

Sunday, December 17, 2023  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

*Jay*

Third Sunday  
of Advent



# 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.

# Welcome

## 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 at 610-566-3944. We also invite you to visit our website at [www.mediapresbyterian.org](http://www.mediapresbyterian.org).

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### **Leading worship this morning...**

Reverend Dr. David Cagle, Transitional Pastor

Reverend Rose Sparrow, Parish Associate

Lisa VanHeldorf, Director of Traditional Music

Sue Hare, Worship Leader

Emily Barth, Organist

MPC Ringers

The Chancel flowers are given by Chris and Evan Frey in memory of their parents.

## GATHERING

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**Prelude**      *Prelude on "Nun komm der heiden heiland"*

Grimoaldo Macchiato

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

Leader:      The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

*Congregation:*      *We are easily distracted by the darkness of despair and pessimism.*

*All:*      *Source of light, shine in our lives and in your world with your life-giving joy.*

**Advent Candle Lighting**

The Kalemkarian Family

**Advent Prayer**

*All:*      *Gracious God, you came to us in human flesh and you abide with us in the Holy Spirit. Fill us with your joy, and help us shine as a light to the world. Through Jesus Christ, who makes our joy complete. Amen.*

**Advent Song**

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

*O Come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer*

*Our spirits by thine advent here;*

*Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,*

*And death's dark shadows put to flight.*

*Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel*

*Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**\*Opening Worship** (Led by Worship Team)

(Music Sheets available)

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Steffany Gretzinger/Bethel Music

*Evidence*

Josh Baldwin

*\*please stand in body or in spirit*

## Call to Confession

Leader: Again, in this Advent Season we are summoned to prepare for God's coming to us in a form we can begin to understand. Jesus accepted all our human limitations yet remained faithful to the Eternal law of love. We who have taken this saving action for granted are called to repent and be watchful.

**All:** *Let us confess our disobedience.*

*(Now, take a few moments of honesty before God in silent confession)*

## Prayer of Confession (All)

**All:** *Grant us the courage, O God, to admit to you that which we try to hide from ourselves. You have made us rich and we use your goodness as an excuse for false pride. You have built up and we have torn down. You have created and we have destroyed. We call on you for mercy, here and now. Remove the distortions from our vision and the lethargy from our service In Jesus' name. Amen.*

## Assurance of Pardon

Leader: God clothes us with salvation and covers us with righteousness. Our sins are forgiven, and we begin anew with opportunities to proclaim God's favor, live our thankfulness and rejoice in the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. Praise God's Holy name today and always! Amen.

**All:** *In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.*

## \*Advent Song of Praise, Hymn #13 (Blue)

*Prepare the Way*

*Fling wide your gates, O Zion  
Your Savior's rule embrace  
And tidings of salvation  
Proclaim in every place  
All lands will bow rejoicing  
Their adoration voicing  
O Blest is Christ that came  
In God's most holy name*

## \*Sharing the Joy of Our Faith

# EQUIPPING

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## THE WORD

### Prayer for Illumination

Sue Hare

### First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20 (pg. 767)

Sue Hare

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

*All: Thanks be to God.*

### Second Reading: Luke 3:7-18 (pg.834)

Rev. Dr. David Cagle

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

*All: Thanks be to God.*

### Sermon

### “A Joyous Surprise”

Rev. Dr. David Cagle

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## RESPONDING

### \*Affirmation of Faith (All)

*From A Declaration of Faith*

Leader: Brothers and sisters, what do you believe?

*All: Jesus Christ stands at the center of the biblical record.*

*The Bible is the account of God’s word and action in history, together with his people’s response in faith.*

*It tells how the Lord has moved with Israel and the church towards the kingdom of God, his just and loving rule over all.*

*It is the story of the one God, who is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*

*That story is still unfolding, and in faith, we make it our own.*

*It forms our memory and our hope.*

*It tells us who we are and what we are to do.*

*To retell it is to declare what we believe.*

### Prayers of the People

### Invitation to Stewardship

### Offering Song (Led by the MPC Ringers and Choir)

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

German Folk Tune, In Dulci Jubilo

## \*Song of Praise and Dedication

### Hymn #23 (Blue)

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo

## \*Prayer of Dedication

### CELEBRATING THE LORD'S SUPPER

*There are prepackaged communion cups located in baskets at the back of the sanctuary if you prefer not taking communion by intinction.*

### Invitation to the Lord's Table

#### The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**All: *And also with you.***

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**All: *We lift them to the Lord.***

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

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

*The prayer continues...*

### Sanctus (*All*)

***Holy, Holy, Holy***

Richard Proulx

***Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.***

## The Lord's Prayer (*All*)

*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 sins, as we forgive those who have sinned against us; 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

## Prayer of Affirmation

## SENDING

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### \*Closing Hymn #14 (Blue)

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

## Charge and Blessing

### \*Postlude

*Postlude on "In Dulci Jubilo"*

Mark Hayes

## GENERAL INFORMATION

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**Restrooms** -A restroom is located in the parlor at the back of the sanctuary. Handicap-accessible restrooms are located through either side door at the front of the sanctuary, then around the corner.

**Nursery** -Our Nursery is available for infants and children up to 3 years old during our 9:00 a.m. Sunday School hour and the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

**Sunday School** -Adults meet at 9:00 a.m. in Room 102 and via Zoom.

Children's Sunday School is in the Children's Wing. Youth Sunday School is in the Youth Room.

**Prayer Chain** -If you are in need of prayer or would like to receive prayer chain updates, please email Reverend Rose.

**Attention Mothers of Infants** -The parlor at the back of the church is available for privacy during church services.

**Church Office Hours** are Monday - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
During inclement weather, please call to make sure staff is present before coming to the office.

## **WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

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Sign up to receive our weekly digital newsletter by going to our website or by emailing [rebecca@mediapresbyterian.org](mailto:rebecca@mediapresbyterian.org).

## **FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

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Like and follow us on Facebook (Media Presbyterian Church).

## **ONLINE GIVING**

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Visit [MediaPresbyterian.org/GiveOnline](http://MediaPresbyterian.org/GiveOnline) or scan the QR code to give your tithes & offerings.



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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- **MPC Annual Christmas Concert**
  - ◆ All are welcome to the MPC Annual Christmas Concert being held in the sanctuary tonight, Sunday, December 17, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Invite your friends, family, and neighbors to come hear the talented musicians of Media Presbyterian Church! Reach out to Lisa ([lisa@medispresbyterian.org](mailto:lisa@medispresbyterian.org)) for more information.
- **Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Celebration**
  - ◆ Our Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Celebration will occur Sunday evening, December 24, beginning at 5:30 p.m. This is a family-friendly service of lessons and carols celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. All are welcome!
- **MPC Missions-Alternative Gift Cards**
  - ◆ Please help support our Global and Local Missions of MPC by purchasing gift cards. They will be on sale every Sunday through December in Hassler Chapel. This year we are supporting Compassion for Life in Liberia, and the Greenhouse Project in Chester, PA. For questions or more information, don't hesitate to contact Cindy McPeak ([cindymcpeak101@gmail.com](mailto:cindymcpeak101@gmail.com)).



- **Poinsettia Sales-Due Today!**
  - ◆ Poinsettias may be ordered by filling out the form on the next page and either placing it in the offering plate or returning it to the office. Plants cost \$12.00 each. Please make checks payable to Media Presbyterian Church. Orders and payments must be received by today, Sunday, December 17.
- **Holiday Office Hours**
  - ◆ The office will be closed from Friday, December 22, 2023 to Monday, January 1, 2024 and will reopen for regular hours on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

## ONGOING MINISTRIES

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- **MPC Youth Ministry**
  - ◆ Youth Sunday School meets from 9-9:45 a.m. in the Youth Room. Youth Group meets on Thursdays from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Youth Room. There will be no Youth Group Thursday, December 28, 2023.
- **Cornerstone Kids Children's Ministry**
  - ◆ Building Lives on Christ (BLOC) is available most Sundays for children in 2nd grade and younger. The children are dismissed after the Children's Moment and should be picked up from Room 201 when the service is over.
  - ◆ Contact Jeanne Cunningham (fuselloj@gmail.com).

## MISSION STUDY TEAM UPDATE

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Dear Church Family,

The Mission Study Team is thankful to everyone who participated in the Hartford Survey. We continue to meet weekly to pray over this time of opportunity in the life of MPC and synthesize the data from the survey. We look forward to meeting in small focus groups in the New Year to discuss the important themes we are learning from the survey results. Please stay tuned!

*"For surely I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord, "plan for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."* Jeremiah 29:11

Faithfully, the Mission Study Team-Rev. Dr. David Cagle, Suzanne Beaumont, Robin Kauffman, David Layton, Eric MacDonald, Betsy Podrebarac, Janis Richards.



# POINSETTIA ORDER FORM



Your orders for poinsettias enable us to beautify our sanctuary on Christmas Eve and allow you to recognize loved ones.

Poinsettias may be ordered by filling out this form and either placing it in the offering plate or returning it to the office. Plants cost \$12.00 each. Please make checks payable to *Media Presbyterian Church*. Orders and payments must be received by **today, Sunday, December 17.**

Poinsettias may be taken home after the 5:30 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. If you do not wish to take your plant, please check the appropriate box below. Plants not picked up will be taken to the sick and/or homebound.

**Please reserve:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Red Poinsettia (s)**

\_\_\_\_\_ **White Poinsettia (s)**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Total x \$12.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed**

**In memory of:**

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**In honor of:**

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**To the Glory of God:**

**GIVEN BY:**

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Please hold \_\_\_\_\_ plant (s) for pickup.

Please deliver \_\_\_\_\_ plant (s) to shut-in (s).

# **FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 17, 2023**

Sunday, December 17

8:30 a.m. Choir Practice, Sanctuary  
8:45 a.m. Nursery opens for drop-off  
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School, Room 102 & Zoom  
9:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School, Children's Wing  
9:00 a.m. Youth Sunday School, Youth Room  
10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship Service 3rd Sunday of  
Advent, with BLOC, Sanctuary  
7:00 p.m. Christmas Concert, Sanctuary

Monday, December 18

12:00 p.m. Prayer & Devotion, Rev. Rose, Zoom  
4:45 p.m. Mission Study Team meeting, Room 102

Tuesday, December 19

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting  
6:30 p.m. Session Meeting, Room 102

Wednesday, December 20

10:00 a.m. Prayer Warriors, Rev. Rose Sparrow  
Call 425-436-6394, Code 338523#  
6:30 p.m. Admin Committee Meeting, Room 102

Thursday, December 21

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study Breakfast, Court Diner, Media  
10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study, Rev. Rose, Zoom  
12:30 p.m. Intercessory Prayer & Prayer Chain Updates  
7:00 p.m. Yoga

Friday, December 22

Office Closed

Saturday, December 23

6:00 p.m. NA Meeting

Sunday, December 24

8:30 a.m. Choir Practice, Sanctuary  
8:45 a.m. Nursery opens for drop-off  
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School, Room 102 & Zoom  
9:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School, Children's Wing  
10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship Service 4th Sunday of  
Advent, no BLOC, Sanctuary  
5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Family-Friendly Service,  
Sanctuary

Transitional Pastor	Reverend Dr. David Cagle	David@mediapresbyterian.org Ext. 1001
Parish Associate	Reverend Rose Sparrow	Rose@mediapresbyterian.org Ext. 1002
Business Administrator	Jack Schoen	Jack@mediapresbyterian.org Ext. 1006
Office Administrator	Ro D'Angelo	Ro@mediapresbyterian.org Ext. 1007
Church Administrator	Rebecca Peak	Rebecca@mediapresbyterian.org Ext. 1005
Facilities Manager	Scott MacDonald	Scott@mediapresbyterian.org Ext. 1008
Director of Traditional Music	Lisa VanHeldorf	Lisa@mediapresbyterian.org
Organist	Emily Barth	Emily@mediapresbyterian.org
	Receptionist	Ext. 0
	Main Kitchen	Ext. 1021
	Parlor <i>(back of sanctuary)</i>	Ext. 1022
	Nursery	Ext. 1023
	Benevolence Hotline	Ext. 2000



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