

The Worship of God

Third Sunday of Advent

December 16, 2018

PRELUDE

WORDS OF GATHERING

Scott Stearman
Pastor

Congregation read the bold print

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Isaiah 12

Surely God is our salvation!
We will trust and not be afraid! For God is our strength and song.
With joy we will draw water from the wells of salvation.
And we will say in that day:
“Give thanksgiving to God! Call upon God’s Name!
Make known God’s deeds among all the nations.
Proclaim the Power of God!”
Sing praises to God for all the marvelous things
let them be known in all the earth.”
“Sing and shout for joy, O People of God!
For great in our midst is the Holy One.

INVOCATION

Vadim Yakshov
Deacon

*HYMN OF PRAISE #129

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

GREETING ONE ANOTHER

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Brittani O’Connell
Sanctuary Arts Coordinator

*Updates about Metro and our community ministry, Rauschenbusch Metro Ministries.
Guests are welcomed to fill out a card so that we may have a record of your visit.
Optional childcare is provided for children. Leaders can be found at the back.*

DRAMATIC PRESENTATION BY METRO’S CHILDREN THE THREE TREES

Director and Producer: Julia O’Brien

Narrator: Prudence Stephenson

Actors: Adi Henkel, Hudson Henkel, Ioan O’Brien, Liam O’Brien, Eliza Richardson, Julian Richardson

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Trevor Richardson and Laura Voss

In a world where so many are sorrowful,
God lights a candle of joy in our hearts.
We wait together for a Savior,
who will be Immanuel, Christ the Lord.
Hear the word of the Lord:

*“The Root of Jesse will spring up,
one who will arise to rule over the nations;
the Gentiles will hope in him.” Romans 15:12*

HYMN #128

One Candle is Lit, vs. 3

*Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth,
join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.
Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise.
One candle is lit for the joy of these days.*

COVENANT OF CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Tiffany Triplett Henkel
Pastor

SCRIPTURE READING Zephaniah 3:14-20

Carole Collins and
Brooklyn Lovelace

HYMN

In the Bleak Midwinter

*In the bleak mid-winter Frosty wind made moan;
Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter Long ago.*

*Our God, heaven cannot hold Him nor earth sustain,
Heaven and earth shall flee away When He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty — Jesus Christ.*

*What can I give Him, Poor as I am? —
If I were a Shepherd I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man I would do my part, —
Yet what I can I give Him, — Give my heart.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Brett Kristofferson

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

Tune: In Dulci Jubilo

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise above ye heavenly hosts Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia! Amen! Alleluia!*

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 3:7-18

Brittani O’Connell

SPECIAL MUSIC I Have Seen the Light

Alan Green,
Scott Koonce,
Jason Watkins

SERMON

On Sorting Out the News

Scott Stearman

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT #148

O Come, All Ye Faithful
v. 1, 3, 2

*If you would like to formally join our community of faith or profess something
publicly about your journey of faith, we invite you to speak to a pastor at this time.*

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Please join us after the service for coffee hour and fellowship.

**Please stand as you are able.*

**If you need assistance, please find the staff
member wearing a black polo shirt.**

**This Week’s Host: Brittani O’Connell
This Week’s Deacon: Vadim Yakshov
This Week’s Usher: Connie Brown**

Coming Up

Today

Dec 18

Dec 23

Dec 24, Dec 31

Dec 24, 31, Jan 1

Dec 25

Dec 29

Jan 2

**Dramatic Presentation by Metro Kids
Ruby Rims Does the Can Can
Living Well Graduation
Gospel of John presentation
Winter Clothing Closet Closed
Metro Offices Closed
Community Christmas Meal
Food Pantry Closed
RMM Programming Resumes**



Staff Christmas Offering

Metro has a tradition of giving an offering to our staff during the Christmas season to let them know how much we love and appreciate their leadership of our church family. Please help us say thank you - no amount is too small or large!

You can:

- Make checks out to Metro Baptist Church with “Staff Christmas Offering” in the memo line.
- Give cash in an envelope/with a note that says “Staff Christmas Offering.”

Offerings can be given in one of three ways between now and December 16.

- Drop it in the offering plate.
- Give it to Anita Massengill or any Trustee/Deacon in person.
- Bring it by the church office.

Deacon Nominations

Metro members received a nomination form by email this week to nominate two deacons to serve for the 2019-2021 term and one deacon to fill out the remaining term vacated by Jacob Wilson. All nominations are due by Sunday, December 30. Please be in prayerful consideration about whom you would nominate to this vital servant ministry role. If you did not receive a nomination form by email, you can find one at the back of the sanctuary.

“The Gospel of John on the eve of Christmas-Eve.”

December 23 at 5:30 pm

Join the Metro family as the entire book of John is recited by our Ken Jennings. Ken has memorized John’s book, and tells the story as John would have his fellow prisoners on the island of Patmos. Come and hear the gospel as if for the first time. No charge, donations to Metro will be received and coffee will be served. Runtime is approx. 90 minutes.



EPIPHANY

SAVE THE DATE(S) – Epiphany Bible Study

Beginning on Wednesday January 9, plan to join the Metro family for home-based “Epiphany Bible Studies.” Every Wednesday in January at 6:30. Details to come.