



Advent

GREGORY MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Christians Who Love and Care.

*"Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does
wondrous things. Blessed be his glorious name forever; may
his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen." Psalm 72:18-19*

December 01, 2013

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 01, 2013 - 11:00 am

First Sunday in Advent

Liturgical Color: **Purple**

PCUSA Emphasis: "World AIDS Day; Presbyterian HIV/AIDS Awareness"

"Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. Blessed be his glorious name forever; may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen." Psalm 72:18-19

Let us prepare our hearts in silence to meet God's Spirit in worship!

GOD GATHERS THE PEOPLE

PRELUDE

Sandra Perkins & Gail Rollings

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

CHOIR "THE WONDER OF CHRISTMAS
A Candle Lighting Ceremony For Advent"

Words & Music by Joel Raney
CCL No. 3162073

"FIRST SUNDAY - The Wonder of the Season"

Responsive Litany

Choir: Advent is a time to remember the wonders of our faith.

Congregation: God has done wonderful things, things planned long ago.

Choir: Advent is a time to be amazed at God's wondrous love.

Congregation: God has done wonderful things, things planned long ago.

Choir: Advent is a time to retrace our past, and reclaim the hope of our future.

Congregation: God has done wonderful things, things planned long ago.

Choir: Advent is a time to be awed by God's unfolding plan for creation.

Congregation: God has done wonderful things, things planned long ago.

Please read aloud areas indicated as "in unison" or appearing in **bold type**.

* Congregation, please stand, if able.

[Congregation is invited to join the choir in singing the final refrain below.]

Words and Music by
JOEL RANEY

Congregation:

There is won - der in the hope of the birth of a
King, there is won - der in the sound of the an - gels as they
sing. O — come, O come, Em - man - u -
el, and join us here.

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Advent texts by Rev. Rich Davis, Senior Pastor First Presbyterian Church, River Forest, IL

Closing Prayer (in unison)

God in Heaven, as we begin this season of Advent, re-ignite our sense of wonder. Help us move beyond what is familiar to your indescribable glory. Allow us to be still, in the midst of what our minds cannot fully grasp, and what our lips cannot fully explain. Fill our hearts this Advent with restored amazement for what you have done, the love you have shown, and the gift you have given, in Christ's name. **Amen.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Kay Schroeter

PASSING OF PEACE/SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

Rev. Jason Cashing

Call to Worship

One: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

All: Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, that we may learn God's ways, and walk in God's paths.

One: Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

All: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

*Opening Hymn

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

P. 154 [Verse 1]

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

God of night and day, there is no shadow that can conceal our sin from you and no secret that you will not bring to light. For our reveling and drunkenness, forgive us, O God. For our debauchery and licentiousness, forgive us, O God. For our quarreling and jealousy, forgive us, O God. O God, forgive our sins, renew us in love, and teach us to live in a way that brings honor and glory to your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

A Moment of Silent Confession

Promise of God's Forgiveness

One: Who is in a position to condemn?

All: Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

One: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

All: The old life has gone, a new life has begun.

One: Know that we have been forgiven and be at peace!

All: Hallelujah, Amen!

*Congregational Response (Hymn #734, Gloria Patri)

The Giving of Our Tithes, Gifts and Selves to God - Offertory

*Congregational Response (#34 Doxology)

*Prayer of Dedication

WE ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD

Time for Children - Junior Sermon

Valerie Harsh

(Children ages 3 – 1st grade are invited to leave for Junior Church; older children may pick up a "Worship Board" in the right front pew for their use during the service.)

Choral Anthem "Shine the Light of Your Love"

Bible Readings: First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5 P. 550
Second Reading: Matthew 24:36-44 P. 806

Sermon "Standing the Watch" Rev. Jason Cashing

*Reflective Hymn "Christ Beside Me" P. 425

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*We Affirm Our Faith (in unison)

Our God is the One who comes to us in a burning bush, in an angel's song, in a newborn child. Our God is the One who cannot be found locked in the church, not even in the sanctuary. Our God will be where our God will be, with no constraints, no predictability. Our God lives where our God lives, and destruction has no power, and even death cannot stop the living. Our God will be born where God will be born, but there is no place to look for the One who comes to us. When God is ready God will come, even to a godforsaken place like a stable in Bethlehem. Watch...for you know not when God comes. Watch, that you might be found whenever, whenever God comes. Amen.

[Ann Weems]

Prayers of the People (in unison)

God of our future, make us ready for the coming of your reign. We pray for peace in every nation – that people will turn swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks, and study war no more. We pray for peace in Christ's church – that we would put an end to fear and fighting, and proclaim the good news of salvation for all. We pray for peace in this place – for safety in our homes and streets, for the health of family and friends, and the uplifting of those in need. We pray together, as we have been taught, "Our Father, who art in heaven..." Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

All: Loving God, through your goodness, we have this bread and cup to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. May we know your presence in the sharing of this bread, so that we know your touch in all bread, all matter. We celebrate the life that Jesus has shared among his community through the centuries, and shares with us now. Made one in Christ and one with each other, we offer these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice. Amen.

One: Among friends, gathered round a table, Jesus took bread...*[Minister continues...]*
The gifts of God for the people of God.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

One: Let us give thanks together:

All: We offer you praise, dear God, and hearts lifted high, for in the communion of your love Christ comes close to us, and we come close to Christ. Therefore, with the whole realm of nature around us, with earth, sea and sky, we sing to you. And with our loved ones, on earth and in your heavenly host, with brothers and sisters around the world, we join in the song of your unending greatness. Amen.

[Adapted from the Iona Abbey Community, Scotland]

*Departing Hymn "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

#153

Blessing

One: We have been blessed!

All: We have met for divine worship, as God's people.

One: We have been blessed!

All: Our sins have truly been forgiven.

One: We have been blessed!

All: We now go out into the world as the body of Christ, witnessing to the Risen Christ. We have been blessed indeed. Hallelujah, Amen!

*Pastoral Benediction

*Choral Benediction

WELCOME TO GREGORY MEMORIAL!

We hope and pray that as you worship with us today you may experience the love of God and be encouraged for the coming week. Visitors, make sure to let us know of your presence by completing one of the registration cards in the pews and placing it in the offering plate. We invite both visitors and “regulars” to use the cards to let us know of your prayer requests or special needs.

VISITOR INFORMATION --- We have special informational packets for our visitors, both adults and children. Please ask an usher for assistance. **SUNDAY SCHOOL** --- We offer engaging classes each Sunday for all ages beginning at 9:45 a.m. Children, youth and one adult class meet on the second floor of the Educational Building, and another adult class meets downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for coffee in the kitchen before and after class! **NURSERY & JUNIOR CHURCH** --- During the worship service, we provide loving child care for infants and toddlers. Children ages pre-K through 1st grade are invited to join their parents in the service through the Time with Children after which they can follow their leaders to a worship-based activity appropriate for their age. For children who remain in the worship service, there are “worship boards” in a box in the front right pew for their learning and enjoyment during the service.

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER CALENDAR CHANGE: There will be no performance of Gregory Boot Scooters at PG Churches Outreach/Foodbank’s Dec. 2 meeting.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS - Today is the last day to order your poinsettias!

Cost is \$11.00 per plant. Use order form enclosed; extra forms in Narthex. Please leave the completed form in collection plate today!

[Contact: Marquita Simpson]



TODAY’S THE LAST DAY TO BRING “HOLIDAY MAIL FOR HEROES”- Leave your signed Christmas cards (& notes) in the box in Narthex, plus any unused Christmas cards you wish to donate for this cause. [Contact: Judy Recher]

ADVENT KICK-OFF - Thursday, Dec. 5 at 6:00 p.m. Bring your Chili/Soup and enter the Contest, then dine on the entries after judging and be entertained by the Fashion/Model Show Contest. Lots of fun! [Contact: Congregational Care Committee]

PG TRIAD - December 16 meeting will be at 11:30 a.m. @ PG Recreation Center on Old Stage Road. Reserved-seat luncheon, Nov. 25 deadline. [Contact: Judy Recher]

OPEN HOUSE & CHRISTMAS PARADE- Saturday, Dec. 7 @ 3:00 p.m. Sign up on sheet in Narthex or Fellowship Hall for serving or to bring cookies! [Contact: Judy Recher]

ANGEL TREE - Last day for bringing gifts for Angel Tree is Dec. 22! [Contact: Pat Hunter]

2013 STEWARDSHIP TO DATE

The Facts:		The Figures:	
Annual budget expense	\$142,151	Offering 11/03	\$3,903.00
Pledged & projected income	\$127,785	Offering 11/10	\$1,855.00
Monthly budget needs	\$ 11,846	Offering 11/17	\$1,617.00
Weekly budget needs	\$ 2,733	Offering 11/24	\$2,082.00

ATTENDANCE: November 24, 2013

Worship: 57	Sunday School: 16	
	Spiritual Enrichment 6	
	Fellowship 8	
	Jr. - Sr. High 0	
	Children 2	(Attendance 11/17: 6)

THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY: December 01 - 14, 2013

	December 01-07	December 08-14
Today	1st Sunday of Advent 01 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship <i>Holy Communion</i> <u>Poinsettia orders are due today.</u>	2nd Sunday of Advent 08 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship
Monday	9:30 am Line Dancing 02 11:00 am Churches Outreach/ PG Foodbank Qtr. meeting 6:30 pm Missions	9:30 pm Committee reports due 09
Tuesday	12:30 pm Circle 03 6:00 pm Cong. Care 7:00 pm Facilities 7:00 pm Worship	6:30 pm Outreach 10
Wednesday	7:00 pm Choir 04	7:00 pm Choir performs Christmas Cantata @ Brighter Living, Hopewell 11
Thursday	2-8:00 pm Cleaning 05 6:00 pm Advent Kick-off (Chili/Soup Contest & Fashion Show Contest)	2:00 pm Session agenda out 12 2-8:00 pm Cleaning 6:30 pm Stewardship & Finance
Friday		13
Saturday	3:00 pm GMPC Open House & PG Christmas Parade (Parade walkers to assemble @ GMPC front parking lot) 07	14

DECEMBER GATEKEEPER:

Bobby Allen

Sunday Servants	December 01, 2013	December 08, 2013
USHERS & ACOLYTES (A)	Keith Spain Ruby Spain Josh Ingram Morgan Ingram Justin Ellis-Bowman (A) Jamie Meurer (A)	Bobby Allen Donna Allen Velma Allen Jerry Bond Chayse Hartsell (A) Breeana Hunter (A)
ANNOUNCEMENTS	Mary Kay Schroeter	Rose Scott
JUNIOR SERMON	Valerie Harsh	Rev. Cashing
JUNIOR CHURCH	Patsy Johnson Breeana Hunter	Susan Walker Jamie Maurer
NURSERY	Susan Walker	Glenda Mayhew
COUNTING	Morgan Ingram Sandy Hunter	Donald Hunter Glenda Mayhew

OUR PRAYER IN TIMES OF JOY AND CONCERN.....

Ed Smiley (Doug Holc's friend)	All affected by Super Typhoon Haiyan & other natural disasters
Frank Solesbee - recuperating, home	
Russell Houston (Sheila Fields's brother), surgery	Tragic events occurring in the Commonwealth
Nancy Hettrick, health problems	All who have lost loved ones due to acts of violence
Katherine Tompkins	Shirley Barlow (Jean Waymack's sister), recovering from surgery
Marian McDonald	Jerry Hasky, recovering from pneumonia
Gladys Wiseman	Ann Hartsell, recovering from foot surgery
Helen Cibula	Lawrence & James Hartsell (Robert Hartsell's brothers)
Audrey Turner	Maryland Blanchard (Grace & Helen Cibula's friend)
Evelyn Lichvar	Mary Chadwick (Dink Armstrong's sister)
Kenneth Figg	Ellie Wheeler, recovering from heart attack
Ruth Figg	Jonathan Bottoms, in a motorcycle accident
Grace Cibula	Pam Harsh, Bradley Cooper, Jacob Spain, 1 st year in college
Henry Parker	Amy Townson (Josh Ingram's sister), recovering, home
June Hawks	Frankie Meade - Glenda Mayhew's mother
Aida Faries	Tommy Forehand (Bishops' friend), recovering, home
Clara Smith	Victor Tomko (Doug Holc's cousin), in-home rehab
Don Vtipil	Sentral Riggins Gravley (Bishops' friend), home
2013/14 School Year	Joy: Doug & Mary Holc - New grandparents again!
"Traveling Mercies"	

GMPC SESSION

Class of 2013

Pamela Harsh
Evelyn Lichvar
H. F. Scott, Jr.

Class of 2014

Mary Holc
Valerie Harsh

Class of 2015

Rose Scott
Glenda Maybaw
Mary Kay Schroeter

Clerk of Session

David Johnson

GMPC TRUSTEES

Class of 2013

Dennis Allen

Class of 2014

Ron Recher

Class of 2015

Donald Hunter

PRIMARY CHURCH CONTACTS

Website: www.gregorymemorial.org & [Facebook.com/gmpcvva](https://www.facebook.com/gmpcvva)

Church Office Hrs.: Tues. - Thurs. 9 AM - 2 PM (Tel. 804-732-1061/Fax. 804-861-5150)

Pastor: Rev. Jason Neal Cashing, jason@gregorymemorial.org

Secretary: Nancy Adams, gregorymemorialoffice@verizon.net

Organist: Sandra Perkins, Accompanist: Gail Rollings

Treasurer: Kevin Foster, kevin.foster@bsvnet.com, phone 804-732-1096

Financial Secretary: Sandy Hunter, baskethunters@comcast.net, phone 804-733-8414

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