



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 08, 2013

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 08, 2013 - 11:00 a.m.

**Second Sunday in Advent**

Liturgical Color: **Purple**

*“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

“SECOND SUNDAY - The Wonder of the Promise”

### Responsive Litany

Choir: During Advent we recall God’s promises spoken through the prophets.

**Congregation: The Word of the Lord is steadfast and true.**

Choir: To the hurting, God promises unshakable hope.

**Congregation: The Word of the Lord is steadfast and true.**

Choir: To the forsaken, God promises unconditional love.

**Congregation: The Word of the Lord is steadfast and true.**

Choir: To the broken, God promises unmerited grace.

**Congregation: The Word of the Lord is steadfast and true.**

Choir: To the heavy hearted, God promises unbridled joy.

**Congregation: The Word of the Lord is steadfast and true.**

CANDLE LIGHTING

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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)

*Gracious God*, we pray for your continued guidance through this holiday season. As we prepare to once again celebrate the greatest gift offered to the world, we pray for our hearts to be filled with wonder, for our steps to be guided by faith, and for our hope to be anchored in the certainty of your Word. We pray this in the name of Christ, our Lord. *Amen*.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rose Scott

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" #154 (Verses 1 & 2)

### Prayer of Confession (in unison)

*Gracious and welcoming God*, have mercy on your people. We confess that we do not believe in your incarnation. We do not heed your word each day in all that we say and do. We do not see our neighbors, families, and friends as beloved children whom you have made. In your mercy, forgive us, for we repent of our ways and look to your power to heal us and raise us up, so that, at the last, you will gather us to you and give us peace. *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

Rev. Jason Cashing

(Children ages 3 – 1<sup>st</sup> 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          “My Lord, He Is a Comin’ Soon”

Bible Readings:          First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10                          P. 558  
    Second Reading: Matthew 3:1-12                          P. 784

Sermon                          “Crying in the Wilderness”                          Rev. Jason Cashing

\*Reflective Hymn          “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”                          #93

## 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)

*We come to you this day, O God, with a deepening anticipation of your birth among us. We pray for all in need: For the sick, the destitute, and the dying; for strangers in our land, for the invisible ones; for the elderly and children; for parents and grandparents; for those who live alone and those who live lonely in the midst of family. We remember with mercy those who sleep without shelter, cold and vulnerable; those who are overworked; and those who have no work. Have mercy on us all, and guide us in the ways of proclaiming your presence in this world. Send your Spirit to pray with us, as we pray together, “Our Father, who art in heaven...” Amen.*

\*Departing Hymn      “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

#156

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

**THANK YOU!!!** The Outreach committee thanks all those who participated in the "Holiday Mail for Heroes" mission. Fifty cards were mailed which means that we have brightened Christmas for fifty of our most deserving servicemen and women!

**NEWSLETTER CORRECTION:** Gatekeeper for December: Bobby Allen

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

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

**2014 FACILITIES CALENDAR** - Gregory Church's 2014 Facilities calendar is open for scheduling meetings and events for the coming year. As before, requests for use are needed in writing by letter or by email (P. O. Box 1081 or [gregorymemorialoffice@verizon.net](mailto:gregorymemorialoffice@verizon.net)) to the Church office. In our request, please include the name of individual/organization, the date/time needed for event, name of the contact person and his/her daytime phone number.

**CONGREGATION DIRECTORY** (*This is the handy “pocket” Directory, not the Pictorial Directory*) - Please notify Nancy in the Church office (by telephone or email) of any changes in your contact information (name additions or changes, telephone numbers, mailing address). This information is needed by Jan. 22. (Print date is Jan. 29!)

## **2013 STEWARDSHIP TO DATE**

<u>The Facts:</u>		<u>The Figures:</u>	
Annual budget expense	\$142,151	Offering 12/01	\$3,950.00
Pledged & projected income	\$127,785	Offering 12/08	
Monthly budget needs	\$ 11,846	Offering 12/15	
Weekly budget needs	\$ 2,733	Offering 12/22	
		Offering 12/29	

## **ATTENDANCE: December 01, 2013**

Worship: 68	Sunday School: 21
	Spiritual Enrichment 7
	Fellowship 11
	Jr. - Sr. High 0
	Children 3

## **THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY: December 08 - 21, 2013**

	<b>December 08-14</b>	<b>December 15-21</b>
Today	<b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b> 08 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 15 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship
Monday	9:30 pm Committee reports due 09 6:00 pm BS Order of Arrow Christmas party @ GMPC Fellowship Hall	11:30 am PG TRIAD @ PG Rec. Center (reserved-seat lunch) 16
Tuesday	6:30 pm Outreach 10	7:00 pm Session meeting 17
Wednesday	7:00 pm Choir performs Christmas Cantata @ Brighter Living, Hopewell 11	7:00 pm Choir 18 6-9:00 pm Boy Scouts Court of Honor
Thursday	2:00 pm Session agenda out 12 2-8:00 pm Cleaning 6:30 pm Stewardship & Finance	9:00 am News articles due 19 12:00 pm Preschool Christmas Program for parents 2-8:00 pm Cleaning
Friday		
Saturday		



**DECEMBER GATEKEEPER:**

Bobby Allen

Sunday Servants	December 08, 2013	December 15, 2013
USHERS & ACOLYTES (A)	Bobby Allen Donna Allen Velma Allen Jerry Bond Chayse Hartsell (A) Breeana Hunter (A)	Jerry Hasky Wayne Powers Glenda Mayhew Les Mayhew Breeana Hunter (A) Jamie Meurer (A)
ANNOUNCEMENTS	Rose Scott	Jerry Bond
JUNIOR SERMON	Rev. Cashing	Patsy Johnson
JUNIOR CHURCH	Susan Walker Jamie Maurer	Jessica Mauger Kevin Foster
NURSERY	Glenda Mayhew	Ann Hartsell
COUNTING	Donald Hunter Glenda Mayhew	Kevin Foster Rose Scott

**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	Tragic events occurring in the Commonwealth
Russell Houston (Sheila Fields's brother), surgery	All who have lost loved ones due to acts of violence
Nancy Hettrick, health problems	All affected by the recent train derailment in NYC
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	Jonathan Bottoms, in a motorcycle accident
Ruth Figg	Pam Harsh, Bradley Cooper, Jacob Spain, 1 <sup>st</sup> year in college
Grace Cibula	Amy Townson (Josh Ingram's sister), recovering, home
Henry Parker	Frankie Meade - Glenda Mayhew's mother
June Hawks	Tommy Forehand (Bishops' friend), recovering, home
Aida Faries	Victor Tomko (Doug Holc's cousin), in-home rehab
Clara Smith	Sentral Riggins Gravley (Bishops' friend), home
Don Vtipil	<b>Joy:</b> Ellie Wheelan is recovering at home
2013/14 School Year	Doug & Mary Holc - New grandparents again!
"Traveling Mercies"	

**GMPC SESSION**

**Class of 2013**

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

**Class of 2014**

Mary Holt  
Valerie Harsh

**Class of 2015**

Rosa Scott  
Glonda Mayhew  
Mary Kay Schroeter

**Clerk of Session**

David Johnson

**GMPC TRUSTEES**

**Class of 2013**

Dennis Allen

**Class of 2014**

Ron Reicher

**Class of 2015**

Donald Hunter

**PRIMARY CHURCH CONTACTS**

Website: [www.gregorymemorial.org](http://www.gregorymemorial.org) & [Facebook.com/gmpcva](https://www.facebook.com/gmpcva)  
Church Office Hrs.: Tues. - Thurs. 9 AM - 2 PM (Tel. 804-732-1081/Fax. 804-861-5150)  
Pastor: Rev. Jason Neal Cashing, [jason@gregorymemorial.org](mailto:jason@gregorymemorial.org)  
Secretary: Nancy Adams, [gregorymcpsoffice@verizon.net](mailto:gregorymcpsoffice@verizon.net)  
Organist: Sandra Perkins, Accompanist: Gail Rollings  
Treasurer: Kevin Foster, [kevin.foster@bvnvt.com](mailto:kevin.foster@bvnvt.com), phone 804-732-1096  
Financial Secretary: Sandy Hunter, [bsasulhunters@comcast.net](mailto:bsasulhunters@comcast.net), phone 804-733-8414

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