

CELEBRATING

Advent



The Coming Of The

MESSIAH

ADVENT ONE: HOPE

November 29, 2020

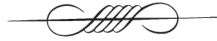
10:00 a.m.



MEDIA
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

OUR MISSION AND VISION

Our Mission is to love God and love our neighbor.



*Our Vision is to be a Christian Community that worships together,
serves together, and grows together in faith.*

VISITING TODAY?

*If this is your first time worshipping with us,
we hope you will feel welcome.*

*If you have questions, please don't hesitate
to reach out to us by phone or email. We also invite you to visit
our website at www.mediapresbyterian.org*

stephen
MINISTRY.
Christ Caring for People Through People
stephenministry@mediapresbyterian.org



**All who can do so comfortably are invited to stand*

Welcome

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 29, 2020

GATHERING

Prelude

Sean Michael McDonald, Organist

Welcome and Announcements

*** Sharing the Joy of Our Faith** *(We encourage you to greet others and receive greetings while remaining in your pews. We encourage you to wave, offer the peace sign, clap your hands, tap your feet, whichever way you choose - we are blessed to be together to worship while remaining a safe physical distance apart. If you are worshipping virtually, we invite you to extend greetings using the chat feature.)*

Lighting of the Advent Candle

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

Psalm 96

**let all creation sing for joy
at the coming of the Lord.**

The Lord of hosts is coming to restore us;

Psalm 80

God's face will shine, and we will be saved.

Light dawns for the righteous, and joy to the upright in heart.

Psalm 97

Rejoice in the Lord! Give thanks to God's holy name.

Call to worship (from Psalm 118):

Liturgist: Thank God because he's good, because his love never quits.

People: And all who fear God, join in, His love never quits.

Liturgist: I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.

**People: The stone the builders rejected has become the
cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous
in our eyes.**



Liturgist: You are my God, and I will praise you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.

People: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."

Opening Hymn/Song

Children's Moment

Blessing of the Children (All)

Dear God, bless your children here, in our neighborhood and in our ministries throughout the coming week. Show them your goodness. Give them your peace for when they are afraid. Teach them to hear your voice. And be with us now and throughout this week, as we seek to worship you. Amen.

Call to Confession (1 John 1:8-9)

Liturgist: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(a time of honesty before God in silent confession)

Prayer of Confession *(All)*

"For what we are about to receive,
may the Lord make us truly thankful.

We confess today that we are too jealous to be thankful,
we complain, "Why do they get everything?"
we compare ourselves with those who have more.

We confess that we have forgotten how to say thank you;
we have gotten used to saying, "I earned this,"
and we often feel we have only ourselves to thank.

We confess that we are too busy to be thankful;

we may have asked ourselves this morning, “Do I have time for worship?”

and even in worship we are thinking about our to-do lists.

We confess that we are grudgingly thankful;

we say, “I guess this will have to do,”

while believing that God has given us a raw deal.

We confess that we are too tired to be thankful,

we sigh, “I just want to get through this day,”

and we have no energy to open our eyes to the blessings around us.

We confess that we are not thankful enough to be generous,

we bargain with God, “I’ll be unselfish when you give me more,”

or we are free with money, but are stingy in spending time with others.

We confess that we are barely thankful;

we say the words, but don’t feel grateful in their hearts

we go through the motions, but think,

“I don’t know how to be really thankful.”

Today we pray a simple prayer.

For what we have received, Lord,

make us truly thankful."

Assurance of Pardon (from Psalm 91: 14-16)

Liturgist: Those who love me, I will deliver, says the Lord;

I will protect those who know my name.

When they call to me, I will answer them;

I will be with them in trouble,

I will rescue them and honor them,

With long life I will satisfy them,

and show them my salvation.

Receive the good news of the gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

EQUIPPING

THE WORD

First Reading: Matthew 23: 23

Second Reading: Genesis 14: 14-20

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Reading: 2 Corinthians 9: 6-15

Sermon: *“Give only what you have decided to give”*
Rev. Jonathan Fetting

RESPONSE

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Apostles' Creed

Please join me in the affirmation of faith, the Apostles Creed.
Brothers and sisters what do you believe?

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by
the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius
Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into
heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father
Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the
dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the
communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection
of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Stewardship

**At this time we are invited to join God in generosity. One of the
most famous verses in the Bible, John 3:16 states, "for God so**

loved the world that He gave His Son. So that whoever believes in Him might not perish but that they might have eternal life." We invite you to give, right now. You can navigate to the MPC website and click the **GIVE ONLINE** button in the top right corner. You can also mail a check or drop off a check in the church mailbox. If you are unable to give financially, you are still invited to Join Jesus in generosity. You may give your heart, you may give your life, you may give your service. If you would like to offer your gifts through the ministry of the church, please reach out to Pastor Jonathan or Pastor Rose. Freely you have received, freely give.

Offering Song

* Prayer of Dedication

CELEBRATING THE LORD'S SUPPER

After the Words of Institution, we invite you to celebrate Communion using your bread and your juice. If you are in the sanctuary, you will be invited to take a single-serve communion cup. Remove the first wrapper for the wafer, the second for the grape juice.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The prayer continues...

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.

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Communion/
Meditation

Sean Michael McDonald, Organ

Prayer of Affirmation

*Closing Hymn/Song

CHARGE AND BLESSING

*Postlude

Sean Michael McDonald, Organ

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Leading worship this morning...

Rev. Jonathan Fettig, *Senior Pastor*

Rev. Rose Sparrow, *Interim Parish Associate*

Sebastian Carpenter, *Director of Contemporary Music and Worship, Interim Director of Youth Ministries*

Deacon Jim Gatch, *Worship Leader*

Lisa VanHeldorf, *Choir Director*

Sean Michael McDonald, *Organist*

Small Group Questions

2 Corinthians 9: 6-15

Questions to ponder as we get to know a little about each other:

- What is one lesson about money you can recall learning from your parents?

Questions to help us dig into the Scripture:

- By “sowing and reaping” imagery, is Paul saying that if you give \$100 you will get \$1,000? Why or why not?
- What do you make of the three “alls” in verse 8?
- For what purpose will God materially bless these people? How does generosity effect righteousness, and the ever-widening circles of people giving thanks to God?
- How is giving contagious? How does it reflect God’s grace?
- Why is being able to receive also important (v. 12)?

Questions to help us apply the Scripture to our own life, to take personal inventory and share with the group what you are going to do as a result:

- What have you reaped by being generous to others?
- How can God’s promise (v. 8) enable you to be more generous? To persevere in your work?
- How do generosity and financial planning and responsibility fit together?