

Offertory "Advent Medley" arr. Ethel Tench Rogers
Margaret Neale and Gayle Sawyer, piano duet

***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**

***Hymn 82** "Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

***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.**

***Sung Benediction 113 (verse 1)** "Angels We Have Heard on High"

**"Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!"**

***Blessing**

***Postlude** "Now Thank We All Our God" NUN DANKET ALLE
GOTT /Johann Cruger, Martin Rinkart

**The congregation is invited to stand.*

Scripture passages are read from the New Revised Standard Version. **The Morning Meditation** is from Ann Weems, "In Search of Our Kneeling Places," in *Kneeling in Bethlehem*. Philadelphia: 1980; p. 19. The **Call to Worship** is by Karl Barth, "A Christmas Prayer" from *Fifty Prayers*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2008, p. 11. The **Prayer of Confession** is by Loring D. Chase, collected in Davies & Slifer, eds., *Prayers & Other Resources for Public Worship*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1976; p. 23. **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**, *God Is in the Manger*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2010; p. 3. **Julian of Norwich**, *Enfolded in Love* (ed. Robert Llewelyn). London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 2004; p. 9.

**MONTREAT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: HANGING OF THE GREENS
November 27, 2016, 9:00 A.M.**

Morning Meditation Ann Weems

*In each heart lies a Bethlehem,
an inn where we must ultimately answer whether there is room or not.*

Chimes of Advent

Ritual of Fellowship

Voluntary "O Little Town of Bethlehem" L.H. Redner
The Tarnished Brass

Sentences of Scripture Isaiah 11:1-2, Isaiah 61:1-2

***Prayer of Invocation** (responsive) Karl Barth

O Lord our God, you wanted to live not only in heaven,
but also with us, here on earth;
not only to be high and great, but also to be small and lowly, as we are;
not only to rule, but also to serve us;
not only to be God in eternity, but also to be born as a person, to live, and to die.

**In your dear Son, our Savior Jesus Christ,
you have given us none other than yourself,
that we may wholly belong to you.**

This affects all of us, and none of us has deserved this.

What remains for us to do but to wonder, to rejoice,
to be thankful, and to hold fast to what you have done for us?

**We ask you to let this be the case in this hour,
among us and in all of us!**

**Let us become a proper Christmas community
in honest, open, and willing praying and singing,
speaking and hearing,
and let us in great hunger
be a proper Communion community! Amen.**

***Hymn 106** "Prepare the Way, O Zion"
Paraments are placed during the hymn.

Scripture Reading Micah 5:2-5
Communion ware is brought and arranged on the table.

Scripture Reading Psalm 36:7, 9
The baptismal pitcher is placed on the stand by the font.

Hymn 88 (verses 1, 6, 7) "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
Clara Hare-Grogg, violin / Vivian Hare, piano

Prayer of Confession
**Forgive us, Lord, for the mockery we make
of grace and truth, goodwill and peace, in Jesus' Advent time.
We confess the vulgar festival: the scheming gifts, the bounded love,
the sentimental song, the lavish ostentation,
while inns are full and stables are ignored.
The homeless wander in the night,
and innocents die by our neglect.**

Kyrie Eleison 575 (unison) "Lord Have Mercy upon Us"

Assurance of Pardon

Response 602 (unison) "Holy Lamb of God"
**Holy Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us.
Holy Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us.
Holy Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.
Grant us your peace; grant us your peace; grant us your peace.**

Scripture Readings Psalm 4:6; Isaiah 42:6-7; John 1:4-5, 9

Anthem "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" R.S. Willis
Candles are placed on the communion table.

Scripture Readings Isaiah 60:1; Isaiah 9:2

Hymn 110 "Love Has Come"
The candles on the communion table are lit.

Meditation Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The Lighting of the Advent Candle Hope
The first candle in the Advent wreath is lit.

Anthem "I Wonder as I Wander" Niles
Gayle Sawyer, soprano

Scripture Readings Isaiah 60:13; Hosea 14:8

Anthem "The Holly and the Ivy" trad. English
Vocal Ensemble
Wreaths are raised during the anthem.

Scripture Readings Luke 2:34-35; Isaiah 53:4-5

Meditation Julian of Norwich

Hymn 95 "Prepare the Way of the Lord"
*The hymn will be sung together twice before being sung as a round.
Poinsettias are placed during the singing.*

Scripture Readings Revelation 22:12, 13, 16; I John 5:11, 20

Hymn 2 (verses 1 and 2) "Come, Thou Almighty King"

The Sermon "Holding On for Christmas" Keith Grogg

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer (traditional)
**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.**

Offering of Our Tithes and Gifts