

9AM, 10:45AM, & 5:15PM

ADVENT WEEK THREE, DECEMBER 16, 2018

Welcome

A NOTE FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

We're all at different stages in our relationship with God. He may be the priority of your life, it may have been a while since you connected with him, or you may be exploring these things for the first time. At McLean Presbyterian, we celebrate God's grace: Jesus came to give us life – today and for eternity. This offer is made to us all; whatever your background, we're delighted you're here!

We'd love to connect with you this morning. Fill out the *Hello!* card and place it in the offering plate, then stop by our Welcome Center after the service. When you leave, head to your right to enjoy some coffee, meet new people, and learn how our church can become your home.

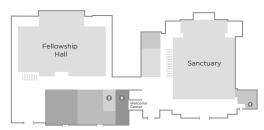
May this morning be good for your soul!

In his grace,

JAMES FORSYTH, SENIOR PASTOR

P.S. You're invited to join our pastors for lunch at one of our homes. Come get to know our families and other newcomers. Details and dates are at **mcleanpres.org/lunch**.

BUILDING MAP (UPPER FLOOR)



Children & Student ministries downstairs; adult education at Cooper MS

FOR YOUR FAMILY

While you worship, your children will be loved and taught in an engaging environment. Classrooms are located on the lower floor; the nursing mothers' room is on the left as you exit the Sanctuary.

Jr. High (grades 7 - 8) meets at Cooper MS, 977 Balls Hill Road. Shuttles are available in front of the church.

Visit the Family Welcome Desk downstairs or mcleanpres.org for schedules and details.

Nursery is offered for ages 0 - Pre-K at all service times.

Sunday School is available for K - 6 at 9AM, K - 12 at 10:45AM, and K - 3 during the sermon at 5:15PM.

Sunday nights include communities for 4th - 12th grade at 5PM. Find full details and schedules at mcleanpres.org/ kidsandstudents.

Service of Divine Worship

December 16, 2018 | 9:00AM, 10:45AM Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall

We rest our hearts in God's presence as we prepare for worship **PRELUDE**

NOEL

We celebrate
God's presence
with us and ask

with us and ask for his Spirit to work powerfully among us WELCOME & INVOCATION

God calls us to worship him in spirit and in truth CALL TO WORSHIP

FROM JOHN 8:12, ISAIAH 9:2; 42:16; 49:6; 2:5

Leader: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

People: We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

Leader: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth.

These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them. The Lord says to his servant: "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

People: Come, Lord Jesus, our light and our salvation. Let us walk in the light of the LORD.

We sing praises to God for who he is and for what he has done

SONGS OF PRAISE

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem! Come and behold him, born the King of angels!

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above! Glory to God in the highest! **Refrain**

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n; Word of the Father, late in flesh appearing! **Refrain**

Words Attr. to J.F. Wade, 1751, Tr. by F. Oakeley, 1841; Music by J.F. Wade; CCLI License #152421

ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

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:

Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night, God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light: **Refrain**

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear, Suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear: **Refrain**

All creation join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son; Evermore your voices raising to th'eternal Three in One: **Refrain**

Words by J. Montgomery, 1816, 1825; Music by H. Smart, 1867; Public Domain

THE FIRST NOEL

The first noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Noel, noel, noel, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far; And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. **Refrain**

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught, and with his blood mankind hath bought.

Refrain

CCLI Song # 31047; Public Domain

We acknowledge our need of forgiveness and renewal through the cleansing blood of Jesus

CONFESSION OF SIN

Dear heavenly Father, we come to you aware of the darkness within ourselves. Our hearts are often filled with worries about time and money. In our insecurities, we try to gain power, influence, and success. As we follow our idols, we neglect spending time with you in scripture and in prayer. Forgive us, O LORD, for thinking too much of ourselves. Disarm us with your grace so that we may humbly bow before you. Help us to set our gaze upon you, the Light of the World, and by your love, remind us that you are bigger than our sin, guilt, and shame. We pray all this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is our Peace. Amen.

God reminds us of his promise of forgiveness in Christ

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

MICAH 7:18

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. We enjoy and extend the peace of the gospel to one another

GIVING OF THE PEACE

Leader: Because the Lord has pardoned our iniquity, we now have peace with God and with one another. May the peace of Christ be with you!

People: And also with you!

We welcome new members into our church family

NEW MEMBER RECEPTION & BAPTISM

We give thanks to God and bring our needs to him

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

If you would like to submit a prayer request, fill out the prayer request card and place it in the offering plate. If you would like someone to pray with you after the service, men and women from our leadership will be available in the front.

As recipients of his grace, we give back to God a portion of what is already his

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We want to be a generous community. In response to the grace we've received, we seek to give cheerfully, diligently, proportionately, and sacrificially (2 Cor 8:1-15). Many of our people give online (mcleanpres.org); you can also place your gift in the offering plate. Read more about how we care for each other, as well as our local & global missions outreach, in the Flock Notes on page 9. Please also fill out the Keeping Connected pad and pass it down your row and back.

OFFERTORY

SING WE NOW OF CHRISTMAS

Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)

Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel.

Of our Lord and Savior, we the tidings tell.

Angels called to shepherds, "Leave your flocks at rest.

Journey forth to Bethlehem, find the child so blest."

Sing we noel, for Christ the King is born.

In Bethlehem they found him, Joseph and Mary mild, Seated by the manger, watching the holy child. Sing we noel, for Christ the King is born. Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel.

From the Eastern country came the kings afar, Bearing gifts to Bethlehem guided by a star. Glory to God, for Christ the King is born. Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel.

Gold and myrrh they took there, gifts of greatest price; There was never a stable so like paradise. Sing we noel, for Christ the King is born. Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel. Sing we all noel.

Noel Nouvellet traditional French carol arr. H. Helvey; © 1995 Beckenhorst Press

LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE

Congregation (Fellowship Hall)

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; Ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand, Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood, Lord of Lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood, He will give to all the faithful his own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way, As the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day, That the pow'rs of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim with sleepless eye, Veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry, "Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!"

Words from Lituray of St. James, Adapt. by G. Moultrie; Music: PICARDY French melody; CCLI License #152421

We ready our hearts to receive the preaching of God's word

SONG OF PREPARATION



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God speaks to us through the reading of his word

SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 2:8-21 (PEW BIBLE P. 857)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

God speaks
to us through
the preaching
of his word

SERMON

LIGHT THE WAY

3. The Shepherds Candle

We respond to God's word through song

SONG OF SENDING

BEHOLD THE SAVIOR

Oh, what innocence sleeping in a manger under dreamless skies. See the newborn King trading ev'ry glory for a silent night. Here is the promise we have waited for. He will not leave us in the dark.

Chorus: He will bear our weight. He will wear our shame. Come, lift him high. Behold the Savior.

Jesus Christ, law of love and light. Come, lift him high. Behold the Savior.

Veiled deity, praise of ev'ry angel, shepherds bowing low.

Sweet humility, mercy as a baby, God in flesh and bone.

Here is the promise we have waited for. He will not leave us in the dark. Chorus

Here is the promise we have waited for. He will not leave us in the dark. He is the promise we have waited for. The cry of ev'ry searching heart. **Chorus**

Come, lift him high. Behold the Savior. Come, lift him high. Behold the Savior.

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God sends us out with his blessing

BENEDICTION

2 CORINTHIANS 13:14

Leader: May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

People: Amen. Thanks be to God! Alleluia!