



CHRIST MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21, 2025

GATHERING

Prelude

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Arr. Ruth L. Zimmerman

With delight, we offer our thanks to the Instrumental Ensemble playing for today's Service of Worship:

Zoe Kim, Flute; Evan Kim, French horn; Abby Jenkins, Saxophone; Juliana McGrath, Oboe.

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Janna VanderWoude

**Passing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Choral Prelude

"Is Your Heart Prepared for a King?"

Robert Lau

Harold Flammer Music, Shawnee Press, 1993

Call to Worship/Lighting of the Advent Candles

The Fieldsend Family

Prayer in Song - # 89, v. 1,5

"For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits"

Call to Confession

Shared Prayer of Confession

L: Your word of life shines, O God!

All: We confess that we often prefer the shadows,

and we don't really want to know all that your light might illuminate.

We like the comfort of the darkness where we can hide, doing things our own way.

L: The ways of this world may not be compatible with your kingdom,

All: but they are the ways we know, and change is hard.

L: When we want to proclaim your good news, but not let it change things: **In your mercy, Forgive us.**

L: When we have much to say to others but not to ourselves: **In your mercy, forgive us.**

All: Come among us again with your power and re-make us as your children.

Make us ready to reflect your light and life into all the world.

We ask in the name of the One who shines light and is never overcome, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

L: From Christ's fullness we have received grace upon grace. Children of God, now live in the light.

All: Trusting in God's forgiveness, we go forward into new life. Thanks be to God!

****Response - # 110, v.3 "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. Praise to you, God on high!

GROWING IN GOD'S WORD

Time for All God's Children

Wes Millard

*Please note that any children who come forward to the chancel will likely be seen on the worship livestream.

There is no "Sunday Experience" separate activity scheduled for today: Children are invited to rejoin their families.

Prayer for Illumination

Liturgist Zoe Kim

Hebrew Bible Text

Psalm 130:5-8

Liturgist Zoe Kim

The Word in Music

"Do You Hear What I Hear?"

N. Regney, G. Shane

Arr. By H. Simeone

Regent Music, 1962

Gospel Text for the Day Part 1

John 1: 1-5

Rev. Janna VanderWoude

The Word in Music

"Light of the World"

by L. Daigle, P. Duncan, and P. Mabury

Allison and Hannah Miller

<u>Gospel Text for the Day Part 2</u>	John 1:6-14	Wes Millard
<u>The Word in Music</u>	“Noel Festival”	L. Larson
<u>Gospel Text for the Day Part 3</u>	John 1:15-18	Liturgist Zoe Kim
<u>The Word in Music</u>	“On Christmas Night” (Sussex Carol)	Eng. Trad., Arr. Philip Ledger Oxford Univ Press, 1978

Prayers of the People
The shared refrain for today's prayer is taken from the African-American hymn "Jesus, the Light of the World."
 When you hear "By your mercy, Gracious God" you are invited to pray together:
Shine all around us, by day and by night: Jesus, the light of the world.

EUCHARIST—OUR GRATITUDE AND TRUST IN GOD'S PROMISES

<u>Invitation to the Offering</u>		Rev. Janna VanderWoude
<u>Offertory</u>	“We Three Kings”	Arr. Ruth L. Zimmerman
	We invite you to use the time of the Offertory to reflect and to pray silently, offering thanks for God's goodness, and commitment of ourselves for declaring that the God who creates also re-creates. making all things new.	
**Offering Song - # 113 “God of Great and God of Small, with Gloria” <small>(sung to “Angels We Have Heard on High”)</small>		
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: Glo---ria, in excelsis Deo; Glo---ria, in excelsis Deo.		
*<u>Prayer of Dedication and Discipleship</u>		Liturgist Zoe Kim
A Christmas Blessing Song	“A Special Wish”	B.W Stevens, Arr. Jay Althouse BW Stevenson Music, 1979
**<u>Charge</u>		Rev. Janna VanderWoude
*<u>Sending Song - # 137</u>	“He Came Down that We May Have Love”	
Postlude	“Here I Am to Worship”	Words and Music by Tim Hughes

Liturgy Attribution

*Portions of the liturgy are adapted from Bibleworm Narrative
 Lectionary resources, Rev. Teri Peterson, Scotland*

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word
and the Word was with God
and the Word was God.

² The Word was with God in the beginning.

³ Everything came into being through the Word,
and without the Word
nothing came into being.

What came into being

⁴ through the Word was life,
and the life was the light for all people.

⁵ The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.

⁶ A man named John was sent from God. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light. ⁸ He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify concerning the light.

⁹ The true light that shines on all people
was coming into the world.

¹⁰ The light was in the world,
and the world came into being through the light,
but the world didn't recognize the light.

¹¹ The light came to his own people,
and his own people didn't welcome him.

¹² But those who did welcome him,
those who believed in his name,
he authorized to become God's children,

¹³ born not from blood
nor from human desire or passion,
but born from God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh
and made his home among us.

We have seen his glory,
glory like that of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth.

¹⁵ John the Baptizer testified about him, crying out,
"This is the one of whom I said, 'He who comes after me
is greater than me because he existed before me.'"

¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace;

¹⁷ as the Law was given through Moses,
so grace and truth came into being through Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ No one has ever seen God.
God the only Son,
who is at the Father's side,
has made God known.

Texts For the Week

Psalm 130:5-8

⁵ I hope, LORD.
My whole being hopes,
and I wait for God's promise.

⁶ My whole being waits for my
Lord—
more than the night watch
waits for morning;
yes, more than the night
watch waits for morning!

⁷ Israel, wait for the LORD!
Because faithful love is with
the LORD;
because great redemption is
with our God!

⁸ He is the one who will redeem
Israel
from all its sin.

Thank you to John Kim for providing audio support this week!
Thank you to for operating the sanctuary cameras this week!

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Announcements and Upcoming Events

Cold Weather Shelter

CMPC is once again providing support for the cold weather shelter this year, for the week of Dec 29, 2025 - Jan 4, 2026. The process will be very much the same as last year, with our congregation providing breakfast and dinners to the Grassroots shelter for the week. The main differences are that we will be providing the meals for a smaller number of people (30 for breakfast, 60 for dinner), and that they will need to have the food delivered to the shelter by 2 pm, rather than 4:30. You may sign up as an individual, or get a group to volunteer. If you have any questions, I will be at church following the service, or you may email one of us. Thank you very much for your help!

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In December, we will be doing an Angel Tree collection for the Grassroots Cold Weather Shelter. We will be collecting the following NEW items (in the bins in the entry and in the Narthex) for men, women and children:

Mittens/gloves
Hats
Scarves
Socks

We will also be collecting monetary donations for gift certificates for Cold Weather Shelter residents. You may donate online (to the designated fund), in the offering plate or to the church office. Please designate Cold Weather Shelter (CWS) in the memo line of a check.

Gift certificates will be ordered in bulk through the RaiseRight program, which is a new gift certificate fundraising program that in turn brings a portion of the proceeds back to CMPC.

Who's Who in the Pews: An occasional feature from the Membership and Hospitality Committee to help worshipers get to know one another.



Peter And Heather Gallagher

Peter and Heather grew up in Bethesda, Md., where they were high school sweethearts. After graduating from different colleges, they married and lived in Ohio for seven years before relocating to Maryland to be closer to family. They moved to Columbia in 2004.

Heather became director of the church's Christian preschool in 2016 and Peter is a corporate insurance broker who will complete his second consecutive term this year as a Deacon serving on the Fellowship Committee.

Peter likes cooking for the family and cycling in his spare time, while Heather enjoys doing all kinds of organizing projects at home and at the preschool. The pair like working in their flower and herb gardens, and spending time with family at their lake house at Lake Anna, Va.

Among the many wonderful church memories created over the years, watching all three of their children learn and grow at the preschool and take part in the LOGOS program rank at the top.

Ben joined the church in 2019, Emma joined in 2022 and will complete her one-year term as the youth member on the Board of Deacons for 2025, and Ally was especially happy to be able to participate in the LOGOS musical this year.

Other CMPC highlights include Ally serving as the child baptism representative during Pastor Scott Hoffman's last worship service at our church, Emma's solo in the LOGOS musical in Fellowship Hall during the church's renovation, and Ben's LOGOS Sunday sermon during his senior year of high school. These and other memories hold a special place in their hearts.

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 11th. If you have a third grader, please notify the church office at office@cmpcusa.org.

Christmas Eve Dinner

Join your CMPC family for dinner in Fellowship Hall on Christmas Eve beginning at 6:15 p.m.
You, along with your family and friends, are invited to join us. Please bring a special food item to share.

Please RSVP here



For You, O Lord, My Soul

in Stillness Waits

My Soul in Stillness Waits

89

Refrain Am Dm F G A B[♭] C Am7 Dm


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

Dm Am Dm Am Dm


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,

Am Dm Am Dm Am


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

Dm Am G C Am7 Dm Am Dm


hearts of all in dark and shad - ows.
 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.

He Came Down

137

He came down that we may have love; he

came down that we may have love; he came down that we may

have love; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.

Leader: Why did he come?

Additional stanzas:

... that we may have light
... that we may have peace
... that we may have joy

Because this traditional Cameroon piece begins with the refrain, it does not initially reveal that it is cast as a call-and-response song. Assigning the answers to the congregation rather than to the leader is a notable affirmation of the corporate wisdom of God's people.



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. We also created special ornaments and gifts for our families in each classroom.

Our children learned 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!*

