

balmoral presbyterian church

service of worship

December 16, 2018

Third Sunday in Advent

11:00am

**asterisk invites you to please stand if you are able*

please turn your cell phones to silent

Chiming the Hour

Bells of Balmoral

Prelude

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

arr. Gordon Young

Linda Warren, organist

***Call to Worship**

Janice Hill

One: God's beloved children, we are called to live in God's love!

All: The love of God is coming to us, made manifest in a newborn babe.

One: Prepare your hearts! God's love comes to liberate us and make us whole.

All: Let us embrace the love that brings an end to sadness and bids our fears be still!

***Hymn 104**

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

Confession¹

Rev. Carla Meisterman

All: Emmanuel, You chose to come to us. You entered this world in vulnerability as a newborn babe. You came to heal our fears, dispel our insecurities, and eradicate our shame. We confess we make little room for Your healing presence in our lives. We attempt to hide what makes us vulnerable. We cover our uncertainties with insincerity. We measure the magnitude of Your love against what the world labels as love. Forgive us.

Keep a generous silence, and listen to your life.

Assurance

Rev. Carla Meisterman

***Share the Peace of Christ**

Rev. Carla Meisterman

***Congregational Chorus²**

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

Jill Jackson & Sy Miller

Let there be peace on earth And let it begin with me;

Let there be peace on earth, The peace that was meant to be.

With God our creator We are family, Let us walk with each other In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, Let this be the moment now;

With every step I take, Let this be my solemn vow:

To take each moment and live each moment In peace eternally.

Let there be peace on earth And let it begin with me.

Announcements

Rev. Carla Meisterman

Commissioning to the Soup Kitchen

Rev. Carla Meisterman

Musical Offering

“What Child Is This”

arr. by Linda Lamb

Bells of Balmoral

Scripture Zephaniah 3:14-18a, 19b-20 & Philippians 4:1-8

Rev. Carla Meisterman
and John Gilmer

Advent Candle Lighting and Congregational Response

John Gilmer

All: We light this candle to remind us that God is Love. Love is a sign that the kingdom of God has come near. As this Advent light shines brightly in our midst, we pray that the love of God—made real to us in Christ—will heal us, renew us, and reform us to share the love of Christ with generosity and grace.

Prayer for Illumination

John Gilmer

Sermon

“Renewed in Love”

Rev. Carla Meisterman

Silent Reflection...*In the silence, attend to what the Spirit has given you.*

Hymn 795 (please remain seated)

“Healer of Our Every Ill”

HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL

Choir will sing refrain and first verse; congregation will join on refrain and verses 2-4.

The Prayers of God’s People

Janice Hill

Offering

Janice Hill

Please place tithes, offerings, and sign-up sheets in the brass plates. Children will collect quarters to provide funds to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Fund. Place Pennies for Hunger in the glass jar near the sanctuary doors for our Food Pantry.

Offertory

*Hymn 710

“We Lift Our Voices”

OFFERING

*Prayer to Dedicate the Gifts

Usher

*Hymn 100

“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

*Charge & Blessing

Rev. Carla Meisterman

*Benediction Hymn

“Lord, Let Us Leave Now”

Old English Tune

**Lord, let us leave now, filled with Thee anew,
and pledged to Thy service in all that we do.**

Though we have some questions, our faith in Thee is sure.

We know Thou art with us; Thy way will endure.

**Lord, let us leave now, filled with Thee anew,
and pledged to Thy service in all that we do.**

¹Confession adapted from Birch, John, “Advent Prayer,” on *re: Worship*. (re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/11/advent-call-to-worship-prayer.html)

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our worship has ended...our service begins...

announcements...

- **HEADSETS** for improved hearing are available in the sound booth at the window side of the sanctuary.
- Please take a **PRAYER CARD** home with you as a reminder to pray our Advent prayers each week. You will find the prayer cards on the table by the door of the sanctuary as you leave worship today. Hang the prayer card on your tree or where you will see it daily as a reminder to pray. Our Advent tree is decorated with the Advent prayer cards for each week of Advent.
- Today is the last Sunday to make your donation to **MIFA'S PLUS-1** to help people who struggle during the winter months to pay their utility bills and keep their lights on. For a contribution of \$12.00 you may pay tribute to or remember someone who has been special to you. Fill out the sign-up sheet listing the person(s) you want to pay tribute to or remember. Fold the sign-up sheet around your money or check made out to Balmoral Presbyterian Church in the amount of \$12.00 per person you choose to honor. Place the sign-up sheet and your payment in the offering plate. We will list the names in our worship guides on December 23 and on Christmas Eve.
- Today is **CHOO CHOOS and COOKIES!** Bring a jar of peanut butter, and come for the annual running of the Christmas Trains and a whole lot of Christmas joy from 2pm to 4pm at the home of Glenda and Dave Ellis, 8373 Burning Tree Lane, 38125. Children of all ages are welcome!
- **THE WOLF RIVER SINGERS** will present a free **CHRISTMAS CONCERT** today, Dec. 16, 3:00pm, at St. Peter Church, 190 Adams Ave. in downtown Memphis. For more information, see Robin Ashworth or Connie Pride.
- There will be **NO SUNDAY STUDIES December 23 or December 30**. Winter Studies will begin January 6. See details in this coming week's newsletter.
- **A PERFECT GIFT THIS ADVENT SEASON: THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING.** During this Advent Season, we celebrate leadership—past, present and future—through support of the Christmas Joy Offering. We do so because church leaders greatly impact our lives of faith, walking with us down the path to be more like Jesus. We want those church leaders and their families who find themselves grappling with a critical financial need to have the resources they need, provided through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. Please take the insert with you and read through it for more information. We will be collecting the Joy Offering in worship on December 23.
- **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE, Monday, December 24,** will begin at 4:45pm with special music. The worship service will begin promptly at 5:00pm. Come early to get seats with your whole family together!

prayer concerns...

birthdays...

DECEMBER: Jerry Francisco (18), Betty Smith (19), Kay Dawson (21),
Carla Meisterman (27), Bill Odom (28), Mary Nell Easum (29),
Stephanie Brigman (30), Janice Carney (30)

 <p>balmoral presbyterian church</p> <p>balmoral@balmoralpc.com www.balmoralpc.com 901.767.7510 6413 quince road memphis, tennessee 38119</p>	 <p>COVENANT NETWORK OF PRESBYTERIANS</p> 	<p><i>church staff</i> carla meisterman pastor anne hagler parish associate john gilmer music director leiza collins pianist lynn ward bell choir</p>
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