



# Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church

**December 22, 2024 10:30 a.m.**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

## Order of Worship

\*\*indicates to stand as you are able.

### Prelude

#### *Once in Royal David's City*

*Luke 2:4-5: Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.*

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.  
He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all;  
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy."

(Words: C. F. Alexander, 1848; music (Irby): H.J. Gauntlett, 1849; public domain. This piano solo: Word Music, LLC, 2004)

### Welcome and Announcements

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

The peace of Christ be with you. **P: And also with you.**

## Gathering

#### \*\*Lighting of the Advent Candles/Call to Worship

The Gliptis Family

One: Look! Not with the world's eyes, but with the Holy Spirit's.

**All: God is in the business of transforming the world!**

One: Not in ways we expect or have planned ourselves,

**All: but from the edges and the obscure.**

One: Younger and older, famous and unknown,

**All: God's work is seen through us. (~candles may be lit~)**

One: Look! The light shines.

**All: We will trust the Holy One whose love turns the world around.**

### Response-89

#### *For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits*

**Refrain: For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits Truly my hope is in you.**

**(v.3)** O Root of Life, implant your seed within us, and in your advent, draw us all to you,  
Our hope reborn in dying and in rising

**Refrain**

## Call to Confession

### Shared Prayer of Confession

You are Love, O God, and in Love you lift up and fill, in Love you bless and show mercy,  
in Love you bring down the powers and scatter the proud.

We confess that we long to be the ones lifted up and filled and blessed,  
and we do not often see ourselves as the powerful or proud.

Instead we domesticate your Love, fitting it into our traditions and expectations;  
the idea of being transformed into something we didn't plan for makes us nervous.

When we box your Love into our own ideas, looking on others with judgment,  
instead of welcoming the people you choose to honor, **Forgive us.**

When we ignore the movement of your Holy Spirit, and so overlook those who know your work best, **Forgive us.**

When we hold tightly onto the way things are, so tightly that we cannot recognize your kingdom,  
quietly growing in unexpected places, **Forgive us.**

**Remember your mercy, O God, and help us to trust your promise.**

**Open our hearts and minds to receive your good news.**

**May we magnify your revolutionary Love in the world.**

**We ask in the name of the One who comes among us, Immanuel.**

**Amen.**

### Assurance of Pardon

L:.....together we affirm the Good News of the Gospel: **P: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

### \*\*Response – 110

*Love Has Come*

**Love has come, and never will leave us!**

**Love is life everlasting and free.**

**Love is Jesus within and among us; Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.**

**Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.**

**Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!**

## Word

### Moment with Children

Chad Board

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

*Children ages preschool—third grade dismissed to Sunday Experience Please see the announcements for special instructions*

### Word in Music

*Every Valley*

by J. Martin

Isaiah 40:4-5: *Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low:  
and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain.*

*And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.*

(Adapted from Isaiah by Joseph M. Martin, 2006; incorporating *O Come, O Come. Emmanuel*; (c. 12<sup>th</sup> century;  
Ancient Antiphons (Latin), versified in 18<sup>th</sup> century); this choral arrangement: Malcom Press, 2006)

**Scripture: Luke 1:26-45 (Common English Bible)**

<sup>26</sup> When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David's house. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> When the angel came to her, he said, "Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup> She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you. <sup>31</sup> Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. <sup>33</sup> He will rule over Jacob's house forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom."

<sup>34</sup> Then Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen since I haven't had sexual relations with a man?"

<sup>35</sup> The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God's Son. <sup>36</sup> Look, even in her old age, your relative Elizabeth has conceived a son. This woman who was labeled 'unable to conceive' is now six months pregnant. <sup>37</sup> Nothing is impossible for God."

<sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be with me just as you have said." Then the angel left her. <sup>39</sup> Mary got up and hurried to a city in the Judean highlands. <sup>40</sup> She entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup> With a loud voice she blurted out, "God has blessed you above all women, and he has blessed the child you carry. <sup>43</sup> Why do I have this honor, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup> As soon as I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. <sup>45</sup> Happy is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill the promises he made to her."

Sermon

Rev. Janna VanderWoude

Response-104

*O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?*

## Thanksgiving/Eucharist

Thanksgiving Words from Session

Elder Sue Ashman

### 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

### *Mary, Did You Know?*

arr. M. Hayes

Isaiah 7:14: *"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."*

"Mary did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?  
Mary did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?  
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?  
This Child that you delivered will soon deliver you?  
Mary did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?  
Mary did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?  
Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?  
And the sleeping Child you're holding Is the great I Am?"

(Words: M. Lowey, 1991; music: B. Green, 1991; Rufus Music/Curb Word Music; This piano solo: Word Music, 1991)

## \*\*Doxology—113

(sung to tune of *Angels We Have Heard on High*)

**God of great and God of small, God of one and God of all,  
God of weak and God of strong, God to whom all things belong,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

## Thanksgiving Prayers of the People—Based on *The Magnificat* (Mary's Song)

Luke 1:46-55, NRSVUE

*Sections of the prayer end with the **spoken participation of the people**:*

L: You, the Mighty One, have done great things for us;  
P: **Lord our God, your name is holy.**

## Sending

### \*\*Sending Song—100, v. 1, 2, 4

*My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*  
(Canticle of the Turning)

### \*\*Benediction

## Postlude

### *Lift Up Your Heads*

arr. D. Paxton

Psalm 24:7: *Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.*

"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."

(Words: G. Wiessel, 1642; music (*Truro*) Musica Sacra, 1778; public domain; This organ solo: Lorenz Publishing Co., 1986)

*Thank you to Neil Danzig and Zoe Kim for providing audio support this week!  
Thank you to John Kim for operating the sanctuary cameras this week!*

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## *Christmas Eve Services—Tuesday, December 24 at 5 PM and 8 PM*

**5 PM** --This service features a favorite tradition at CMPC, a participatory retelling of the Christmas Story, as well as carol, songs from the LOGOS Children's Chorus and scripture readings. This is a more casual service and all those who are young at heart are invited to attend!

**8 PM**—This traditional Christmas Eve service invites you to a Holy Night with carols, candles, choir songs, Bible texts and prayers. This is a service for peaceful, hope-filled reflection on a God who so loved the world that we were given his Son, laid in a manger. Come and rest your heart in our shared hope.

## *First Sunday of Christmas Worship Service Sunday, December 29, 10:30 AM*

Come in from the cold and keep the warm spirit of Christmas alive in your heart!  
Join us for a service of Lessons and Carols next Sunday morning.  
We'll also "Follow a star" as we choose "Star Words" and seek to honor the One who is born anew in us, King of our hearts.

## *Second Sunday of Christmas Worship Service, with Communion Sunday, January 5, 10:30 AM*

The child Jesus leads us with his sense of curiosity and comfort for being "in his Father's house". Start the new year with our shared celebration of communion, and Celebrate as we welcome our third graders into regular worship with us with gifts for them and their families. (See below).

## *Feed The Freezer For Fellowship!*

'Tis the season for baking, so why not bake some extra cookies, quick breads, coffee cake, etc for the Fellowship committee to serve during Sunday Fellowship Hour! Please have your items "freezer ready," labeled with what you have baked, and the quantity. Today you can still just place your baked item on the metal table in the kitchen: Someone from the Fellowship Committee will be there to happily accept your treats for sharing. So, c'mon, everyone, let's Feed the Freezer for Fellowship!



## Third Grade Bibles

We will recognize our third graders' transition into full worship at Christ Memorial by presenting them with their very own, brand new Bible during worship on Sunday January 5th. If you have a third grader, please notify the church office at [office@cmpecusa.org](mailto:office@cmpecusa.org).

## HOLY COW!

The stories you're hearing at Christmas right now are full of sheep, and maybe a donkey or camels. Get ready to add the CAT scan--the Congregational Assessment Tool from Holy.Cow.Consulting. A link for our data-gathering tool will be up in late December and stay up for just over three weeks. Respondents will be able to express their views about numerous subjects in an online form that typically takes around 30-45 minutes to fill out. All active members and givers are asked to participate: If you're nervous about the online thing, we can offer a limited number of paper copies. But we also plan to set up a group tech time where you can log on here at church and get ready assistance if needed.



This study will help us to create the church profile needed to begin our pastoral search: We're looking for input from all those—members and non-member participants at CMPC—who are **invested and able**. Please make your participation part of your Christmas-season giving to Christ Memorial!

## Cold Weather Shelter

CMPC is participating in the Cold Weather Shelter again this year: The dates are **December 30th through January 5th**. Grassroots is hosting the CWS at its recently renovated facility on Freetown Road. CMPC will be providing continental breakfasts and hot dinners for 70 guests. Many CMPC groups, members and one of the Boy Scout Troops have stepped up and all of the dinner slots are filled! Thanks to all those who've already volunteered their time and meals!

**Dinners should be delivered to CMPC hot and ready by 4:15 PM on the sign-up date.** If you (or your group) prefer to take them directly to Grassroots, please have them at the shelter by 4:45. Breakfast should be delivered to CMPC by 4:15 the day before it is to be served.

For breakfast, we are asking for 3 volunteers to provide breakfast for 24 people each. Each volunteer should provide fruit and either cereal/breakfast bars/muffins/doughnuts/bagels. Since they are fine with a variety, there is no need to coordinate with other volunteers. **There are still many breakfast slots available: Please consider filling one or several!**



We are also invited to provide up to three volunteers (minimum age 15) to help serve the dinner. Though an earlier deadline for signups has passed, you can still look at the sign-up genius link below and inquire about serving, since spots remain open. Volunteers will need to sign a confidentiality form and bring it with them. You can sign up to provide food through December.

We will be available to answer questions after services every Sunday in December.

# For You, O Lord, My Soul

## 89

### in Stillness Waits

#### My Soul in Stillness Waits



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.



1 O Lord of Light, our on - ly hope of glo - ry,  
 2 O Spring of Joy, rain down up - on our spir - its;  
 3 O Root of Life, im - plant your seed with - in us,  
 4 O Key of Knowl - edge, guide us in our pil - grim-age;  
 5 Come, let us bow be - fore the God who made us;  
 6 Here we shall meet the Mak - er of the heav - ens,



your ra-diance shines in all who look to you; come, light the  
 our thirst - y hearts are yearn - ing for your word; come, make us  
 and in your ad - vent, draw us all to you, our hope re -  
 we ev - er seek, yet un - ful-filled re - main; o - pen to  
 let ev - ery heart be o - pened to the Lord, for we are  
 Cre - a - tor of the moun-tains and the seas, Lord of the



hearts of all in dark and shad - ow.  
 whole, be com - fort to our hearts.  
 born in dy - ing and in ris - ing.  
 us the path - way of your peace.  
 all the peo - ple of God's hand.  
 stars, and pres - ent to us now.

With a paraphrase of Psalm 62:5 as a refrain, this Advent text adapts four of the "Great O" antiphons (all of which can be seen in no. 88), combining them with a paraphrase of Psalm 95:6-7 and an echo of a medieval hymn. This rich blend yields a wealth of imagery and meaning.

## Love Has Come

110

Capo 3: (D)

(Bm7)

(Em7)

(A)

F

Dm7

Gm7

C



1 Love has come: a light in the dark - ness!  
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der.  
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us!

(D)

(Bm7)

(Em)

(A7) (D)

F

Dm7

Gm

C7

F



Love shines forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all  
 Love is God now a - sleep in the hay. See the  
 Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is

(A)

(D)

(Bm)

(D)

(A)

(G)

(D)

C

F

Dm

F

C

B<sup>b</sup>

F



heav - en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of  
 glow in the eyes of his moth - er; what is the name her  
 Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our

(Em7)

(F#7)

(G)

(A)

(Bm)

(A7)

Gm7

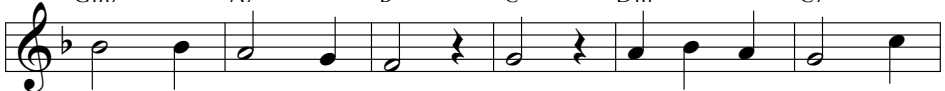
A7

B<sup>b</sup>

C

Dm

C7



joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a  
 heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she  
 hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of

(D)

(A)

(G)

(A)

(D)

(A)

(A7)

(D<sub>sus</sub>)

(D)

F

C

B<sup>b</sup>

C

F

C

C7

F<sub>sus</sub>

F



Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
 whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.  
 Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Here is a chance to sing a familiar French carol tune with new words, the most important clearly being "Love." The senses "seen and heard" (as in Acts 4:20 and elsewhere) organize the first two stanzas, while the third holds the summary statement: "Love is the gift of Christmas."



## O Lord, How Shall I Meet You 104

1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel-come you a - right?  
 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me;  
 3 You come, O Lord, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good-will,

Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!  
 your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro-cured my lib - er - ty.  
 to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.

O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, a lamp with - in my breast,  
 O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace  
 In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day

to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.  
 in love, all loves ex - cel - ling, our lost and fal - len race.  
 when your re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

Though many Advent hymns address Christ with entreaty and invitation, this more contemplative text considers how an individual prepares for and responds to Christ's coming. It also brings together a recollection of the First Coming with an anticipation of the Second Coming.

# 113 Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,  
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad - some ti - dings be which in - spire your heaven - ly song?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo -

This French carol probably dates from the 1700s, though it was not printed until the following century. Because it uses a vernacular language for the narrative stanzas and Latin for the refrain, it belongs to a special category called "macaronic" or mixed-language texts.

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

The image shows a musical score for the piece "Jesus Christ: Birth". It consists of two staves, a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment line in the lower staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!". The vocal line begins with a rest, followed by a melodic phrase. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines. The score concludes with a double bar line.

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

# 100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

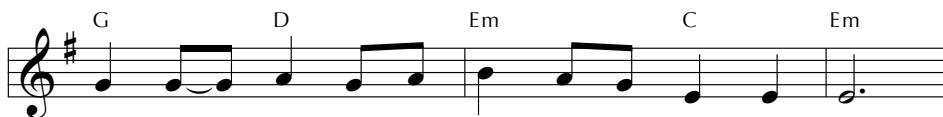
## Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you  
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a  
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.  
 liv - er us from the con - quer-or's crush - ing grasp.

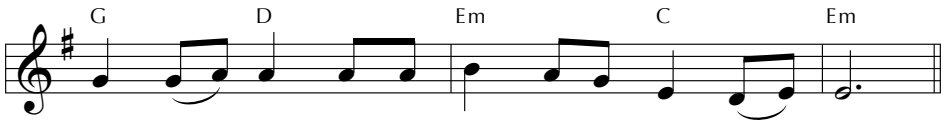


You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the  
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery  
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

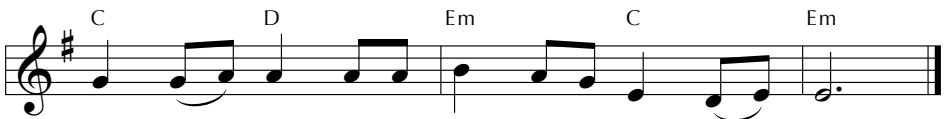
*Refrain*



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.