecration 134 – *Joy to the World*
- * Charge and Benediction
- * Postlude – *I Saw Three Ships*

Young



- * *Please stand at the * as you are able. Unison readings are **printed in bold**. Also, please take your bulletin and papers home or place them in the recycling basket in the narthex.*



PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND STRENGTH

Marilyn Bowen, Sam Dossett's sister – colon cancer

Margaret Buckley – recovering at home

Brandi Carter, friend of Nancy Johnson – postponed cancer scans

Ruthie Davis – upcoming surgery Jan. 20

Andrew Dennis, Beverly and Charles Dennis' son – melanoma

Sam Dossett – continued prayers

Fluffy Fair – moved to Provision Living

*Thomas Guest, son of Scott & Marti Guest (friend of Carrie Creel) – freshman at MSU
severely injured in ATV on Nov. 30*

Mary Halliwell, friend of Mary and Dean Cromartie – pancreatic cancer

Crystal Miller, friend of Nancy Johnson – hospitalized with pneumonia

Jack Ramsey, friend of Harry and Carol Hickman – having surgery

Sharon Sabin, friend of Mary and Dean Cromartie – advanced cancer and Parkinson's

Margaret Suttle – recovering at home

Louise Van-Beek, friend of Harry and Carol Hickman – recovering from stroke





Greeting and Announcements

Welcome to Westminster! We're very glad to see you in worship. We hope you will sense Christ's presence. If you are looking for a place to grow and serve, we'd love to tell you more about us. Please turn off cell phones during the worship hour.



*You and your family are
invited to
join us for our
Christmas Eve Service
tonight at 5 p.m.*

No Youth or Children activities today.

No Brown Bag Bible Study until Jan. 9.

Wednesday night suppers will resume Jan. 10.

No Choir this week. Rehearsals will resume Jan. 10.

All **Men of the Church** are invited to meet Thursday, Dec. 28, at 6:30 a.m. at Shoney's.

PLEDGE CARDS

Pledge cards are available on the narthex cabinet for anyone needing to turn in their pledge for 2018. The Administrative Committee is finalizing the budget and needs to know your pledge. Place card in offering plate, in office or mail.

Thanks to everyone who has already turned in their pledges.



Margaret Lochhead is seeking volunteers to fill **Breadbasket applications** for Dec. 27. Easy step-by-step instructions are available. A signup sheet is on a narthex table.



Breadbreakers is a supper club that provides a great way to get to know people from church. Groups will start up in January, so don't miss out.. **SIGN UP TODAY!** Sheets are located in the narthex.

Church office will be closed Dec. 25-26.

