



# Celebration of Worship on the Lord's Day

Second Sunday in Advent  
December 9, 2018



## Westminster Peal

### Prelude

*"The Seasons, Op. 37a, December"*

by Tchaikovsky

### Welcome and Church Family Life

Rev. Susan Haynes

### Instrumental Introit

*"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

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

Moira Spears; Gill Hutt; Janet, Paul, Catie, Moira, and Etta O'Hare

### *Draw Near to Peace by Sarah Are*

One: We feel peace in beautiful moments: In moments when we hold hands around the table for grace, or when we laugh with siblings at our shared memories; In moments that we as a church share, when we baptize babies or when we sing in harmony; In moments when we hear God say again in scripture, "One day every valley will be lifted up," and "Darkness did not overcome the light."

**All: In such a broken world, peace can feel abstract, impossible, and naïve.**

**And yet, we come to this place week after week and say, "The peace of Christ be with you," because we believe that God sounds, feels, and looks like peace.**

One: So, family of God, we light this candle – the candle of peace – as a reminder that when we draw near to God, we are drawing near to peace.

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## † Hymn No. 409

*"Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice"*

## † Prayer of Confession (unison)

**How many times, Lord Jesus, have you come to us unwelcomed? How often have you visited yet we have been too busy to notice, spoken yet we have been too full of ourselves. Change all our insensitive habits and help us to do better during this Advent. Make us so sensitive to your immediate comings in the ups and downs of each ordinary day that we shall be well prepared to**

The lighting of the Advent wreath is a relatively new practice in Christian worship. During Advent, children at the mission school Rauhes Haus, founded by Johann Hinrich Wichern in Hamburg, would ask daily if Christmas had arrived. In 1839, he built a large wooden ring (made out of an old cart-wheel) with 20 small red and 4 large white candles. A small candle was lit successively every weekday and Saturday during Advent. On Sundays, a large white candle was lit. The custom gained ground among Protestant churches in Germany and evolved into the smaller wreath with four or five candles known today.

**welcome your Final Coming as a consummation of love and joy. For your love's sake, Amen!**

† **Assurance of Pardon**

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**

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**

**Scripture Lesson** (*pg. 56 NT*)

Luke 3:1-6

**Anthem/Special Music**

*"Gesu Bambino"*

by Pietro Yon

Featuring Amy Kiley – Soloist

*When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a winter night  
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose, the King of Love and Light.  
The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced,  
And at His blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced.  
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.  
Again the hearth with rapture glows to greet the holy night  
That gave the world, its Christmas Rose, its King of Love and Light.  
Let every voice acclaim His name, the grateful chorus swell,  
From paradise to earth He came that we with Him might dwell.  
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

**Scripture Lesson** (*pg. 838 OT*)

Malachi 3:1-4

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

Draw Near: The Terror of Advent

Rev. Haynes

† **Hymn No. 601**

*"Song of Zechariah"*

The lyrics of this hymn are a paraphrase of the prophecy spoken by John the Baptist's father after John's birth. Luke 1:68-79



## Prayers of the People



### Offering

#### Offertory

*"Savior of the Nations Come"*

arr. by John A. Behnke

### † 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

*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. 437

*"Our Cities Cry to You, O God"*

### † Benediction

Rev. Haynes

### † Congregational Response

*"Amen"*

Hymn No. 583

### † Postlude

*"Messiah: Hallelujah"*

by Handel

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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.

**Financial Update**

	<b>Week of 11/26 - 12/2</b>	<b>Year to Date 2018</b>	<b>2018 Budget</b>
Member Giving	\$10,212	\$546,681	\$695, 545
Loose Offering	\$84	\$4,600	\$7,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,296</b>	<b>\$551,281</b>	<b>\$702, 545</b>

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