

*I declare that your steadfast
love is established forever;
your faithfulness is as firm
as the heavens.*

December 21, 2014

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Celebration of Worship

* *If you are able, please stand.*

Prelude

Comfort, Comfort Ye, My People

Cathy Moglebust

The Chancel Ringers

Nancy Shearer, flute; Paul Oster, Steve Hess, Joel Ramseyer, percussion

This piece is based on the hymn tune *Genevan 42*,

Hymn 87 in the Presbyterian Hymnal.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Isaiah 7:10-16

Kim Miller

*** Call to Worship** *(responsively)*

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord.

People: Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.

Leader: The Mighty One has done great things for us.

People: Holy is God's name!

*** Hymn 93**

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Truro

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold, the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee, O Lord abide;
let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal

Confession and Pardon

Prayer of Confession (*responsively*)

Leader: For all the times and all the ways
we have resisted your rule in our lives.

People: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Leader: For seeking our salvation through lesser things;
for standing in the pride of our own power;
for insisting on our own tired, broken ways
instead of embracing your life-giving Way;

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Leader: For our narrow vision of your expansive love;
for our stinginess with your extravagant grace;

**People: Lord, have mercy upon us.
Free us from our sin, loving God.
Lead us in the new life you give us,
that we may follow in the way of Jesus Christ.**

Kyrie: Hymn 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

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.

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Pardon (*responsively*)

Leader: Jesus calls us: “Come to Me,

People: all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give your rest.”

Leader: May you know the peace of God.

People: Peace that comes from knowing our sins are forgiven.

*** Response: Hymn 88** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *Veni Emmanuel*
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

A Time for Young Christians

Alexandra Mead

Prayer for Illumination (*unison*)

**Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit,
that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom,
and in your will discover your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Scripture Reading Luke 1:26-38 (New Testament, page 53)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Angels from the Realms of Glory Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

The Chancel Choir

Michele Yampolsky, conductor

Ryan Kennedy and Matthew Webb, piano

Amy Hamilton-Soto, violin; Paul Oster, percussion

Angels from the realms of glory wing your flight o'er all the earth.

Ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth.

Come and worship, worship Christ the new-born King!

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,

God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.

Sages, leave your contemplation, brighter visions beam afar.

Seek the great Desire of Nations, ye have seen His natal star.

All creation join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son.

Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One!

Scripture Reading Psalm 89: 1-4; 19-26 (Old Testament, page 516)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon “There’s a Song in the Air: Found” Dr. Smazik

*** Hymn 266** Joy to the World *Richmond*

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns: Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

Greeting/Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

(Please sign and pass the friendship pad, found in the pew, to the person next to you. Offering envelopes and prayer request cards are located in the pew pockets for your convenience. Cards will be collected with the offering.)

Offertory

Lift up your heads, O ye gates William Mathias (1934-1992)

The Chancel Choir

*Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up ye everlasting doors,
and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory?*

The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.

The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

*** Doxology** (*unison*) *Lasst uns Erfreuen*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God all creatures here below

Sing praises, Alleluia!

Praise God, Creator, God the Son

Praise God the Spirit, three in one

Sing praises, sing praises, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*** Prayer of Dedication Offering and Christmas Joy Offering**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

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.

*** Hymn 147**

The First Nowell

The First Nowell

The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain*

This star drew nigh to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

*** Benediction**

Postlude

Der Tag, der is so freudenreich, BWV 605

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Ryan Kennedy, organ

*O hail this brightest day of days, all good Christian people!
For Christ is come upon our ways, ring it from the steeple!
Of maiden pure He is the Son; for ever shall thy praise be sung,
Christ's fair Mother Mary! Ever was there news so great?
God's own Son from heaven's high state is born the Son of Mary!*

Participating in the service today are The Reverend Dr. David J. Smazik and The Reverend Dawn Bryan; Alexandra Mead, Director of Christian Education; Matthew Webb, Director of Music; Ryan Kennedy, Organ Scholar; and the Chancel Choir. The acolytes are Sarah Valenti and Mollie Kiel.

GREETING: Bob and Jan Harris, and Marcia and Ken Heiden.

USHERS: Dick Kaller, head usher, Lucy Boyadjis, Mikey Duffill, Ralph and Nancy Gray, Stan Mack, Nancy Niemann, Katie Pheysey, and Beverly and Tom Tignor.

THE POINSETTIAS decorating the sanctuary today are funded by gifts from members and friends of the Presbyterian Church.

The flowers in the narthex are given in loving memory of his mother, Phyllis Roseboom Barber, by Peter and Sarah Barber.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR today is hosted by Mary & Norm Dykstra.



Christmas Eve and Services into the New Year

DECEMBER 24, 2014

- 4 PM The children's choirs lead an informal, interactive candlelight service presenting the Christmas Story, ideal for children, families and the young at heart. The sanctuary is transformed into a small manger in Bethlehem complete with shepherds, animals and angels. Directed by Julie Ramseyer and Alexandra Mead.
- 7 PM Rev. Dr. David Smazik leads a candlelight service of lessons and carols with readings from the congregation, featuring music by the Chancel Choir and Ringers-on-the-Green, accompanied by the 76-rank Austin organ. Prelude music at 6:45 p.m.
- 11 PM This service follows the same format as the 7:00 p.m. service but culminates with the ringing in of Christmas Day by the Ringers-on-the-Green. Prelude music at 10:45 p.m.

DECEMBER 25, 2014

Have a Blessed and Joyous Christmas.

Please note: There will not be a service on Christmas Day.

The church office will be closed on December 25, 26 and January 1, 2015.

DECEMBER 28, 2014

- Service at 10:00 a.m. only today. (7:45 a.m. will resume January 4.)

Happy New Year

JANUARY 4, 2015

- Service at 7:45 a.m. with Communion in the Chapel
- Sunday Morning Seminar at 8:45 a.m.
- Sunday School classes for children at 8:45 a.m. (No adult Sunday school today)
- Service at 10:00 a.m. with Communion in the Sanctuary

JANUARY 5, 2015

Nursery School reopens.

OPEN MEETINGS THIS WEEK: For a full schedule of meetings, go to our website.

Sunday, December 21 Office closed

Fourth Sunday in Advent

- 7:45 a.m. Worship with Communion
- 8:45 a.m. Adult Advent Study; No other
Sunday School (Children & Adult)
- 10:00 a.m. Worship with dedication of the
Christmas Joy offering

Monday, December 22

No opening meetings today

Tuesday, December 23

- 8:00 a.m. Small Group (D. Lisco)
- 9:30 a.m. Volunteers
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve

- 4:00 p.m. Worship (Children and Youth Choirs)
- 6:45 p.m. Musical prelude
- 7:00 p.m. Worship:
A Service of Lessons and Carols
- 10:45 p.m. Musical prelude
- 11:00 p.m. Worship:
A Service of Lessons and Carols

Thursday, December 25

*A Blessed and Joyous Christmas Day
(No worship services today.)*

Friday, December 26

Office and Nursery School closed

Saturday, December 27 Office closed

Sunday, December 28 Office closed

- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
(No 7:45 a.m. service this
week)

*Nursery School closed for Christmas
holiday, reopening on January 5, 2015.*

More information on our Church, our programs and schedules
is available on our website www.pcmorristown.org

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Cover photo by Hal Crosthwaite

We are a historic church, part of a historic denomination, and we celebrate this history while exploring ways to bring passion and freshness to our worship and congregational life. Join us as we seek to discover Fresh Traditional ways to **proclaim, gather, and nurture**, all toward continuing Jesus Christ's earthly ministry of building God's Kingdom.

Please join us for coffee and fellowship in the narthex at the back of the church.

Visitor's Information brochures are in the stands at the entrances to assist you in finding your way around our campus.

Visiting with Children?

- **Activity materials** for young worshipers are in the drawers of the literature chests in both vestibules.
- **Infant and child care** is provided during the service in Howard House, the building to the right of the sanctuary.
- **Restrooms:** Please accompany children (under age 10) to the restrooms. (Located through the left door by the bell tables.)

Special Needs?

- **Feel free to ask** ushers and greeters for assistance if you have any questions or special needs.
- **Large print bulletins and hearing assistance devices** are available from the ushers in the narthex at the back of the church.

Please come again

- **See page 6 of this bulletin for the Christmas Eve and New Year schedules.**
- **The Wednesday Noon Worship Service and Bible Study will not meet on December 24 or 31, but will resume on January 7, 2015.**



The Presbyterian Church in Morristown
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