

December 4, 2011 SERVICE OF WORSHIP

11:00 am

Liturgical Color: Purple

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Mary Lynn Polk, Lay Leader

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim, till all the world adore his sacred name.

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

Julia Baker

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

setting by John Fergusin

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Amy Young

Leader: A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight a highway in the desert for our God."

People: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel who has looked on us with favor and redeemed us.

Leader: Proclaim the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer, and sing praises to his name.

People: Praise the Lord; let all the people praise God's holy name.

(based on Isaiah 40:3; Luke 1:68; Romans 15:9-11)

***HYMN NO. 211**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

(verses 1 – 4 only)

***INVOCATION**

The Reverend Terry C. Martin

Lord God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things, we are waiting and longing for the day when steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; when justice and peace will kiss each other. We know that with you one day is like a thousand years and that your patience is our salvation: come suddenly; show us the mercy promised to our ancestors. At your coming, let us be found by you at peace. In Jesus' name. Amen.

***A MODERN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH NO. 885**

Pastor: Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let now declare:

People: We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, power, and love, whose mercy is over all his works, and whose will is ever directed to his children's good. We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the gift of the Father's unfailing grace, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death. We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need. We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI NO. 70**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (See insert)

William, Martha, and Sherman Culbertson

Advent Candle Liturgy

On the second Sunday of Advent, we light two candles to show that the church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior, who enlightens our hearts and scatters the shadows of fear and doubt. The first Advent Candle reminds us that we wait in hope. We remember our longing for God to be with us. Today, we light a second candle, the candle of Peace. This candle reminds us of our dreams for peace in the world. This candle reminds us that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, is coming. This candle is a symbol of God's promise of peace, comfort, and strength.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, and turn us toward your light.

If we walk in the light as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin.
(1 John 1:7, adapted)

All: Come, Lord Jesus, and turn us toward your light.

A Candle is Burning

Sandra Dean

James Murray

A musical score for the hymn 'A Candle is Burning'. The score is written on a single staff in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes. The score is divided into five systems, with measure numbers 1, 3, 6, 9, and 13 indicated at the beginning of each system. The lyrics are: 'A can - dle is burn - ing, a can - dle of peace, a can - dle to sig - nal that con - flict must cease: for Je - sus is com - ing to show us the way; a mes - sage of peace hum - bly laid in the hay.'

1 A can - dle is burn - ing, a

3 can - dle of peace, a can - dle to

6 sig - nal that con - flict must cease: for

9 Je - sus is com - ing to show us the way; a

13 mes - sage of peace hum - bly laid in the hay.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 40:1-11 Page 816 (OT) in pew Bibles

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

***†GOSPEL LESSON** Mark 1:1-8 Page 42 (NT) in pew Bibles

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *The People Who Walk in Darkness* Pepper Choplin

Chancel Choir with Granger Smith, djembe

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* setting by David Cherwien

***DOXOLOGY 238** (refrain only) *Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** The Reverend Terry C. Martin

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Jessica Morris

As the children come to the front of the Sanctuary for a special message, they are invited to bring change to help in buying an animal for Heifer International. If any adults want to contribute, please pass your money to a child as they come forward. Following Children's Time, 3-year-olds through Kindergarteners may leave the Sanctuary for Extended Session.

***HYMN NO. 221** *In the Bleak Midwinter* Cranham

SERMON "In Preparation" The Reverend Terry C. Martin

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (See Insert)

***HYMN NO. 219** *What Child Is This?* Greensleeves

***BENEDICTION**

Pastor: Therefore, beloved as our brother Paul wrote to you, according to the wisdom given to him: While you are waiting for the coming of Jesus Christ, work to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish, always thankful for the patience of our Lord.

People: Let us with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you. Amen.

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE 204**

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel*

POSTLUDE

†Sermon Text

**Please stand if you are able*

Nursery Provided

The Banquet of Hopeful Expectations Holy Communion for the Advent Season

Invitation

God's banquet is coming. The time we await when all will gather from North, East, South, and West.

A banquet where the rich and powerful will sit with the weak and poverty-stricken. A table where young and old will learn from each other. A time when all will sit together in peace, "and the wolf will lie down with the lamb".

Here at this table we get a foretaste of God's banquet. This is indeed God's table, not the church's, and so all who seek to follow The Way are welcome to eat and drink from it.

Come and taste the grace eternal, come and see that God is good.

The Great Thanksgiving

God is with us

We are not alone.

Christ is present here.

The Spirit moves within us.

Let us give thanks to God

In memory and in hope.

Blessings be to you, Creator God,

Who in the beginning brought light and life to the world and who continues to bring it love and light everlasting.

Your song of wisdom echoes through the ages, your ancient promise still brings us hope.

Over the ages you have called people to embrace your hope and share your love.

But even when they have closed their ears to the song, you did not stop singing.

You sent prophets and messengers to your people, reminding them of the promised time of peace and justice that would surround the world.

They came in the midst of our despair and filled us with hope.

And then you came to a young woman named Mary and laid out the promise in a new way

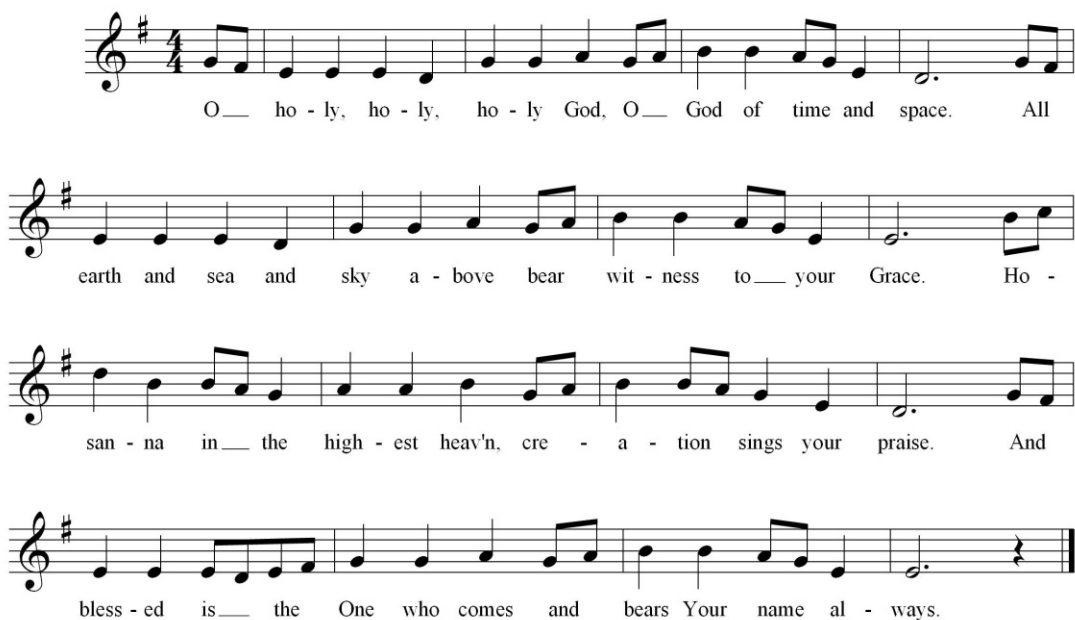
Promising her a son, who would be called Jesus,

Promising her that in her son the world would be changed.

And now as we prepare for that child to be born, we echo the ancient cry:

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

And also we lift our voices in song, singing together the praises of ages.



O — ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, O — God of time and space. All

earth and sea and sky a - bove bear wit - ness to — your Grace. Ho -

san - na in — the high - est heav'n, cre - a - tion sings your praise. And

bless - ed is — the One who comes and bears Your name al - ways.

The Story Remembered

Yet even now, as we prepare to celebrate his birth, we remember the life that this baby will live.

We remember how he broke the bonds of human tradition to show all what the Banquet of Hope could be as he ate openly with the despised and the outcast of his world.

And we remember one special meal, foretaste of the banquet that is to come, that he ate with his closest friends.

Gathering them together in an upper room to share the story of liberation, he prepared them for liberation.

And at the end of the meal he took bread, blessed and broke it, then passed it to them saying:

Take and eat. This bread is the body of Life, broken by the world.

Eat it in remembrance and in hope.

After that he took the cup, blessed it, and passed it to them saying:

This cup is the sign of the New Covenant. Whenever you drink it remember me, for I shall not eat or drink again until the time of the heavenly banquet.

Remembering the birth of the child in the stable, we remember also his life, his death, and his resurrection.

We remember how he poured his love out on all he met and look forward to his return and the coming reign of peace, love, and justice.

And in our remembering we sing the mystery of faith



The Spirit Transforms

God, you poured your Spirit on Mary and she sang words of defiance and hope. Pour out your Spirit upon us gathered here. As we eat and drink, may we know your presence. As we eat and drink, may we be opened to the possibilities of your hope and power. And may we be strengthened in our time of waiting for peace and justice so that we will have the courage to make the Christmas promise a reality.

And the people all sang:



And now, as beloved children of a loving parent, we pray:

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

The Pouring and Breaking and Serving

The Bread we break is the Bread of Life.

The Cup we Share is the Cup of Promise.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Come and eat, the banquet awaits.

(All are welcome to share in communion served by intinction. Please come forward using the center aisle as directed by the ushers. After receiving the elements, you are invited to the altar rail for prayer, commitment, recommitment to Christ, confession, and comfort, or you may return to your seat using the side aisles.)

Communion Servers

Carol Harley, Reverend Martin, Harold McDonald, Ann West

Prayer Following Communion

God of pregnant expectations, God of Christmas promise, God of child-like hope, we have eaten and drunk from your table. May the eating and the drinking fill us with hope in a world of despair. May we be beacons of hope as we wait for the day when the world will be changed. Grant that this taste of your banquet which is to come would give us the hunger for peace and justice in our community and around the world. Amen.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Traditionally at Main Street United Methodist Church, the Sanctuary is decorated with Poinsettias given in the name of loved ones. The names of all who wish to participate will appear in the newsletter dated December 7 and in the December 11 and 18 bulletins.

Please fill out this form, and attach a check for your total order (payable to Main Street United Methodist Church, marked Poinsettias). Each poinsettia will cost **\$8.50**. Please place your check in the offering plate on Sundays or mail it to the church office no later than Monday, **December 5**. Checks must accompany forms.

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Name of Giver _____

Daytime Phone _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

(Poinsettias may be taken home after the Christmas Eve service
or Christmas Day Service.)