

**MECHANICSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
300 East Simpson Street • Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-6596  
717-697-0351 • [www.mechpresby.org](http://www.mechpresby.org)  
December 17, 2017 • Third Sunday of Advent • 8:15 & 11am

## *I am the Voice*

BY HANNAH GARRITY    inspired by John 1:6-8, 19-28

*"Who are you? Who are you?  
What do you say about yourself?"*

*I am the voice of one crying out in the  
wilderness . . ."*  
(John 1:19, 22)

John the Baptist arrived to pave the way  
for Jesus' work, to make the path  
straight. He baptized with water.  
He foretold a baptism of the Holy Spirit.  
He led people toward the work of the  
gospel. He inspired people to join the  
path that Jesus would tread...  
He told of what was to come.  
He was the voice crying out in the  
wilderness.

How would you answer the questions?  
I am not perfect; I seek to understand. I  
am inspired by the work of the gospel,  
the mindset of love. I am disenchanted  
by the contradictions in the bible, in my  
life, and in the world around me I  
struggle with my faith, yet I struggle on.  
I am all of these things and more. I am a  
voice crying out in the wilderness.

Who are you? Who are you? What do  
you say about yourself?  
How are you a voice of one crying out in  
the wilderness? ~ HG



### **Prelude**

*Pastorale*

D. Schack

Pastoral by David Schack is a special piece for me. I've played this piece for many years and always made sure to incorporate it into worship during Advent and Christmas season. Can you hear the shepherds in the fields, watching their flocks by night, moving slowly, living peacefully, embracing God's beautiful creation? Can you feel the mystery of the Incarnation and the peace so important to feel during this season? A special note; when I auditioned on the organ at MPC, I played this for the committee. I'm honored to share it today with the rest of you!

## Welcome & Concerns of the Church

*During this time, please take a moment to sign the pew pad and pass it along the pew, taking note of the persons sitting with you so you can greet them warmly by name.*

### Centering Prayer

\*Introit #88, vv. 5-6

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

\*Call to Worship

One:

When can we sing,  
If not in this season of Advent?

All:

**And so, we sing. And we rejoice.  
For God's Light is coming.**

\*Hymn #101

*No Wind at the Window*

COLUMCILLE

*If you have a prayer request you would like to share with the pastors, please fill out a card from the pew rack and pass it to the center aisle where an usher will collect it during the first hymn. Please let us know of any changes.*

\*Conversation with God

## Love

One: "But what does love look like?" I asked.  
God said,

All: "I love you when I open the shutters to let the light in. And I love you when I wander through the hallways of your mind, whistling love songs to keep nightmares at bay. And I love you when I kneel in your garden and pull the weeds that try to strangle you so that you can grow nothing but wildflowers for days. And I love you when I brush the dust off your piano keys and stairwells so that you can once again open up your heart to another, and maybe even invite them in to dance."

One: I whispered to God, "I don't think I'm very good at that."  
Then God said,

All: "It's ok. Sometimes your heart is full of dust, and your home is full of hatred, and the garden soil is so rocky that not a single bit of new life can grow. But I love you anyhow, and I will never leave you. So when you aren't sure, listen for my lullaby. Look for the wildflowers. I am there. I am always in the hallways of your heart. That is love. I just can't leave you alone." (time of silent reflection)

\*Response #144, v. 3

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

CRANHAM

*Angels and archangels may have gathered there;  
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;*

*But his mother only, in her maiden bliss, worshiped the beloved with a kiss.*

\*The Passing of God's Love and Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you... **And also with you.**

### Children's Moment

*We invite children to remain in worship. There is a nursery available for infants through 5 year olds.*

### Lighting of the Advent Candle

Response #128, v. 1

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

*Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!*

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Tapestry of Light  
A Celtic Christmas Celebration**

Joseph M. Martin

MPC Chancel Choir; Susan Miller, Flute; Alyssa Rufo, Percussion

- |      |                       |  |
|------|-----------------------|--|
| I.   | Reading<br>Choral     | <b>The Light of Creation</b><br><i>Carols of Hope and Light</i>  |
| II.  | Reading<br>Choral     | <b>The Light of Preparation</b><br><i>Longing for the Light</i><br>Cindy Walters and John Shaddock, duet |
| III. | Reading<br>Choral     | <b>The Light of Anticipation</b><br><i>An Advent Garden</i>  |
| IV.  | Reading<br>Choral     | <b>The Light of Annunciation</b><br><i>The Holy Child of Mary</i>  |
| V.   | Reading<br>Choral     | <b>The Light of Incarnation</b><br><i>O Wondrous Night</i><br>John Shaddock, solo                        |
| VI.  | Reading<br>Choral     | <b>The Light of Declaration</b><br><i>A Celtic Noel</i>  |
| VII. | Reading<br>*Hymn #133 | <b>The Light of Celebration</b><br><i>O Come, All ye Faithful</i>  |

**Offering of Tithes & Gifts**

*11am worshipers: Please place the top sheet of the fellowship pads in the offering plates.*

**Offertory**

*Improvisation*

M. McKeever

\*Response #145, v. 3

*What Child Is This*

GREENSLEEVES

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!*

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn #113

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

\*Charge & Benediction

\*Response #136, refrain

*Go, Tell It On the Mountain*

GO TELL IT

*Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere,  
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is Born!*

\*Postlude

*In Dulci Jubilo (In Sweet Rejoicing)*

J. S. Bach, BWV 729

*The Traditional ending to a Lessons and Carols Service*

\*\*\* Please greet one another in Christ's name \*\*\*

**VISITORS:** Welcome! Information about MPC can be found in the packets in the pews. If you are interested in additional information, please ask anyone around you or contact one of the pastors. Fair trade coffee and snacks are served after worship in the Gathering Area just outside the Sanctuary doors. This is also where you will find the restrooms, including baby changing stations. Children's worship kits are located in the back of the Sanctuary. Worship aids are available from the ushers. We're glad you're here!

**Congratulations to** Dave and Mary Bressler on their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on December 21, 2017.

**I am thankful for my 'MPC' family.** I have been so overwhelmed by the support of cards, emails, notes, calls, visits and love shown by all of you. I can't even tell you how uplifting and so heartwarming these things are to me. The biggest change for me is how my personal relationship has grown with God! WOW!!! This is something I was searching to find.  
– Bev Coleman

**Many thanks** to the generous MPC members and stuffed animal lovers whose gifts to Stop the Violence totaled \$605 this month. Many people you may never meet will benefit from your thoughtfulness.

**KNOWN TO BE HOSPITALIZED** Marilyn Heckert – Messiah Village, Wagner 5

**A time of personal prayer** is offered following both services. If you would like to pray with a pastor and one of the officers of the church, please meet them by the prayer room near the pulpit following the worship service.

**TODAY – *The Very First Christmas* – 3 PM – Sunday School Christmas Pageant**

**TODAY – Youth Group Christmas Party from 5 - 8 PM**

**DECEMBER 21 – Longest Night Service – 7 PM**

**DECEMBER 24 – Advent 4 Morning Worship Service at 11:00 AM**

**DECEMBER 24 – Christmas Eve Services – 5:30, 7:30 & 11:30 PM**

**DECEMBER 25, 11 AM – Christmas Communion Worship**

**DECEMBER 31, 11 AM – Worship**


**If you or a family member is hospitalized or in need of pastoral care, call 717-896-0131** at any time. It will connect you to the church office and one of the pastors.

<b>Ministers.....</b>	<b>All members of the congregation</b>
Senior Pastor/Head of Staff.....	Rev. Kathryn Z. Johnston.....kjohnton@mechpresby.org
Associate Pastor for Youth & Young Adults	Rev. Mark A. Allio ..... mallio@mechpresby.org
Director of Music .....	Mark McKeever ..... mmckeever@mechpresby.org
Christian Education Director .....	Cathay Snyder..... csnyder@mechpresby.org
Playful Beginnings Director.....	Karen P. Taylor .....playfulbeginnings.mpc@gmail.org
Mission Relations.....	www.pcusa.org/missionconnections
Find us online! .....	www.mechpresby.org • Twitter: @mechpresby • Facebook: Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church

# More People Caring

**Participating in Worship:**  
**Greeters:** Holly Andersen, Becky Trout (8:15); Martha Bricker, Kay Klos, Margie Shandruk (11)  
**Ushers:** Mark Irvin, Mick & Liz Knott, Gary Andersen (8:15); Chuck Schaal, Jeff & Kyle Hummel, Larry Lichty (11:00)  
**Liturgy:** Rachel Hackenberg (CtW), Sanctified Art  
**Fellowship Hours:** Larry & Janet Sharer (8:15); Lesley Rogers (11:00)  
**Nursery:** Keni Melphis, Taylor Eisenberger (8:15); Jeremy & Kelli Fry, Danielle Martin (11:00)

**2018 Offering Envelopes** are available for you to pick up in Upper Fellowship Hall. If you can't find a box of envelopes with your name and would like them, please call/email the church office (717-697-0351).



**Today – Youth Christmas Party, 5-8 PM** – We will have our Gingerbread House Making Competition and our White Elephant Gift Exchange! Bring a gift of \$5 or less. Feel free to bring in items to decorate your Gingerbread house!

**The Sr. High and Adult Mission Trip:** We will be going to the Tampa area **July 9<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>**! Cost will be \$275 (family rate will be \$175 per person). If you or your teen are interested please let me know by January 14!

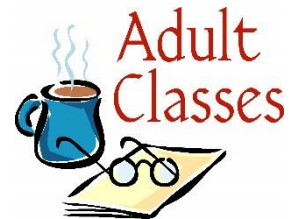
Questions or comments: contact Mark Allio  
 (717-697-0351 or [mallio@mechpresby.org](mailto:mallio@mechpresby.org))

**Christmas Eve Nursery, Greeter and Usher Sign-Up Lists:** Nursery volunteers are needed for the 7:30 PM service and greeters and ushers are needed for all three services on Christmas Eve – 5:30, 7:30 and 11 PM. Please sign-up in the Gathering Area – thank you!

## WEEK OF DECEMBER 17 - 31, 2017

SUN 12/17	8:15/11 AM 9:35 AM 3 PM 3 PM 5 PM	Christmas Cantata Sunday School Christmas Pageant Boy Scouts, LFH Youth Christmas Party
MON	11:30 AM	NO Playful Beginnings Downtown Daily Bread
TUE	6:30 PM	Girl Scouts Party
WED	7:45 PM	Chancel Choir
THU	7 PM 7 PM	Longest Night Service He Brews
FRI	6:15 AM	Men's Bible Fellowship
SUN 12/24	11 AM 5:30 PM 7:30/11 PM	Advent 4 Morning Worship Family Christmas Eve Service Candlelight Service
MON	11 AM	Christmas Communion Worship
TUE–MON (12/26–1/1)		Church Office Closed
SUN 12/31	11 AM	Worship Service

- **Adult Topics** – (Upper Fellowship Hall) During Advent, join us in exploring how God speaks to us through Art. Utilizing artwork from *A Sanctified Art's* "Let There Be Color" Advent devotional and the work of other artists, we will reflect on the Advent theme and Lectionary readings and how the artwork may have been inspired by Scripture. Today is ***Let there be..... Joy and Peace.***
- **Joyful Hearts** – not meeting
- **Dave Petko Class** – (Conf. Rm.) – Colossians



**Alternative Gift Christmas Shopping:** A Mission Committee member will be in the Gathering Area today to help you with your Alternative Christmas Gift Shopping. You may honor a loved one by making a contribution to an organization that MPC supports through the Mission Committee. You will receive an ornament for your loved one. After today you may stop by the church office to make a donation and receive the ornament.

# POINSETTIAS



## *The Christmas flowers are placed to the glory of God*

In memory of Norene Boggs by Ed, Jeff and Linda;

In loving memory of Peter Breen by Renée, Kevin, Scott and Rosemary Breen;

In honor of Rosemary Breen by Kevin, Renée, and Scott Breen;

By Bette Calabrese in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Park;

In memory of Ryan Anthony Mayo by Bette Calabrese;

In memory of Craig M. Calabrese by Bette Calabrese;

In memory of Frank's father by Frank and Kathy Coffey;

In memory of our parents, Paxton and Margie Wolfe and Charles and Jennie Fealtman by Margie and Barry Fealtman;

By Diane Hollinger and family in memory of Darwin Hollinger;

In memory of my beloved daughter, Teresa Shank by Grace House;

By Grace House in memory of her mother, Mary Jane Gutshall;

In honor of Peg Zucker by Will, Garrison and Clarinda;

In memory of Robert J. and Carolyn H. Shuey; William J. and Doris L. Brunner; and William H. and Sarah D. Hyman, Jr. by Gene, Gail and Laura Shuey-Kostelac and Stephen Shuey;

In memory of our parents by Dick and Kay McDonald;

By Dick and Janet Meredith in honor of our children and grandchildren;

By Susan Miller and Gordon and Paula Logan in memory of Paul and Betty Miller;

By Anne Partridge in memory of Philip Partridge;

In memory of Robert and Melody Porter by Miriam Porter;

In memory of Luann Rhodes by Mother Marylou, Sister Lori and Nephew John Rhodes;

In honor of our sons, Kent and Todd, by Pat and Rich Richardson;

In honor of my family by Ed Rogers;

By Ed Rogers in memory of Pam Rogers;

By Rod and Kim Savidge in honor of their grandchildren, Jackson, Abby and William;

In memory of John and Anna Scurfield by John and Kelli Scurfield;

By Ran and Andrea (Dean) Singiser in memory of Ran's parents, Bette and Jerry Singiser;

In memory of Andy's parents, Gladys and Joe Dean by Ran and Andrea (Dean) Singiser;

By Millie and Wayne Skelly in memory of Jim and Michael Skelly and Ed;

In memory of Patricia Hulse by Transitions;

By Albert and Alice Zamboni in memory of loved ones;

In memory of Jim Zerbe by his family.

**The poinsettias may be picked up after the 11 PM Christmas Eve Service.**



**He Brews** will have a Christmas Party and compete in Trivia night on December 21 at Desperate Times Brewery in Carlisle.

**January 7 – Family Movie Night** – *Shaun the Sheep: The Movie* – 6-8 PM: Everyone is invited to join us! Kids, parents, grandparents and teens!

**Playful Beginnings** would love to have a strong Substitute List. Please contact Karen Taylor (717-697-4712) for details, or drop off your information in the black, preschool mail box. Include your name, phone number and days available. This is a paid position and clearances are required. It's a joy to spend time with our children!