

# **CARROLLTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**

**4th Sunday of Advent**

**December 20, 2020 - 11:00 A. M.**



**PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD**

## CENTERING PRAYER

The evergreen singing aloud its poem of constant renewal,  
The festive mood spreading lilted magic everywhere,  
The gifts of recollection calling to heart the graces of life,  
The star in the sky calling to mind the wisdom of hope,  
The warmth of candlelight glowing against the darkness,  
The birth of a child linking past to future,  
The symbol of love absorbing all violence.  
THIS IS CHRISTMAS. - Howard Thurman

## MUSICAL MEDITATION

In the Bleak Midwinter

Gustav T. Holst  
Mary Anne Taylor

## GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

David Weiner

## PRELUDE

Mary, Did You Know?  
Leslie Goldsmith, piano

Lowry & Greene

## CALL TO WORSHIP

David Weiner

O come, Rest of the righteous: wrap us in the shawl of hope, cradling us in your comfort and peace.

**O come, Servant of salvation: unlocking the chains of our sin,  
sending us to dance in your kingdom's joy.**

O come, Gospel of graciousness: so we would embrace the outsider and embrace the lonely hearts in our midst.

**O come, Lover of the lowly: to raise them up until they can look you  
in the eye, and kiss your soft cheeks in gratitude.**

O come, Child of the covenant: heir of all those promises made so long ago,  
and bearer of all the grace flowing from God's heart.

**O come, Companion of creation: to transform the mess we have  
made into gardens overrun with goodness and beauty.**

O come to us, Immanuel, come and live with us:  
**this day, and forevermore, come!**

## LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

The Price Family

## HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!  
Brianna Cunningham and Mimi Gentry, songleaders

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## CALL TO CONFESSION

David Weiner

If we are to welcome the Child into our hearts, we must speak of all the ways we have hardened ourselves against the good news he brings. Let us confess our sins, as we pray together, saying,

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

David Weiner

How can this be, Holy One of Advent? We would put the powerful on pedestals, but you sent the lowly to remind us of our call to be servants. We would stock our pantries with more and more, but you send our friends to our door, collecting for those who hunger and thirst for hope. We would listen to seasonal sounds of sales, but you send the angels to carol to us of the promises made to all. Forgive us, Hope of the world. As we watch for your coming, may we see the need around us; as we prepare to celebrate your birth, may we live with open hearts; as we long for healing and hope, may we discover it in the Babe of Bethlehem, Jesus the Christ, sent for us. *Silence is kept.* Amen

## ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

The good news is not just announced to all people, it is indeed, for all people. For the proud, as well as the humble; for the rich, and for the poor; for those who have found faith, and those who long for it. Our hearts rejoice in the promises, and our souls rejoice in the One who has come to us, bringing hope, joy, and peace into our lives. Thanks be to God. Amen.

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING:

Luke 1:26-38

Rev. Michael Moore

This is the Word of the Lord!  
Thanks be to God!

#### ANTHEM

What Child is This  
Mimi Gentry, soprano; Dawn McCord, piano

Philip Kern, arr.

#### SECOND SCRIPTURE READING:

Luke 1:46b-55

Rev. Michael Moore

This is the Word of the Lord!  
Thanks be to God!

**SERMON**

Nothing is Impossible with God

Rev. Michael Moore

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

(from the PCUSA Brief Statement of Faith)

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

(When you hear Lord in your mercy, please respond by saying: hear our 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 GRACE AND THANKSGIVING**

David Weiner

God's love is revealed in those who seek to be faithful in sharing their gifts, so the hungry might be fed, so the lonely might be comforted, so the forgotten will be remembered, so our sisters and brothers might know God's grace and love in their lives.

## **FOLLOWING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD**

### **HYMN**

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear  
CPC Ensemble, songleaders

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### **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**

Joy to the World  
Dawn McCord, organ

L. Mason/M. McDonald, arr.

The liturgy was written by Pastor Michael's friend and colleague, Thom M. Shuman and is found in his book, Where the Broken Gather © 2014

## **WORSHIP LEADERSHIP**

Pastor: Rev. Michael Moore

Music Director and Organist: Dawn McCord

Pianist: Leslie Goldsmith

Liturgist: David Weiner

Sound Technician: Bryant Hand

Virtual Worship Technicians: Keith and Robin Ellison

Musical Meditations: Mary Anne Taylor and Bryant Hand

Handbell Director: Brianna Cunningham

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS



Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of Lillian Nicholson, who passed away, December 11<sup>th</sup>. Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers.

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### **Disciple Fast Track**

The next Disciple Fast Track 12-week bible study will begin January 5th 2021. It will be a 12-week study of The Letters of Paul. If you are interested in joining this study or for more information about this study, please contact Mary Anne Taylor, [tmaryanne45@gmail.com](mailto:tmaryanne45@gmail.com), 770-363-7379 or the church office.

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### **Caroling on the CPC Green**

Join the CPC Masked Singers for Caroling on the green in front of the sanctuary, Wednesday, 12/23, 7:00-7:30. We will be providing a link to the carol texts. Everyone must wear masks and practice social distancing. There is no formal program...just Christmas mirth and celebration of the birth of the Messiah. Let's hope that the rain holds off late in the evening. It will be too warm for snow but we can imagine it and bask in the warmth of our faith community.



## *2020 Memorials*

*Delores Patterson Carter*  
By Jim Carter

*Elanor Nevius Carter*  
By Jim Carter

*Elizabeth Stewart Carter*  
By Jim Carter

*Alex & Edith Christie*  
By Dita Pickering

*Frank & Vivian Fuller*  
By Andy & Mary Anne Taylor

*Jeanne Hauck*  
By Michael and Denise Moore

*Shirley Moore*  
By Michael and Denise Moore

*Mattie D. Morgan*  
By Sally Stephens Sullivan

*Sarah D. Stephens*  
By Sally Stephens Sullivan

*Tommy Sullivan*  
By Sally Stephens Sullivan

*Mable Taylor*  
By Andy and Mary Anne Taylor

*Lach Taylor*  
By His Family

## *Honor of Anniversaries*

*Al and Mim Jones - 50 years*  
*Heidi and Hart Squires - 10 years*  
By Al and Mim Jones

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 10:00am - 2:00pm.

## HAPPENING THIS WEEK

<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Leadership</u>
<b>Monday, December 21</b>		
<b>Tuesday, December 22</b> 2:00 p.m.	Open Hands - Food	Outreach Team
<b>Wednesday, December 23</b> 7:00 p.m.	Caroling on the CPC Green	
<b>Thursday, December 24</b> 5:00 p.m.	Church Office Closed Christmas Eve Service	
<b>Friday, December 25</b>		Merry Christmas Church Office Closed
<b>Saturday, December 26</b>		
<b>Sunday, December 27</b> 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Tai Chi Streaming Worship Service	Worship Team

\* For more information on any of these events, please contact the church office, or an elder serving on the appropriate leadership team.

**Session Members:** Jay Horsley (Admin), Mimi Gentry (Communications), Mary Anne Taylor (Worship), Dena Wilson (Fellowship & Worship), Chase Robinson (Stewardship & Finance), Carolyn Aycock (Stewardship & Finance), Pat Sheffield (Member Care), Jared Price (Christian Ed.), Jackie Warren (Buildings & Grounds), Jeb Brown (Buildings & Grounds), Patti Stewart (Outreach), and Jeff Branyon (Outreach)