



STRETCHING OUR FAITH

METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH

Sunday, December 9, 2018

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PREPARATION

The pastor's entrance and the beginning of the musical prelude are the calls to silent, personal preparation for the worship of God.

THE GATHERING

*We are standing on Holy ground, And I know that there are angels all around.
Let us praise Jesus now, We are standing in God's presence on Holy Ground.*

LITANY

Leader: O world, listen! Do not sleep --

People: **For the realm of God is near!**

Leader: Arise, and turn your eyes to the east,

People: **Where the nations are gathering with shouts of joy,**

Leader: Singing songs at harvest-time,

People: **Swelling the air with praise!**

Leader: The Lord of life has remembered them,

People: **The God of heaven has blessed the earth;**

Leader: Their lamentations have become celebrations;

People: **Their death march, the holy dance!**

Leader: At the sound of their singing, the mountains are leveled;

People: **At the sound of their laughter the valleys are filled.**

Leader: At the sound of their clapping, the crooked is made straight;

People: **At the sound of their tramping, the rough is made smooth.**

Leader: A voice cries out in the wilderness:

People: **Prepare the way of the Lord!**

Leader: O world, listen! Do not sleep!

People: **The realm of God is near!**

OPENING HYMN

“O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL”

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lowly exile here until the Son of God appear.

CHORUS: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe. *CHORUS*

O come, Thou rod of Jesse, free Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of hell Thy people save and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *CHORUS*

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here
O drive away the shades of night and pierce the clouds and bring us light. *CHORUS*

O come, Thou Key of David, come and open wide our heavenly home
Where all Thy saints with Thee shall dwell – O come, O come, Emmanuel! *CHORUS*

WELCOME

If you are here for the first time, we are delighted that you came. If you are dropping in for a second or third visit, we are glad you found something you were looking for. We hope you will be challenged by our worship and that you will come back again. If you are looking for a faith community, we would welcome you as a part of our church family. When you are officially welcomed as a visitor, you will receive a Visitor's Information Card. Please fill it out, and return it to the Pastor, or place it in the offering plate. **WELCOME!**

CONCERNS OF CHURCH AND CITY

Billye Sanders

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

OFFERTORY

“For all things come from you, and of your own we have given you.” 1 Chronicles 29:14

(We are now accepting tithes and offerings by credit and debit card in the sanctuary.)

Your tithes and gifts help us:

- Pay the mortgage, utilities, maintenance, and security for the Metropolitan Meeting House;
- Provide free pastoral counseling services to members of our congregation;
- Fund the First Response Center programs, serving over 700 people living with HIV/AIDS, and other at-risk persons;
- Pay for the personnel and operating costs of our ministries;
- Provide educational materials/resources to assist in our community's spiritual growth and development;
- Maintain meeting space for ministries, including Metropolitan Praise Dancers, Girl Scouts, recovery/support groups, & events;
- Fund our annual Anniversary and Homecoming celebrations;

Every gift of your time, talent, and treasure makes a vital difference in the life and ministries of Metropolitan Interdenominational Church. Thank You!

CELEBRATION IN SONG

The Voices of Metropolitan
Reginald Green, Minister of Music

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above ye heavenly host; Creator, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

RESPONSE

Please do not leave the sanctuary or in any other manner create a distraction during the invitational period. This is a moment of unparalleled importance.

MOMENTS OF REFLECTION

The Voices of Metropolitan

INVITATION TO LIFE IN CHRIST

This church will welcome into its membership any persons who love and accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, and who promise to live according to His laws of Love, recognizing all people as brothers and sisters for whom He gave His life.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Communion Prayer

We do not presume to come to this, Thy table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in Thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs from under Thy table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to partake of this sacrament of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, that we may walk in newness of life and grow to reflect Thy Spirit in all things forevermore, Amen.

(We will eat and drink together after all have been served.)

FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE

We've come too far to turn back now; By the grace of God we're gonna make it somehow.
Nobody knows the trouble we've seen; We've come too far to turn back now.

THE SINGING OF ANGELS. There must be always remaining in every person's life, some place for that which in itself is breathlessly beautiful and, by an inherent prerogative, throws all the rest of life into a new and creative relatedness. Something that gathers up in itself all the freshets of experience from drab and commonplace areas of living and glows in one bright white light of penetrating beauty and meaning – then passes. The commonplace is shot through with new glory; old burdens become lighter; deep and ancient wounds lose much of their old, old hurting. A crown is placed over our heads that for the rest of our lives we are trying to grow tall enough to wear. Despite all the crassness of life, despite all the hardness of life, despite all the harsh discords of life, life is saved by the singing of angels.

HOWARD THURMAN

CORE VALUES

Our core values define the framework within which we live out the ideals of **Our Calling** based upon the word of God as reflected in Jesus Christ.

Loving, Giving, Serving, Inclusive, Reconciling, Fellowship, Liberating

INCLUSIVE: *Embracing, Welcoming, Accepting*

LOVING: *Worshipping, Comforting, Caring*

RECONCILING: *Forgiving, Restoring, Affirming*

GIVING: *Sharing, Supporting, Volunteering*

FELLOWSHIP: *Celebrating, Belonging, Participating*

SERVING: *Helping, Ministering, Providing*

LIBERATING: *Teaching, Nurturing, Advocating*

METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH

2128 11th Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37208; *Mailing Address:* P.O. Box 280779, Nashville, TN 37228

Phone: (615) 72METRO (726-3876) **Fax:** (615) 259-9210 **website:** www.micwhosoever.org

Rev. Edwin C. Sanders, II, Senior Servant

Rev. John Cross, Senior Pastoral Assistant

*Pastoral Staff: Rev. Marcella Lockhart, Rev. Clifford Smith, Rev. Christopher Davis,
Rev. Donna Whitney, Rev. Terry Terrell, Rev. Regina McCrary, Rev. Neely Williams,
Rev. Stephanie Thompson, Rev. Cherie Booker, Rev. Christopher Goodwin*



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METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH
Sunday, December 9, 2018
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Metropolitan Interdenominational Church is a community of believers inclusive of all and alienating to none, leading the way to spiritual growth by sharing God's love with the world.

BE PREPARED

BE PREPARED is a statement most often associated with the Boy Scout motto. It is a simple statement, yet it has profound implications for our ability to deal effectively with every aspect of life. In an ordinary way, the application of this motto is very much a part of my experience in traveling. The practice of having a suitcase always packed with all of my essentials in place allows me to have some degree of assurance that when I arrive at my destination, I will have all of the medicines, toiletries, clothing, accessories and other items I need. Certainly, none of us can anticipate everything we will have to deal with in life, but there are some things for which we need to be prepared. For those of us who are followers of Christ, we should always be living in a posture of expectation regarding the return of our Lord and it is clear that we need to BE PREPARED. The Hebrew Bible, especially through the voices of the prophets, gives us tremendous insight into how the people of God worked for centuries to BE PREPARED for the coming of Christ. Now it is our voices that the world needs to hear in order to make ready for the second coming. We don't know the day or the hour, but we do know there are injustices that need to be addressed, truths that need to be spoken, peace that needs to be established, reconciliation that needs to occur and love that needs to be expressed. In this season of Advent and beyond, there is no shortage of things for us to do in order to BE PREPARED.

(reprinted from Sunday, December 06, 2015)

--Senior Servant

BIBLE READINGS

Read... Pray... Sacrifice...

December 10 – 16, 2018

Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Isaiah 12:2-6

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

December 17 – 23, 2018

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a

Luke 1:47-55

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45

December 24 – 30, 2018

First Sunday after Christmas Day

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Psalms 148

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:41-52

Voices of Metropolitan Rehearsal, Saturday 12–2p.m. // Saturday Worship, 6 – 7 p.m.

Centering Prayer, Sunday 8:30-8:50 a.m.; Wednesday 6:40-7:00 p.m.

Support Metropolitan while you shop:

- Enroll in the **Kroger Community Rewards Program**: Login to Kroger.com, enroll your Kroger Plus card, select Community Rewards, then Metropolitan Interdenominational Church FRC; it's that easy!
- When shopping online, register your support for Metropolitan Interdenominational Church FRC with **Smile.Amazon** ...and always shop through the Smile.Amazon site.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Dinner by Circle 4; Bible Study 7:00 – 8:00, Classes for Adults and Children

To view the **World AIDS Day Common Voice Pledge** video visit:

https://vimeo.com/303472628?utm_source=email&utm_medium=vimeo-cliptranscode-201504&utm_campaign=28749
or search Common Voice Worship Experience on Facebook, or view it on our Facebook page

Angel Tree: hats, gloves/mittens, scarves, & coats Children 0–12 /Adults 65+

The Angel Tree will be distributed Friday, December 21, 2018, 12 – 4 p.m. at the church

Donations now being accepted for the Children's Holiday Christmas Store 2018.

Store will open Sundays, December 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd, immediately following morning worship.

Children up to age 16 may “shop” for parental gifts. Gift wrapping assistants are welcome.

Annual Church Meeting: December 9th, following morning worship

Christmas Family Fellowship: December 16th, 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Watch Night Worship Service: December 31st, 10:00 pm

Financial Freedom/Entrepreneurship Seminar Series ~ meets on specific dates TBA.

~ Sick, Shut In, and Recovering Members ~

Leon McKinley Corder	1902 Elliott Avenue; Nashville, TN 37204-2004	Send prayers. <i>No visitors</i> , please.
John Cross	3441 White Pine Drive; Nashville, TN 37214	Send prayers and cards, only, please.
Martha Hill	c/o Bethany Healthcare Center; 421 Ocala Drive; Nashville, TN 37206	
Etoile Jordan	907 Lawrence Avenue; Nashville, TN 37204	615-385-3969
Jay Lane		615-474-4239
Evelyn Martin	3253 Spears Road; Nashville, TN 37207	615-227-0095
Anna Nickerson	2414 Albion Street; Nashville, TN 37208	615-540-0976
Emmilye Wilson-Walton	P.O. Box 78795; Nashville, TN 37207	615-262-9375

~ Midweek Fellowship Meal Schedule ~

December 19	Circle 5	January 9	Circle 7
December 26	<i>No Midweek Fellowship</i>	January 16	Circle 1
January 2	Circle 6	January 23	Circle 2

~ Giving Summary ~

Date	Offering – Budgeted	Offering – Actual	Offering (Un)Realized	Summary
2017 Year End	\$305,710.00	\$294,948.21		(\$10,761.79)
January, 2018	\$23,080.00	\$19,402.73	(\$3,677.27)	(\$3,677.27)
February, 2018	\$23,080.00	\$22,347.27	(\$732.73)	(\$4,410.00)
March, 2018	\$23,080.00	\$18,651.38	(\$4,428.62)	(\$8,834.62)
April, 2018	\$28,850.00	\$31,119.22	\$2,269.22	(\$6,565.40)
May, 2018	\$23,080.00	\$22,030.32	(\$1,049.68)	(\$7,515.08)
June, 2018	\$23,080.00	\$19,879.80	(\$3,002.20)	(\$10,815.28)
July, 2018	\$28,850.00	\$21,500.93	(\$7,349.07)	(\$18,164.35)
August, 2018	\$23,080.00	\$37,766.18	\$14,686.18	(\$3,478.17)
September, 2018	\$28,850.00	\$22,106.27	(\$6,743.73)	(\$10,226.90)
October, 2018	\$23,080.00	\$19,750.71	(\$3,329.29)	(\$13,556.19)
November, 2018	\$23,080.00	\$21,642.50	\$1,437.50	(\$14,993.69)
December 2, 2018	<u>\$5,770.00</u>	<u>\$7,618.76</u>	<u>\$1,848.76</u>	
December, 2018	\$5,770.00	\$7,618.76	\$1,848.76	
2018 Year to Date	\$276,960.00	\$263,815.07		(\$13,144.93)