

The Son of God, the second Person in the Trinity, being very and eternal God, did, when the fullness of time was come, take upon him the nature of humanity, with all the essential properties and common infirmities thereof; yet without sin:

**being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost,
in the womb of his mother Mary, of her substance;
so that two whole, perfect, and distinct natures,
the Godhead and the humanity,
were inseparably joined together in one person,
true God and true man, yet one Christ,
the only Mediator between God and humankind.**

***Hymn 104**

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

***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 92 (verse 1)**

“While We Are Waiting, Come”

**While we are waiting, come; While we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.**

***Blessing**

**The congregation is invited to stand.*

Scripture passages are read from the New Revised Standard Version. The Morning Meditation is from Phillips, “The Dangers of Advent,” in *Watch for the Night* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2009), 24. The Prayer of Confession is adapted from a prayer by Janet Morley in *Tell Out My Soul* (Christian Aid, 1990), reprinted in Morley, ed., *Bread of Tomorrow: Prayers for the Church Year* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1992, 151).

**THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY
MONTREAT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 23, 2018, 10:00 A.M.**

Morning Meditation

J.B. Phillips (1906-1982)

*“We must never allow anything to blind us to the true significance
of what happened at Bethlehem so long ago.
Nothing can alter the fact that we live on a visited planet . . .
He will come again with the same silence and the same devastating humility
into any human heart ready to receive him.”*

Chimes of Advent

Ritual of Fellowship

Voluntary

“The First Nowell”

Sandys, arr. Carter
Christmas Carols 1833

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 96:1-4

O sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.

**Sing to the LORD, bless God’s name;
tell of God’s salvation from day to day.**

Declare the glory of the LORD among the nations,
the marvelous works of God among all the peoples.

**For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,
revered above all gods.**

***Hymn 93**

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

The Lighting of the Advent Candle—Love

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

O God, whose word is not yet fulfilled
when the humble remain humiliated and the mighty are not put down,
when the hungry remain empty
while the thoughtless proud are filled with good things:
Open our hearts and unblock our ears
to hear the voices of the poor and share their struggle;
and send us away empty with longing
for your promise to come true in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Kyrie Eleison 575 “Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us”
Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon

Response 602 “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.

Old Testament Reading Micah 5:2-5

Hymn 347 (verses 1, 2, and 3) “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

New Testament Reading Luke 1:26-55

The Sermon “Scattered in the Thoughts of Our Hearts” Keith Grogg

Prayers of the People

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.

Offering of our Tithes and Gifts

Offertory “*Il est Né* (He is Born)” trad. French Carol
arr. John 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**

***Affirmation of Faith** (responsive) Westminster Confession of Faith

It pleased God, in God’s eternal purpose,
to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, God’s only begotten Son,
to be the Mediator between God and humanity,
the prophet, priest, and king; the head and Savior of his Church,
the heir of all things, and judge of the world;
unto whom God did, from all eternity,
give a people to be his own,
and to be, by him, in time,
redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified.