



Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church

December 31, 2023 10:30 a.m.

Order of Worship

**indicates to stand as you are able.

Prelude

Away in a Manger

arr. C. Rice

John 1: 14: *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

"Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there."

(hymn likely originated from Pennsylvania Lutherans; music (*Mueller*) by J. Murray, 1887; public domain)
(this piano solo: Clumsy Fly Music/Word Music, Inc., 2001)

Introit

Surely the Presence of the Lord

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
I can feel His mighty power and His grace.
I can hear the brush of angel's wings
I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Welcome and Announcements

Allen Exner

Passing of the Peace (L: Leader; P: People)

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

****Call to Worship**

L: Praise the Lord!

P: Praise God from the heavens.

L: Young men and women alike, old and young together!

P: Let us praise the name of the Lord, whose name alone is exalted above earth and heaven.

L: Alleluia! Let us worship God!

****Hymn – 150**

As with Gladness Men of Old

****Silent Prayer of Confession**

****Common Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, we confess that we have not lived as your faithful children. We have kept silent in the midst of prejudice and hatred. We have been idle in the face of violence and injustice. We have not been a light to the nations, and our lives have not revealed your glory. Forgive us, Merciful God. Repair the ugliness of our sin and restore in us your beautiful grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

****Assurance of Pardon**

L: Friends, this is the Good News of the Gospel...

P: ...in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

****Response - insert**

Come and Fill our Hearts

Moment with Children

Hannah Miller

**Please note that any children who come forward for the moment with children will likely be seen on the worship livestream on Facebook*

There will be no Sunday Experience today. Children are invited to stay in worship.

Prayer for Illumination

Scriptures

Psalm 30
Exodus 1:8-22

L: The Word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Bitter Men and Vigorous Women

Rev. Shannon Weston

****Hymn - 132**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
** Fifth Sunday Mission Offering Received*

Invitation to Offering

There are numerous ways to give to the work of CMPC. Offering plates will be passed through the pews during the offertory for checks or cash to be left today. Cards with a QR code that will direct you to our online giving page are located in the pew racks. Donations can always be mailed to the church at any time using the address on the back page of the bulletin. Thank you for your support!

Offertory

Greensleeves (What Child Is This)

arr. R. Purvis

Matthew 2:11: On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

"What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary."

(words: W. Dix, 1871; music (Greensleeves) is from an English ballad, 1871; public domain)

(this organ solo: MCA Music, a division of MCA, Inc., 1957)

****Doxology** - insert

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Prayers of Thanksgiving with The Lord's Prayer (using "debts")

****Hymn** - 136

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

****Benediction**

Postlude

Carol Rhapsody

by R. Purvis

2 Corinthians 13:14: *May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

(this organ solo: MCA Music, a division of MCA, Inc., 1957)

Thank you to Jeff Bruce and Neil Danzig for providing audio support this week!
Thank you to Kofi Akuoko for operating the sanctuary cameras this week!

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Announcements and Upcoming Events



Welcome Rev. Weston!

In Pastor Scott's absence today, please welcome Rev. Shannon Weston. The Rev. Shannon Weston (she/her) is a preacher, a teacher, and a lover of all things bright and beautiful. Shannon currently works as a Leadership Coach, Church Consultant, and Coach Trainer for the Coach Approach Skill Training (CAST). Her work with pastors, church leaders, and nonprofits has been recognized as a valid ministry by the Presbytery of Baltimore. Before Coaching, Shannon served two decades as a pastor in the PCUSA, serving churches in Kentucky, New York, and Maryland. Shannon lives with her husband, Derrick, in Lutherville. Together they raise their four children, a dog, a cat, and an insurmountable number of plants.

Church Office Hours

The church office is open Monday - Friday from 1:00 - 5:00pm. If you need to enter the building and do not have a key, please visit the church when the office is open.

Fifth Sunday Offering

The fifth Sunday offering collected today will go to Grassroots Cold Weather Shelter. For the past couple of years, the CWS program has kept many families housed and fed in a local hotel during the winter season. We had hoped to host the shelter at CMPC this season but due to scheduling complications Grassroots will again use local hotels to accommodate their guests during our seasonal mission.

Each year, Grassroots helps individuals and families find permanent housing in the area. Let us come together and share a portion of ourselves in support of this transformational ministry.

Summary of the Dec. 18, 2023 Session Meeting

The Session agreed to call a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, Feb. 4 after worship to present the 2024 budget and to hold a vote on the 2024 Pastor's Terms of Call.

In other business:

- Elders continued their discussion on finding creative ways to grow the church's revenue – including ideas for non-contribution revenue -- without impacting programming related to the ministry expansion ideals that define CMPC.
- More details will be coming soon regarding the committee lunch meeting to be held in conjunction with the Annual Officers' Retreat set for Jan. 27-28.

**Want more CMPC news and events? Subscribe to our weekly Friday E-News at:
www.cmpcusa.org/newsletters**

New Blog Content

Please check our website to read a post written by Elder and Chair of The Mission and Local Outreach Committee, Philip Davies, who has a unique perspective on the current conflict and humanitarian crisis in Gaza from his many years of work in the Middle East.

Degreening of the church

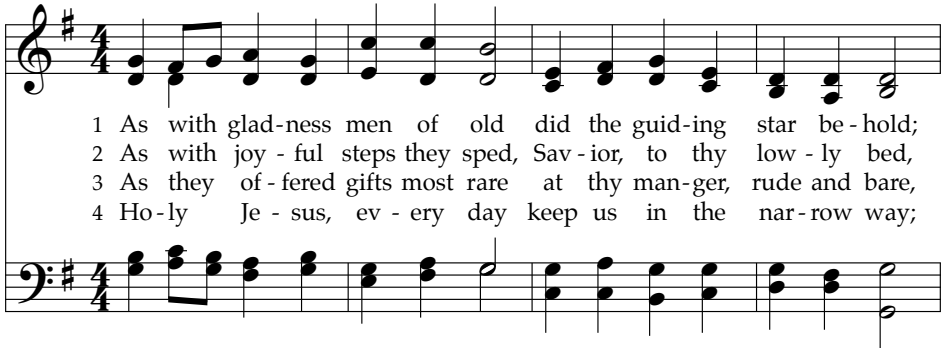
Saturday, January 6 at 8:30 AM

Please save the date to take down and repack the beautiful Christmas decorations until next year. Many hands make light work. Donuts and coffee will be served.

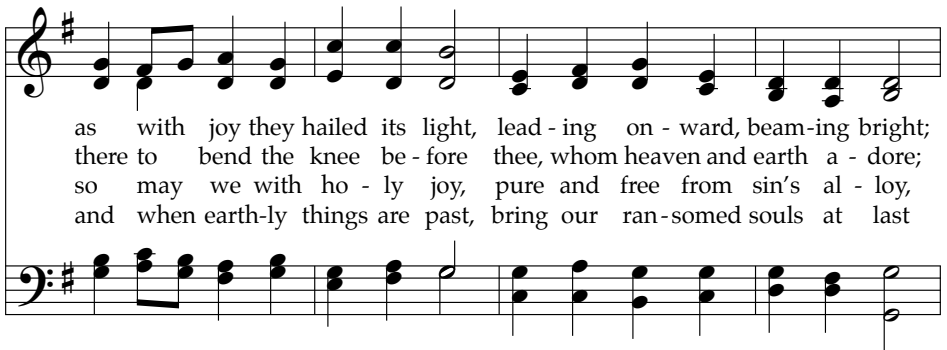
2024 Giving Envelopes are Available

If you would like a box of weekly giving envelopes for 2024, please contact Joyce Danzig at joyce.danzig@gmail.com to request a box.

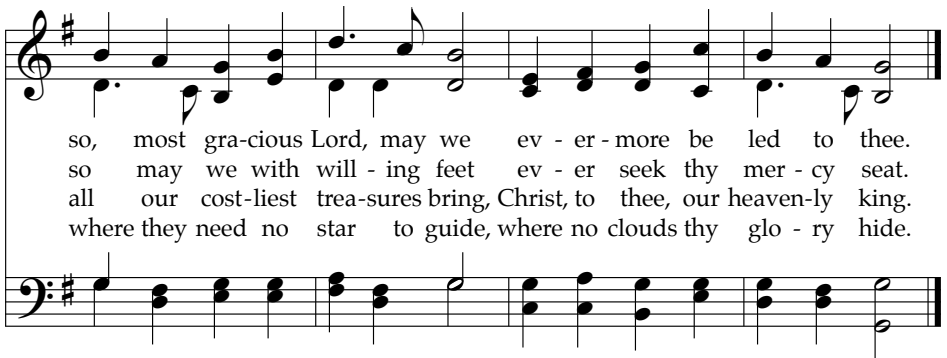
As with Gladness Men of Old 150



1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold;
 2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to thy low-ly bed,
 3 As they of-fered gifts most rare at thy man-ger, rude and bare,
 4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-ery day keep us in the nar-row way;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
 there to bend the knee be-fore thee, whom heaven and earth a-dore;
 so may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,
 and when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev-er-more be led to thee.
 so may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek thy mer-cy seat.
 all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav-en-ly king.
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo-ry hide.

The first three stanzas here use an as/so structure to draw parallels between the coming of the Magi and the spiritual lives of the singers, summed up in the prayer of the fourth stanza. Even though this adapted German tune was named for him, the author did not care for it.

Come and Fill Our Hearts 466

Confitemini Domino

The musical score is written for a 3/4 time signature in the key of D major. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The first system begins with a treble clef and a bass clef. The vocal line starts with a D chord, followed by a Bm chord, then a D chord, and finally an A chord. The bass line provides a steady accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly. Con-fi-te-mi-ni Do-mi-no quo-ni-am bo-nus.' The second system continues with an Em chord, a C chord, an Em chord, an A chord, and a D chord. The lyrics are: 'Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al-le-lu-ia! Con-fi-te-mi-ni Do-mi-no. Al-le-lu-ia!' The score concludes with a double bar line.

D Bm D A

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly.
Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus.

Em C Em A D

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al - le - lu - ia!
Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no. Al - le - lu - ia!

This prayer chant—intended for repeated singing—was originally created for a Latin text (Psalm 106:1a and Psalm 118:1a, 29a) on which the present English text is loosely based. Chants at Taizé often use Latin because it is a language free of political overtones.

132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Carols using two languages, like this one dating from at least the 14th century, belong to a special group called "macaronic," the original languages here being German and Latin. Though the present version is only in English, it is sung to the traditional German folk melody.

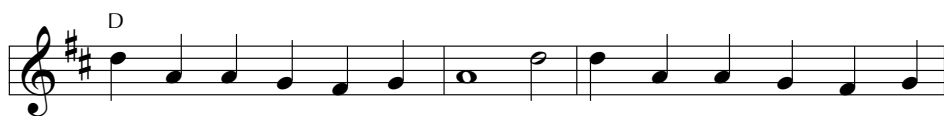
609 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



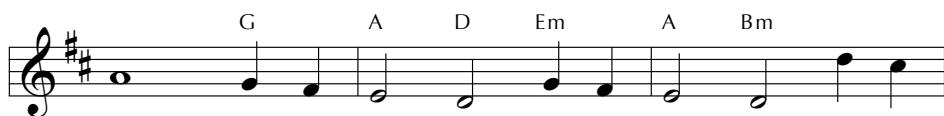
Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow. Praise God, all crea-tures



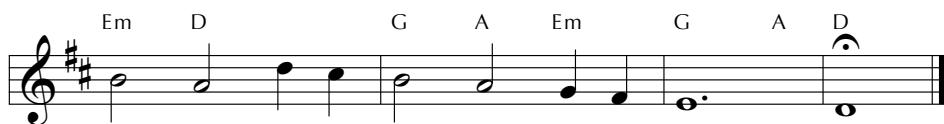
high and low. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise



God, in Je - sus ful - ly known: Cre - a - tor, Word, and Spir - it



one. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain $\text{♪} = \text{♪}^{\circ} \text{♪}$

Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

to Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.



Christ Memorial Christian Preschool

DECEMBER

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.—Isaiah 9:6



The month of December is filled with the wonder of Christmas at Christ Memorial Christian Preschool. Our children have the opportunity to learn about the birth of Jesus through lessons, songs and crafts.

Pastor Scott joined us for a very special Bible time to share the Christmas Story.

Our children discovered many wonderful traditional Christmas carols, including *Go Tell It On the Mountain* and *Away in a Manger*. At the end of the month we invited all the preschool families to join us for a celebration of Baby Jesus' birth. The children sang songs and shared the Nativity story with their families.

We finished the special event by enjoying a lovely reception of treats made by preschool families in Fellowship Hall. It was a wonderful day of fellowship between the teachers, children, and preschool families.

Happy New Year from the Teachers of Christ Memorial!

