



Celebration of Worship on the Lord's Day

Third Sunday in Advent
December 16, 2018



Westminster Peal

Prelude "O Come All Ye Faithful" arr. by Steve Calderone

Welcome and Church Family Life Rev. Susan Haynes

Choral Call to Worship "Canticle of Turning" by Rory Cooney

*My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.*

† **Gathering as the Children of God - Lighting of Advent Wreath** Amy Kiley

Draw Near to Peace by Sarah Are

One: We sing, "Joy to the world!" The **whole** world.

All: The world God has in God's hands.

One: The world that seems to be shrinking and spinning faster every day.

All: The world of seas and mountains, rivers and streams.

One: Joy to the world!

All: Joy to this world!

One: Joy to the world – For love is real and God is here.

All: The sun will shine. Darkness will not overcome it.

One: Joy to the world!

All: Joy to this world! Amen.

† **Hymn No. 12** "People Look East"

† **Prayer of Confession** (*unison*) Rev. Ricardo Green

Advent God, forgive us when we pay more attention to satisfying our own needs, than seeking you and your will for our lives—for being more interested in possessing the material things of life, rather than your spiritual gifts. Turn our lives around so that we are looking in the right direction - towards you.

"People Look East": "This text was written to provide a new Advent text for an existing carol tune named for the city of France where it originated. The author has imaginatively expressed the cosmic implications of Christ's coming by addressing each stanza to a part of creation." Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal

**Only then can we hope to recognize the signs of your presence in the world.
This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

† **Assurance of Pardon**

Rev. Green

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-ria in excelsis Deo;

Glo-o-ria 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. 826 OT*)

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Benjamin Harlan is a native of Louisiana and a graduate of Baylor University. He has served as professor and dean of church music at seminaries in New Orleans and Fort Worth. He is an internationally known arranger and composer of choral, keyboard, and handbell works.

Anthem/Special Music

"Wasn't That a Mighty Day"

by Benjamin Harlan

Wasn't that a mighty day, when Jesus Christ was born!

The star, it shone in the east! On that day that Jesus Christ was born!

The shepherds they followed the star! On that day that Jesus Christ was born!

The angels were singing a song! On that day that Jesus Christ was born!

It must've been a mighty day, when Jesus Christ was born!

Sermon

"Draw Near: When Fear Gives Way to Joy"

Rev. Haynes

† **Affirmation of Faith**

The Nicene Creed

Rev. Haynes

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.



† Hymn No. 44

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Prayers of the People

Rev. Green



Offering

Offertory

"What Child is This"

arr. by Steve Calderone

† 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 and the Lord's Prayer

Rev. Green

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. 9

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

† Benediction

Rev. Haynes

† Congregational Response

"Amen"

Hymn No. 583

† Postlude

"The Christmas Tree Suite No. 4: March of the Three Holy Kings"

by Liszt

† 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.

Financial Update

	Week of 12/3 - 12/9	Year to Date 2018	2018 Budget
Member Giving	\$41,067	\$587,748	\$695, 545
Loose Offering	\$84	\$4,684	\$7,000
Total	\$41,151	\$592,432	\$702, 545



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

MVPC Staff

Rev. Susan Haynes, Interim Pastor
 TJ Shirley, Minister of Worship & Arts
 Elizabeth Small, Dir. of Youth Ministry
 Rev. Ricardo Green, Pastor of Spanish Ministries
 Won-Hee An, Organist

Steve Ray, Church Finance & Operations
 Jill Thompson, Administrative Assistant
 Yvonne White, Financial Secretary
 Lauren McClintock, Communications & Membership Coord.
 Mike Gillespie, Director of Christian Education