



# Celebration of Worship on the Lord's Day

First Sunday in Advent  
December 2, 2018



## Westminster Peal

### Prelude

*"Handel Suite No. 3 in D Minor, Presto"*

### Welcome and Church Family Life

Rev. Susan Haynes

### Choral Call to Worship

*"Give Thanks to God Who Hears Our Cries (Psalm 107)"*  
by Richard Proulx and Ruth Duck

*Give thanks to God who hears our cries and saves in troubled days  
With wondrous works to humankind that call for highest praise.  
Let all who know God's saving love sing grateful songs always.  
So praise the One whose love is great, whose kindness is well-known.  
Consider well the healing hand and help you have been shown,  
And tell the world what God has done. Praise God and God alone!*

### † Gathering as the Children of God - Lighting of Advent Wreath

Mary Kilgore & Barbara Bruce

*Draw Near to Hope by Sarah Are*

Voice One: In hope, Israel dreamed of a Messiah so many years ago.

Voice Two: In hope, Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem praying for hospitality.

**All: In hope, the wise men followed a star believing that God would guide them along the way.**

Voice One: Like Israel, we sing, "Come, Oh Come Emmanuel."

Voice Two: Like Mary and Joseph, we pray for a world that acts like we belong to one another.

**All: Like the wise men, we travel to this space trusting that God draws near to us – guiding us along the way.**

Voice One: This Sunday, we light the candle of hope because we could not be Advent people without it.

Voice Two: May this candle remind us that God's light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

**All: May this light serve as an invitation to draw near to God – for in the light of this candle we can feel God's warmth, we can see more clearly, and together, we can hope for a better day. Amen.**

Today is the first Sunday of Advent and the first Sunday of the church calendar. As we await the arrival of the Christmas season, we practice waiting for the second coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the new heaven and new earth he will bring. Just as the nation of Israel prepared for the arrival of her Messiah, the church anticipates the coming of the Incarnate God and the completion of the biblical story.

† Hymn No. 6

“Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending”

† Prayer of Confession (unison)

Elder Rita heffey

**It is never easy for us to confess our sins. There are the hurts we have caused to our families and friends, which we would like to forget. There are those we believe are impossible to love, and so we don't try. There are people who live on the edge of our society, and we ignore their cries for help. Forgive us, God who comes near to us. When we have lost our way, show us yours. Lead us in humility down the streets of your kingdom. Teach us your truth, so we might be able to keep your Word, revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

† Assurance of Pardon

Elder Sheffey

One: Friends, believe the Good News.

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

† Response (refrain)

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

(hymn no. 23)

**Glo-o-oria in excelsis Deo;  
Glo-o-oria in excelsis Deo!**

† Passing of the Peace

Rev. Haynes

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

*Please exchange greetings of peace and welcome with your neighbor.*



Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Haynes

Scripture Lesson (p. 694 OT)

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Rev. Haynes

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Anthem/Special Music

“Come Rejoice, Believers”

by Dietrich Buxtehude

*Come rejoice, rejoice, believers. The watchman high now loudly sings the joyful tidings.*

*The Bridegroom come, the feast awaits. Believers rise make joy to Him.*

*Let your lights in beauty shine. Arise! He comes, the Bridegroom comes.*

*The Lord is He, Emmanuel. Rejoice, rejoice, the Savior comes.*

Sermon

Draw Near: God's Emoji

Rev. Haynes



† Hymn No. 48

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

Dietrich Buxtehude was a Danish-German composer of the mid-Baroque period. An accomplished organist and composer, Buxtehude was a mentor to Bach and an influence on countless other composers and musicians of his day.

As we receive communion this morning, the pastor will invite the congregation to partake in the sacrament. Please follow the row in front of you and proceed down the middle aisles. If you prefer gluten free bread, please take from the pastor serving in the middle. When receiving communion, you may respond with "Thanks be to God," "Amen," or in silence. After partaking from the bread and cup, please leave your cup with the elder holding the empty tray and return to your seat up the outer aisles. If you prefer to be served at your seat, please raise your hand and someone will serve you.

## Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

### Invitation

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: How can we... eternal hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Pastor: We give you thanks... Come, Lord Jesus!

**Christ has died,**

**Christ has risen,**

**Christ will come again.**

Pastor: Pour out...

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it was 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.**

### Words of Institution

### Sharing of the Gifts of Bread and Cup

### Prayer after Communion



Moved by the Spirit

Family Promise

Moira Speirs

Offering

Offertory

"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"

by Bach

† 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		Rev. Haynes
† Closing Hymn No. 15	"Rejoice! Rejoice Believers!"	
† Benediction		Rev. Haynes
† Congregational Response	"Amen"	Hymn No. 583
† Postlude	"Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho"	arr. by Mark Hayes

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† Those who are able, please stand



**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  
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