



# Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church

## Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25, 2011 11:00 am

*Be still and know that I am God. (Psalm 46:10)*

*Let us prepare our hearts in silence*

PRELUDE

Sandra Perkins & Gail Rollings

CALL TO WORSHIP (Isaiah 9:2 & 6; John 1:4 & 5, 14)

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**People: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Leader: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

**People: We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

Leader: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**People: In him was life, and the life was the light of humanity.**

\*HYMN #198

*Good Christian Friends Rejoice, (Verses 1 & 2)*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jerry Bond

PASSING OF THE PEACE

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER (Robert Louis Stevenson)

**Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus,  
that we may share in the song of angels,  
the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.  
Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.  
Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.**

**Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,  
and teach us to be merry with clean hearts.  
May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children,  
and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,  
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake, Amen.**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#198 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice, Verse 3*)

**Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all, to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

\*Those who are able, please stand

Congregation reads **BOLD** face type

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES, GIFTS AND SELVES TO GOD

OFFERTORY

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#189 *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*, verse 1)

**Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story, Now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, Come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King!**

CHOIR ANTHEM

*Joy to the World*

BIBLE READING 1

John 1:1-14

*God With Us*

HYMN #180

*O Little Town of Bethlehem (Verse 4)*

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

BIBLE READING 2

John 15:4-9

*Make Your Home in My Love*

MESSAGE

*Going Home*

Rev. Mark Sprowl

\*HYMN #218

*Go Tell it on the Mountain*

\*WE AFFIRM OUR FAITH

**We believe in God, the creator and giver of life,  
who brought all creation to birth, who mothers us and fathers us,  
protecting, nurturing, and cherishing us.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ: God born among us as a fragile baby,  
embodying both love and the need for love,  
and calling us to rest in God as trustingly as a tiny child.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, breathed into us at our birth,  
always drawing us on to be born again, encouraging, exhorting, comforting,  
nourishing our growth and inspiring our living.**

**We believe in the reconciliation of the world to God, through Christ.  
Hunted at birth and humiliated at death, Christ entered our fearful darkness  
so that we might enter his glorious light and share the life of his resurrection.**

**And we believe that each new child is a glimpse of the face of God,  
a sign of the life to come, and a call to live in peace  
and celebrate living together.**

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Amen.**

## SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

### 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.**

\*HYMN #179

*Joy to the World*

\*A CHRISTMAS BLESSING

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION

### John 1:1-14 (New Living Translation)

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He existed in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. <sup>4</sup> The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

<sup>6</sup> God sent a man, John the Baptist, <sup>7</sup> to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. <sup>8</sup> John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. <sup>9</sup> The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup> He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. <sup>13</sup> They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

<sup>14</sup> *So the Word became human and made his home among us.* He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

### John 15:4-9 (The Message)

<sup>4</sup> "Live in me. *Make your home in me just as I do in you.* In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me.

<sup>5</sup> "I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't produce a thing. <sup>6</sup> Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. <sup>7</sup> *But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you,* you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon.

<sup>8</sup> This is how my Father shows who he is—when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples. <sup>9</sup> "I've loved you the way my Father has loved me. *Make yourselves at home in my love.*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS** and welcome to worship! We are glad you're with us today and invite our visitors to let us know of your presence by filling out a guest card in the pews and putting it in the offering plate. We have special visitor packets at the sanctuary entrance and encourage you to learn more about Gregory by chatting with our Interim Pastor and/or by checking out the church website. Next Sunday we will resume our Sunday School program at 9:45 am when we offer opportunities for spiritual growth for all ages!

**THE FIVE CENTS A MEAL WAGON** is located near the sanctuary entrance today for you to drop your coins in as you leave today. Proceeds go toward feeding the hungry.

**INTERIM PASTOR ON VACATION** – Rev. Sprowl will be on vacation December 26 – January 2. If you have an emergency pastoral need during that time, please call the church office or members of the Congregational Care Committee, Glenda Mayhew, 458-7682, or Marguerite Bishop, 541-3101.

**This Week at Gregory December 25 - January 1**

Monday	No Line Dancing
Wednesday	No Choir
Sunday	9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service

<b>Sunday Servants</b>	<b>Today</b>	<b>Jan 1</b>
USHERS	Sheila Fields Janet Swinton Mary Holc Doug Holc	Valerie Harsh Pamela Harsh Jerry Bond Debbie Smith
ANNOUNCEMENTS	Jerry Bond	Dianne Overstreet
NURSERY	Ruby Spain	Robbi Foster
JUNIOR SERMON	Mary Kay Schroeter	Lisa Hartsell
JUNIOR CHURCH	Rose Scott Pam Harsh	Patsy Johnson Breeana Hunter
COUNTING	Verne Smith Rose Scott	Sandy Hunter Evelyn Lichvar

**Please Pray for...** Dick Mann, Ruby Hasky, Christine Belsches, Katherine Tompkins, Aida Faries, Tammy Pelter, June Hawks, Mary Chadwick, Marian McDonald, Virginia Mika, Peggy Surfield, Matt Mauer, Helen Cibula and Amy Harte.

**Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church**

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**Secretary:** Carolyn Gentry (Wed. - Fri. 9 am -1 pm) [gregorymemorialoffice@verizon.net](mailto:gregorymemorialoffice@verizon.net)