

The Worship of God

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 23, 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 Psalm 146 and Luke 1:46-56

Our souls proclaim your greatness, O God.
And our spirits rejoice in you.
We will praise you as long as we live.
We will sing praises to you our whole lives long.
We will not trust in the powerful of this world,
But will trust in you—Creator of heaven and earth,
the One who gives food to the hungry,
the One who enacts justice for the oppressed.
Our souls proclaim your greatness, O God
As we worship you in this place,
As we light these candles in hope, peace, and joy

INVOCATION

Alan Green
Deacon

*HYMN OF PRAISE #124

Let All Mortal Flesh

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.*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Ronnie Adams & Barbara Brewer

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

"For God so loved the world that God's son was given that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

HYMN #128

One Candle is Lit, vs. 4

*Come, wander where lion and lamb gently play,
Where evil is banished and faith takes the day
A babe in the manger to fool the world's eye.
One candle is lit for God's loving surprise.*

COVENANT OF CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Lesley-Ann Hix Tommey
CBF Field-Personnel

SCRIPTURE READING

Micah 5:2-5

Deborah Doering

HYMN

Love Came Down at Christmas

- 1. Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine,
Love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.*
- 2. Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine;
worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?*
- 3. Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine;
love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Laura Bergquist

OFFERTORY

O Holy Night

Scott Koonce

*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 1:39-55

Lesley-Ann Hix Tommey

SPECIAL MUSIC

In the Bleak Midwinter
arr. Blake Tommey

Lesley-Ann Hix &
Blake Tommey

SERMON

Mary's Melodic Revolution

Scott Stearman

*HYMN #149

Angels from the Realms of Glory v. 1,4

*HYMN #150

Hark! The Herald Angles Sing v. 1,2,3

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: Alan Green
This Week's Usher: Connie Brown**

Coming Up

TODAY

Dec 24, Dec 31

Dec 24, 31, Jan 1

Dec 25

Dec 29

Jan 2

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."

TONIGHT 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.



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.