

***Doxology**

IN DULCI JUBILO, arr. Hare

The cantor sings, then the congregation repeats:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,

Praise Christ all people here below,

Praise the Spirit, evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

***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!**

***Postlude**

“Once He Came in Blessing”

Manz

**The congregation is invited to stand.*

A Hearing Loop is active (T-coil). Scripture passages are read from the New Revised Standard Version. The **Call to Worship** is by Karl Barth, “A Christmas Prayer” from *Fifty Prayers* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2008), 11. The **Prayer of Confession** is by Loring D. Chase, collected in *Davies & Slifer*, eds., *Prayers & Other Resources for Public Worship* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1976), 23. The **Assurance of Pardon** is from Katharina Schütz Zell, *Church Mother: The Writings of a Protestant Reformer in Sixteenth-Century Germany*, trans. Elsie McKee (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006). **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**, *God Is in the Manger* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2010), 3. **Julian of Norwich**, *Enfolded in Love* (London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 2004), 9. MPC is a congregation of the PC(USA), a church of the Presbytery of Western NC, an Earth Care congregation and a Living Wage Certified Employer.

**MONTREAT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: HANGING OF THE GREENS
December 1, 2019, 10:00 A.M.**

Morning Meditation

Psalm 24:7

“Be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in!”

Prelude

“Hark, the Glad Sound!”

Held

Chiming of the Hour and Chimes of Advent

Ritual of Fellowship and Statement on the Meaning of Advent

Introit/Hymn 106 (seated)

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

The choir sings verse 1; the congregation sings verses 2 and 3.

Sentences of Scripture

Isaiah 11:1-2, Isaiah 61:1-2

***Prayer of Invocation** (responsive)

Karl Barth (1885-1968)

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 us all, and none of us has deserved this. What remains for us to do but to wonder, rejoice, be thankful, and hold fast to what you have done for us?

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 people! Amen.**

***Hymn 107** "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"
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
Water is poured into the baptismal font.

Hymn 88 (verses 1, 6, 7) "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Prayer of Confession (unison)
**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 GOD REST YOU MERRY, arr. Hare
The cantor sings, then the congregation repeats:
**O Lord, have mercy, have mercy on us.
O Christ, have mercy, have mercy on us.
And save us all from Satan's power when we have gone astray.
O Lord, have mercy on us, mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us.**

Assurance of Pardon Katharina Schütz Zell (1498-1562)

Response (unison) GLORY TO GOD
Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

Scripture Readings Psalm 4:6; Isaiah 42:6-7; John 1:4-5, 9
Candles are placed on the communion table and lit during the readings.

Hymn 314 "Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness"

Scripture Readings Isaiah 60:1; Isaiah 9:2

Meditation Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945)

Narration The Lucia tradition

Advent Candle Processional 123 (verse 4) CAROL
**And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.**

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

Scripture Readings Isaiah 60:13; Hosea 14:8

Choral Anthem "The Holly and the Ivy" trad. English, arr. Davies
Wreaths are hung during the anthem.

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

Meditation Julian of Norwich (c. 1342-c. 1416)

Choral Anthem "What Sweeter Music" Herrick/R.V. Williams
What sweeter music can we bring than a carol for to sing the birth of this our heavenly king? We see him come, and know him ours, who with his sunshine and his showers turns all the patient ground to flowers. So we will give him and bequeath this holly and this ivy wreath, to do him honor who's our king, and Lord of all this reveling. Dark and dull night, fly hence away and give the honor to this day that sees December turn to May. The darling of the world is come, and fit it is we find a room. The nobler part of all the house here is the heart. Awake the string! What sweeter music can we bring to sing the birth of this our heavenly king?

Poinsettias are placed.

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

***Hymn 2 (verses 1 and 2)** "Come, Thou Almighty King"
The pulpit Bible is brought forward.

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer *Glory to God*, p. 35

Offertory "Of the Father's Love Begotten" Archer