

We welcome you to worship the Living and Triune God. Jesus Christ is alive and with us in the power of the Holy Spirit. To schedule an appointment or become a member, speak to Pastor Phil. Prayer and counsel are available after the service. Silence your phones and give yourself to the holy work of worship! You are called to be a follower of the Lord, a member of his people, and a participant in his mission. It's our business as we serve the world from the center of Greenwood, SC. Open your heart to the Holy Spirit.

Sunday, December 30, 2012

Our website is www.msumc1.org

Next Sunday is our Covenant Renewal Sunday for 2013. Start the year with Christ!

THE SUNDAY SERVICE

11:00 am

1st Sunday after Christmas

Color: White

*Stand as able

A nursery is provided

Large print hymnals, bulletins, and hearing devices are available from the ushers.

“The ministry of a prophet is to break up the hard ground of our hearts. Prophets hurt.”

ENTRANCE

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE Pray as You Enter; Assume Silence at the Chiming

TRINITY CHIME

Marisa Rogers

PRELUDE Festive Fanfare on ‘Angels We Have Heard on High’ (Lasky)

Joyce Nickles: Organist

WELCOME AND SILENCE

Phil Thrailkill: Pastor

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Christ Beside Me

Tune of Morning Has Broken

**Christ beside me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me, King of my heart;
Christ within me, Christ below me, Christ above me, never to part.**

**Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,
Christ all around me, shield in the strife;
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising, light of my life.**

***GREETING**

Trinitarian Greeting, Isaiah 40:3-5

As the friends of God, let us bless the Lord.

Blessed be God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

“As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be brought low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways shall be made smooth;

and all flesh shall see the salvation of our God!”

***PROCESSION HYMN, NO. 240** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*
(Crucifer: Payton Joseph, Acolytes: Drew Hinton, Caroline Joseph)

***COMMON PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON** Based on Luke 1:57-80

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray:

**Holy and Almighty God, our Heavenly Father,
to obey you is to know you,
and to know you is to love you,
and to love you for all your great gifts is our only fulfillment.
But rather than obey you, we have sought to appease you with our gifts.
Rather than know you, we become busy with religious projects.
in the place of loving you, we have numbed our hearts with distractions.
And here we will stay, not because we are happy in our sins,
but because we cannot awaken our own hearts or heal ourselves.
Our disease is too far advanced for any doctor save one.
And if your own people are sick of soul, what hope is there for others?
The land is full of violence, and the church half-hearted and cold.
The Bible is open, but there is so little fire and light from on high.
Come down and visit us again in the power of your Spirit.
Restore to us the desire for holy living and for just and loving relationships.
Send us prophets to hedge us in and point us towards Jesus Christ.
Call us out of our hiding places and into the light that leads to peace.
Speak to us now and pierce our hearts as we stand in silence before you.
Amen.** (Silence is kept for prayer. Pardon is announced.)

***ACT OF PRAISE, NO. 80** *Canticle of the Holy Trinity*

**WELCOME VISITORS, REGISTER ATTENDANCE, CHURCH CONCERNS
ON THE WITNESS STAND** *Financial Peace University* Jim Kelly: Convener

PROCLAMATION AND PRAISE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON *Abraham Tested* Genesis 22:1-19

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

(Howard Thomes: Lay Reader)

***PSALM 30** *I will extol you, O Lord* *Hymnal: 762-763*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE
SEASONAL ACOUSTIC

Jessica Morris: Youth Minister
Dick Blosser: Jazz Piano

SERMON LESSON

The Arrival Of A Prophet

Luke 1:57-80

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

The Other Birth Story

Phil Thraikill: Pastor

Do we have any idea how lost and divided the church is in this country, in this city?

Do we have any idea how far we have drifted from the respect of God and God's law?

Do we have any idea how long it's been since we had a divine visitation that shook us?

If God lit a fire of repentance and revival here at Main Street, would we welcome the mess?

RESPONSES TO THE WORD

SILENCE AND REFLECTION ON THE WORD

***WESLEY HYMN ON ACCOUNTABILITY, NO. 413** *A Charge to Keep I Have*

(The altar is open for prayers of repentance during this brief hymn. Don't wait!)

INVITATION TO GIVING AND SPIRITUAL GOAL SETTING

OFFERTORY

A Noel Fanfare (Charles Callahan)

Joyce Nickles: Organist

***DOXOLOGY, NO. 238**

Angels We Have Heard on High

Refrain Only

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING, LORD'S PRAYER**

***CONFESSING THE FAITH**

The Nicene Creed

Hymnal: 880

(With the exception of the phrase "and from the Son" (Lt. *filioque*) on which the Eastern and Western churches disagree, this is the church's official statement of its convictions.)

SENDING FORTH

***HYMN, No. 217**

Away in a Manger

***DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

Phil Thraikill: Pastor

***SUNG RESPONSE, NO. 666**

Shalom to You

***POSTLUDE, TIME TO GREET A VISITOR!**

Joyce Nickles: Organist

Lori and I are grateful for all the cards, goodies, and prayers showered on us this Christmas season. The *Hanging of the Greens* and *Christmas Eve* were the best ever!

The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God by Hennie Cox in appreciation to the church staff for their hard work throughout the year.