

**MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

December 2, 2018

Eleven O'clock

Order of Service

CALL TO WORSHIP Elder Cheryl Merritt

VOLUNTARY.....Improvisation on "People, Look East"

HYMN....."Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" 8

PRAYER OF ADORATION

O God of covenant and completion, we feel the gratitude welling up within us as we ponder the magnitude of your wondrous works. We joyfully accept your commissioning to go into all the world as ambassadors of reconciliation in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Glory to your name. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE....."O King, O Lord, O Love"

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CONFESSION OF SIN

Almighty God, you created us in your likeness, and you gave to our charge the stewardship of the earth. We confess that we have mismanaged, plundered, and violated the earth. We have failed to exercise a stewardship that makes the resources of your good earth available to all people. We confess a consuming greed. Forgive us, merciful God, and renew our calling as stewards of your good gifts, called by grace to a life of love. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." (John 3:16) We believe this good news. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

SILENT MEDITATION

WELCOME TO VISITORS Mr. Vic Wilson

MINUTE FOR MISSION Janyce Wardlaw

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING..... Deacon Venita Hood

OFFERTORY SELECTION "Give of Your Best to the Master"

PRESENTATION OF OFFERING..... "The Doxology"

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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE SCRIPTURE Jeremiah 33:14-16

ANTHEM....."We Shall Behold Him"

SERMON I Will Fulfill the Promise
Rev. Dee Smart

HYMN "Be Thou My Vision" 339

PRESENTATION OF PLEDGES Elder Brenda Foster

DEDICATION OF PLEDGES

Holy, Loving, Creator God, we give you thanks for making the earth and all that is in it.

We praise you, O God, for you have blessed us with good things.

You call us to be faithful and to live as your servants, to share the gifts you have given.

We offer our time, talents, energy, and imagination.

You call to us in the needs of others – the hungry, the poor, the lonely, and the homeless.

We offer our love, compassion, and commitment to justice and peace.

We give thanks, O God, for good work to do and a community of faith that surrounds us.

We pledge ourselves and our gifts of treasure for the life and work of the church. Use us, O God, and all we have. Renew our spirit and help us to be faithful to the promises we make. Be present within and among us, and lead us according to your purpose. We pray together in the name of Christ. Amen.

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE Ms. Venita Hood

HYMN "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord" 441

BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY "Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending"