

# **balmoral presbyterian church**

## **service of worship**

December 2, 2018

First 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**

### **\*Call to Worship**

Art Hall

One: As trees are trimmed and lights are hung, we hear the Advent call to watch and wait.

**All: We watch for signs that our desires will be met and our longings fulfilled.**

One: The day will surely come when God will call forth light out of darkness and life out of death!

**All: God comes to us to dwell in us and give us hope!**

### **\*Hymn 88 (vv. 1-4)**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

VENI EMMANUEL

### **Confession<sup>1</sup>**

Rev. Carla Meisterman

**All: Like farmers watching the land after a planting, we stay expectant before You, Most Holy God. You are the seed of possibility, the root of life, the growing harvest of justice, the off-shooting branch of salvation; and we are impatient for it all. We are impatient to know what might be...impatient to forecast our lives and to secure our futures...impatient to see the fruit of justice...impatient for Your salvation and healing. We forget that this is Your work, O God, not ours. Forgive us. Grant us the faith to wait and to watch with hope for what You will do.**

*Keep a generous silence, and listen to your life.*

### **Assurance**

Rev. Carla Meisterman

### **\*Share the Peace of Christ**

Rev. Carla Meisterman

### **\*Congregational Chorus<sup>2</sup>**

“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

## Musical Offering

“People Look East”

arr. John Leavitt

## Scripture

Jeremiah 33:14-16 & Luke 21:25-36

Art Hall & Rev. Carla Meisterman

## Advent Candle Congregational Response

**All: We light this candle to remind us to stay alert waiting and watching for signs of hope in the world around us, signs that the kingdom of God has come near. We trust in God as we prepare for the coming of Emmanuel. As this Advent light shines brightly in our midst we place our hope in the Lord.**

## Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Carla Meisterman

## Sermon

“Advent Invitations”

Rev. Carla Meisterman

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

## \*Hymn 772

“Live Into Hope”

TRURO

## The Prayers of God’s People

Art Hall

## Offering

Art Hall

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

## Communion

Rev. Carla Meisterman and Ruling Elders

Cathy Bailey, Gordon Brigman, Kristen Gurlen, & Don Lamb

At the elders’ invitation, please come forward row by row to receive communion by intinction. Exit your row to your right, come forward to the elders holding the bread and cup. Take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup and place it in your mouth. Return into your row from the left side.

## \*Hymn 94

“Now the Heavens Start to Whisper”

JEFFERSON

## \*Charge & Blessing

Rev. Carla Meisterman

<sup>1</sup>Prayer of Confession adapted from Hackenberg, Rachel, “Advent Candle Liturgies (RCL OT): Advent 1.” ([rachelhackenberg.com/tag/advent-candle-liturgies/](http://rachelhackenberg.com/tag/advent-candle-liturgies/))

<sup>2</sup>Copyright-protected alternate lyrics. Copyright 1955, 1983 by Jan-Lee Music, ASCAP. International copyright secured. All rights reserved.

**\*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.

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.
- **TIME CAPSULE 2018:** Join us after worship today as we watch the burying of the Time Capsule for the next 25 years.
- Make your donation to **MIFA'S PLUS-1**, and 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 of the people in our worship guides on December 23 and on Christmas Eve.
- **ADVENT STUDIES** began this morning, and will continue through December 16. The Adult Sunday Studies will focus on “The Art of Advent” and will look at works of art from museums around the world. Glenda Ellis will serve as your tour guide in Classroom B.
- **THE MEMPHIS MEN of HARMONY** will present a **CHRISTMAS CONCERT** December 8, 2:00pm, at St. Benedict at Auburndale High School, 8250 Varnavas Dr., Cordova. All seats are reserved. Tickets: \$15.00; Seniors, Students & Military, \$12.00. Contact Erich Shultz for tickets (901-268-4951).
- **BEALE CANTO** will present a Christmas concert in BPC's sanctuary Saturday, December 8, 7:00pm. Admission is free.
- **BOOK CLUB** meets Tuesday, December 11, at 12:30pm in the Office Conference Room for a potluck. The book selection for December is *Anything Is Possible* by Elizabeth Strout. (Note the special time for this month.)

## prayer concerns...

## birthdays...

**DECEMBER:** Kathy Singleton (2), Ian Mercer (4), Nancy Fulfer (5), Cliff Gurlen (6), Ted Pearson (7), Dick Vosburg (9), Marie Ndontsop (14), 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)



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**church staff**  
**carla meisterman**  
pastor  
**anne hagler**  
parish associate  
**john gilmer**  
music director  
**leiza collins**  
pianist  
**lynn ward**  
bell choir