

***Gloria Patri 581**

***The Charge**

Mark 12:28-31

Which commandment is the first of all?

**You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart, and with all your soul,
and with all your mind, and with all your strength.**

And the second is this:

**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
There is no other commandment greater than these.**

***Blessing**

***Postlude**

“Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH
Handel, arr. Carter

**The congregation is invited to stand.*

A hearing loop is active. Set your hearing device to “T-coil.”

Words in bold and double-indented are congregational responses.

The Morning Meditation is from Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking*.

The Prayer of Confession is reprinted with permission from *Feasting on the Word
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Scripture passages are read from the New Revised Standard Version.



MONTREAT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS AN EARTH CARE CONGREGATION.

**MONTREAT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
January 1, 2017, 9:00 A.M.**

Morning Meditation

Frederick Buechner

*After the three Magi had followed their star to the manger and left Jesus their presents,
they were tipped off in a dream to avoid Herod like the plague on their way home.*

Herod was fit to be tied when he realized he'd been had...

For all his enormous power, he knew there was somebody in diapers more powerful still.

The wisdom of the foolish is perhaps nowhere better illustrated.

Chimes of Christmas

Ritual of Fellowship

Voluntary “’Twas in the Moon of Wintertime (Huron Carol)” arr. Carter

***Call to Worship**

Psalms 148:1-2, 11-13

Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise the LORD in the heights!

Praise God, all the angels; praise God, all the host!

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name alone is exalted,
whose glory is above earth and heaven.

***Hymn 143**

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

Nickel and Meal offerings may be brought forward during the hymn.

Prayer of Confession (responsive)

Merciful God, in great love you have claimed us as your children.

We confess that we have not loved you as we should.

We have not participated fully in your purposes and plans;

we grow weary and give up when the way is hard.

We have not loved our brothers and sisters as you intend.

**Complacent in the presence of injustice and violence,
we fail to recognize our own complicity.**

Forgive our misuse of power against people
and against your creation.

**Forgive us, especially when we fail to protect children,
so vulnerable and precious in your sight.**

Help us to praise you by living in harmony and peace.

Set us free from fear, that we may wholly trust in you.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Kyrie Eleison 579

“Lord, Have Mercy”

Assurance of Pardon and Response 121 (v. 4) “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

**O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

Reading from the Old Testament

Isaiah 63:7-9

First Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

Anthem

“Sweet Little Jesus Boy”

R. MacGimsey

Linda Weyman, soprano

Second Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:13-23

Hymn 138

“Who Would Think that What Was Needed”

Sermon

“God in Our Dreams”

Keith Grogg

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s 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.

***Hymn 158**

“Born in the Night, Mary’s Child”

Offering of Our Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

“He Is Born!”

Trad. French Carol
arr. Carter

***Doxology 607**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below; Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore, amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication and Affirmation of Faith**

“A Declaration of Faith”

**We know that God is not confined to the story we can tell.
The story itself tells us God works the divine, sovereign will
among all peoples of the earth.**

We believe God works beyond our imagining throughout the universe.

We must not set our ultimate reliance on any other help.

We must not yield unconditional obedience to any other power.

We must not love anyone or anything more than we love God.

To worship God is highest joy. To serve God is perfect freedom.