



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 15, 2013

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 15, 2013 - 11:00 a.m.

Third 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

“THIRD SUNDAY - The Wonder of the Message”

Responsive Litany

Choir: During Advent we listen for the wonder of God’s Word.

Congregation: Speak to us, O Lord, for our hearts are open.

Choir: During Advent we reach beyond the noise and distractions of this world.

Congregation: Speak to us, O Lord, for our hearts are open.

Choir: During Advent we ponder the good news that is our great joy.

Congregation: Speak to us, O Lord, for our hearts are open.

Choir: During Advent we speak words of hope to those engaged in life’s struggles.

Congregation: Speak to us, O Lord, for our hearts are open.

Choir: During Advent we offer words of peace to those overcome by life’s fears.

Congregation: Speak to us, O Lord, for our hearts are open.

CANDLE LIGHTING

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, as we continue our Advent journey we pray that we would be guided by grace, strengthened by faith, and encouraged by Christ. With the many distractions surrounding us daily, keep our eyes focused on your glory and our ears attentive to your Word. We pray this through Christ, our Lord. *Amen*.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jerry Bond

PASSING OF PEACE/SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

Rev. Jason Cashing

Call to Worship

One: My soul magnifies the Lord;

All: My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

One: The Mighty One has done good things!

All: Holy is God's name!

*Opening Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" #154 (Verses 1, 2 & 3)

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

God of majesty and glory; we are thirsty for your grace. You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our foolishness, we go astray. We hide our eyes from your presence. We do not listen to your word. We are lifeless when we ought to dance and speechless when we ought to sing. Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace to our fearful hearts, strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees as we seek to follow in your holy way. *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

Patsy Johnson

(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.)

Bible Readings: First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10 P. 578
 Second Reading: Matthew 11:2-11 P. 792

Choral Cantata



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)

Remember your mercy, O Lord, and help us, according to the promise of your steadfast love. Show the strength of your hand and lift the burdens of the poor. Work wonders for the humble and scatter the plans of the proud. Fill the hungry with good things and empty the hands of the greedy. Grant peace to those with mournful hearts, and hope to those who grieve. Join us, we pray, as we lift our voices in the way we have been taught, "Our Father, who art in heaven..." Amen.

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.

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) 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!*)

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS CHRISTMAS WEEK: Open 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Dec. 23, 26, 27.

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	\$ 785.00
Monthly budget needs	\$ 11,846	Offering 12/15	
Weekly budget needs	\$ 2,733	Offering 12/22	
		Offering 12/29	

ATTENDANCE: December 08, 2013 [Church cancelled: inclement weather]

Worship: 0 Sunday School: 0

THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY: December 15 - 28, 2013

	December 15-21	December 22-28
Today	3rd Sunday of Advent 15 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Choral Cantata	4th Sunday of Advent 22 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship <i>Christmas Joy Offering</i> <i>5 Cents A Meal Offering</i>
Monday	11:30 am PG TRIAD @ PG Rec. 16 Center (reserved-seat lunch)	Office Open 23 7:00 pm Christian Ed
Tuesday	7:00 pm Session meeting 17	Office Closed - Christmas Eve 24 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Service & Holy Communion (in pews) 11:00 pm Christmas Eve Service & Holy Communion (by intinction)
Wednesday	7:00 pm Choir 18 6-9:00 pm Boy Scouts Court of Honor	Office Closed - Christmas Day 25 <i>Have a Blessed Christmas!</i>
Thursday	9:00 am News articles due 19 12:00 pm Preschool Christmas Program for parents 2-8:00 pm Cleaning	Office Open 26 2-8:00 pm Cleaning
Friday	20	Office Open 27 2:00 pm Newsletter out
Saturday	21	28

DECEMBER GATEKEEPER:

Bobby Allen

Sunday Servants	December 15, 2013	December 22, 2013
USHERS & ACOLYTES (A)	Jerry Hasky Wayne Powers Glenda Mayhew Les Mayhew Breeana Hunter (A) Jamie Meurer (A)	Sheila Fields Janet Swinton Rose Scott Valerie Harsh Breeana Hunter (A) Jamie Meurer (A)
ANNOUNCEMENTS	Jerry Bond	Dianne Overstreet
JUNIOR SERMON	Patsy Johnson	Pat Hunter
JUNIOR CHURCH	Jessica Mauger Kevin Foster	Rose Scott Madison Foster
NURSERY	Ann Hartsell	Ruby Spain
COUNTING	Kevin Foster Rose Scott	David Johnson Sheila Fields

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	All affected by the recent train derailment in NYC
Marian McDonald	Shirley Barlow (Jean Waymack's sister), recovering from surgery
Gladys Wiseman	Jerry Hasky, recovering from pneumonia
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 st year in college
Grace Cibula	
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: Ellie Wheelan is recovering at home
"Traveling Mercies"	Doug & Mary Holc - New grandparents again!

GMPC SESSION

Class of 2013

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

Class of 2014

Mary Holic
Valerie Harsh

Class of 2015

Rose Scott
Glenda Mayhew
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/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

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 804-733-9414

Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 182 - 6300 Courthouse Road
Prince George, VA 23875

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