



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

ADVENT WEEK FOUR, DECEMBER 23, 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 have lunch with us and get to know our pastors, their 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.

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

There is **no Sunday School** today.

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

Service of Divine Worship

December 23, 2018 | 9:00AM, 10:45AM Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall

We rest our hearts in God's presence **PRFIUDF**

We celebrate

God's presence 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; 58:8; 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." Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.

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

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heav'nly song? **Refrain**

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. **Refrain**

CCLI Song #27721; Words & Music Traditional French melody, Arr. © 2008 Van Ness Press, Inc.; Admin. by LifeWay Worship; CCLI License #152421

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King; Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies; With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel. **Refrain**

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die, Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth. **Refrain**

CCLI Song# 27738; Words by C. Wesley; Music by F. Mendelssohn; Arr. © 2008 Broadman Press (SESAC); Admin. by LifeWay Worship; CCLI License# 152421

GOD REST YE MERRY, GENTLEMEN

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay, Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day, To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray;

Refrain: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father, a blessed angel came; And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same: How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name. **Refrain**

So comfort ye my people, your sins are paid in full, For Christ has made a way for you, your Father to behold; Now sing his praise and shout for joy! The prophet's word foretold: **Refrain**

Now to the Lord sing praises all you within this place, And bring your hearts before him, his mercy to embrace; For he has shown his love to us, the miracle of grace; **Refrain**

CCLI Song # 39441 Traditional English Carol; alt. words by J. Vogan; © 2009 Jeff Vogan; Public Domain Music; Public Domain

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

BASED ON PSALM 126

God of salvation, in Christ you have done great things—our hearts are filled with joy. By your power, you lifted us out of the wasteland of sin and brought us with joy and laughter into your kingdom. Salvation is your gift to us. But we confess that often we try to replace your gift with our own efforts. We try to complete what is already perfect; we try to add to what is already full; we try to earn what we already have in Christ. Forgive us for our foolishness. Help us to remember the gospel and to focus on your grace. Help us to live lives of joyful obedience in return. For the glory of Christ alone. Amen.

God reminds us of his promise of forgiveness in Christ

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

GALATIANS 4:4-5

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

We enjoy and extend the peace of the gospel to one another

GIVING OF THE PEACE

Leader: Because we've been redeemed through Christ Jesus, we now have peace with God and with one another. May the peace of Christ be with you!

People: And also with you!

We give thanks to God and bring our needs

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

ONE SMALL CHILD

Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)

One small child in a land of a thousand, one small dream of a Savior tonight, One small hand reaching out to the starlight, one small city of life.

One king bringing his gold and riches, one king ruling an army of might,

One king kneeling with incense and candlelight, one King bringing us life.

See him lying, a cradle beneath him; see him smiling in the stall; See his mother praising his Father; see his tiny eyelids fall. One small light from the flame of a candle, one small light from a city of might, One small light from the stars in the endless night, one small light from his face.

See the shepherds kneeling before him; see the kings on bended knee; See his mother praising his father; see the blessed infant sleep. One small child in a land of a thousand, one small dream in a people of might, One small hand reaching out to the starlight, one small Savior of life, One small Savior of life.

Words and music by David Meece; arr. by Lloyd Larson; Hope Publishing 2004

IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR

Congregation (Fellowship Hall)

It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old. From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all gracious King." The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still thro' the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled, And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world.

Above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing.

And ever o'er its Babel sounds, the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow, Look now! For glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing. O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.

Words by E.H. Sears, 1850: Music by R.S. Willis, 1850: Public Domain: Arr. © 2010 J. Vogan: CCLI License #152421

God speaks
to us through
the reading
of his word

SCRIPTURE READING

MATTHEW 1:18-25 (PEW BIBLE P. 807)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

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

SONG OF PREPARATION

EMMANUEL (GOD WITH US FOREVER)

Before you set the edge of time, foundations of the earth and sky, You saw it all and said that it was good.

The joy was set before your eyes, you knew that you would give your life; You saw it all and said that it was good.

Prechorus: Behold, behold the One, our Love has come. Behold, behold the One, our King has come.

The heavens warred, the earth stood still, his final breath he tore the veil; The angels sang, "Holy is his name."

Defeated death, he broke the grave. Our hope returned, the lost are saved. We lift our voice in neverending praise. **Prechorus 2x**

Chorus: Emmanuel, God with us forever. Emmanuel, Savior of the world. Emmanuel, (repeat)

Prechorus 2x, Chorus

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God speaks
to us through
the preaching
of his word

SERMON

LIGHT THE WAY

4. The Angels Candle

We respond to God's word through song

SONG OF SENDING

JOY TO THE WORLD! THE LORD IS COME

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: let men their songs employ; While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found, far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders, of his love.

CCLI Song# 24016; Words by I. Watts; Music by G. F. Handel; CCLI License# 152421

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!

We go out with
joy and purpose
in the Lord

POSTLUDE