



Celebration of Worship on the Lord's Day

First Sunday after Christmas Day
December 31, 2017



Prelude *"To Shepherds as They Watched by Night"* by Paul Manz

Westminster Peal

Gathering as the Children of God Elder Mary McClurg

One: Arise! Shine! The light you have been waiting for is here!

All: ***Darkness has been banished!***

One: God's light of hope floods the earth

All: ***God's light comes to us all.***

One: Lord, make us ready to journey to this Light.

All: ***Prepare our hearts to receive this Light. AMEN.***

† **Opening Hymn No. 28** *"Good Christian Friends Rejoice"*

Prayer of Confession (*unison*) Elder McClurg

Almighty and merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you and one another in both our actions and our inactions. We recognize that in Jesus our light has come. Yet often we choose to walk in the shadows and ignore the light. Gracious God, forgive our sins and remove from us the veil of darkness which shrouds our lives. Illumine us by your Word, so we may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon Elder McClurg

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News.

People: ***In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.***

† **Response** (*refrain*) *"Angels We Have Heard on High"* (hymn no. 23)

***Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.***



Prayer for Illumination Rev. Ricardo Green

Scripture Lesson Psalm 148 Rev. Green

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: ***Thanks be to God.***

Anthem/Special Music "O Little Town of Bethlehem" arr. TJ Shirley

Sermon A Psalm of Good News Rev. Green

† **Affirmation of Faith** The Nicene Creed TJ Shirley

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.



† **Passing of the Peace** TJ Shirley

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Please exchange greetings of peace and welcome with your neighbor.

† **Hymn No. 36** "In the Bleak Midwinter"

Church Family Life TJ Shirley

Please take this time to pass the attendance notebooks located at the end of the pew row.

If you are a visitor, we invite you to visit our information center located in the Narthex.

Prayers of the People Elizabeth Small



Offering

Offertory "Noël: Chantons je vous prie"

by Jean-François Dandrieu

† Response

The Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

† Prayer of Thanksgiving with The Lord's Prayer

Elizabeth Small

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.

† Closing Hymn No. 66

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"

† Benediction

Rev. Green

† Congregational Response (refrain) *"Go Tell it on the Mountain"* (hymn no. 29)

*Go, tell it on the mountain Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!*

† Postlude

"Improvisation"

by Nick Johns-Cooper

† Those who are able, please stand

In Memoriam

Frances Couch

April 12, 1923 - December 23, 2017

Wholehearted worship is our goal for everyone in the congregation. To make this possible for parents, we provide child care for young children from 8:45 am - 12:15 pm. We welcome children and encourage their participation in worship. The Nursery is located downstairs (Rm 120). Parents with children who may have difficulty sitting through the entire service may choose to sit in the balcony on the Mt. Vernon Hwy. side, allowing more freedom of movement. Adult supervision is required at all times.



MVPC Mission Statement

Blessed to Be a Blessing



We are a Presbyterian church filled with love and energy – an inclusive congregation committed to spiritual growth through *worship, study, fellowship, and service.*

- As **children of God**, we seek to *praise* God in worship and in all that we say and do
- As **disciples of Jesus Christ**, we *listen* to scripture, tradition, one another, and the world in order to understand God's will for us as individuals and as a community
- As **members of a family of faith**, we strive to *love* one another unconditionally, sharing our joys and standing beside one another in our struggles
- **Moved by the Spirit**, we *serve* our gracious God by taking that with which we have been blessed and turning it into blessings for others.



Giving to MVPC is easy online
<http://mvpchurch.org/index.php/donate/>

MVPC Staff

TJ Shirley, Minister of Worship & Arts
Elizabeth Small, Dir. of Youth Ministry
Rev. Ricardo Green, Pastor of Spanish Ministries
Nick Johns-Cooper, Organist

Lillianette Cook, Handbell Choir Director
Steve Ray, Church Finance & Operations
Jill Thompson, Administrative Assistant
Yvonne White, Financial Secretary

Lauren McClintock, Communications Coordinator