

balmoral presbyterian church

service of worship

December 9, 2018

Second 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

“The People Who Walked in Darkness” from *Messiah*

G. F. Handel

***Call to Worship¹**

Robin Ashworth

One: With the rush of the holidays and the pressures of our lives, we gather for worship, longing for peace.

All: We come seeking serenity in our lives and harmony in our families.

One: We come praying for goodwill among neighbors and peace in warring nations.

All: We yearn for the presence of shalom: an abiding peace, a healing presence, and the unrelenting justice that God imparts to us in Christ.

***Hymn 378**

“We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom”

MERLE’S TUNE

Confession

Rev. Carla Meisterman

All: Come now, Prince of Peace, make us one body. You dream a world of peace. You bless the peacemakers and call them children of God. We deny our heritage as Your children when we create division and reject difference. We disrupt Your purposes for our world when we remain passive in the face of violence and exclusion. We recoil from troubles instead of seeking to forgive and be reconciled to one another. Forgive us for perpetuating separation. Teach us to walk in the way of peace.

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

Musical Offering

“The People Who Walked in Darkness”

Pepper Choplin

Scripture

Malachi 3:1-4 & Luke 1:68-79

Leiza Collins & Rev. Anne Hagler

Advent Candle Lighting and Congregational Response

Leiza Collins

All: We light this candle to remind us to fulfill our call to be the peacemakers known as the children of God. We know that peace is a sign that the kingdom of God has come near. As this Advent light shines brightly in our midst, we pray for the peace of Christ, which passes all understanding, to dwell in our minds, our hearts, and our lives.

Prayer for Illumination

Leiza Collins

Sermon

“The Way of Peace”

Rev. Carla Meisterman

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

***Hymn 753**

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

The Prayers of God’s People

Robin Ashworth

Offering

Robin Ashworth

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 79**

“Light Dawns on a Weary World”

TEMPLE OF PEACE

***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.**

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.
- 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.
- **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.)
- **ADVENT STUDIES** 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.
- It's almost time for **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 on Sun., Dec. 16, 2018, 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** present free **CHRISTMAS CONCERTS:** Sat., Dec. 15, 7:30pm, at Our Lady of Perpetual help in Germantown and Sun., Dec. 16, 3:00pm, at St. Peter Church in downtown Memphis. For information, see Robin Ashworth or Connie Pride.
- **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.

¹Call to Worship adapted from "Call to Worship: Advent Peace," posted on *Spacious Faith* by Joanna, Dec. 8, 2015. (spaciousfaith.com/2015/12/08/call-to-worship-advent-peace/).

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prayer concerns...

birthdays...

DECEMBER: 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)

 <p>balmoral presbyterian church</p> <p>balmoral@balmoralpc.com www.balmoralpc.com 901.767.7510 6413 quince road memphis, tennessee 38119</p>	 <p>PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)</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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