

*Born Thy people to deliver, Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit, Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit, Raise us to Thy glorious throne.*

PARAMENTS

I Wonder As I Wander arr. Gary Smoke
Bobby Horton, mandolin

SIGNIFICANCE OF PARAMENTS Rhett Josey, Jill Bonatz

CANDLES

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers
Chancel Choir

SIGNIFICANCE OF CANDLES Rhett Josey, Jill Bonatz

CALL TO CONFESSION Paula Cospers

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, we acknowledge with sorrow that
we have pursued things that we should not have;
we have invited impure thoughts into our minds;
we have been preoccupied with selfish thoughts and motives;
we have chased after wealth and temporal security
while neglecting matters of the spirit.
Help us acknowledge with repentance that we have allowed
greed, envy, and desire for power to rule our decisions, our
actions, and our lives.**

**Dear Lord, make us willing to be changed, even though it
requires commitment and discipline.**

Give us the heart of a servant.

**Empower us to accept the challenges of our daily tasks with joy
and humility.**

May Christ's light shine in the dark places of our lives.

May we receive and accept now your healing and forgiveness.
(Time of Private Confession)

Amen.

KYRIE

Organ Congregation G. R. Smoke

Lord, have mer - cy up -
on us. Christ have mer - cy up - on us.
Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Friends believe the Good News of the Gospel.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

***RESPONSE OF THANKSGIVING** (*sing refrain of Hymn 23*)

**Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

Cary Speaker

THE ADVENT WREATH

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ADVENT WREATH Rhett Josey, Jill Bonatz

LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE Donna, Ella and
Ted Speaker

RESPONSIVE READING

In childhood, Christ is a magical Christmas gift.

**Let us accept the gift of Jesus' birth and remember
the joy and freshness of Christmas as a child.**

In adulthood, Christ is a role model and teacher who
answers our questions.

**Let us follow Jesus as our teacher and remember
the foundation of our faith when our beliefs are shaken.**

In old age, Christ gives us hope for the future.

**Let us live our lives with calm assurance and rejoice
as we remember our lives.**

**Christ was with us at every turn and every struggle.
Christ will be with us in eternity.**

GARLAND, WREATHS AND SANCTUARY EVERGREENS

The Holly and the Ivy arr. Gary Smoke
Bobby Horton, flute

*SIGNIFICANCE OF GARLAND,
WREATHS AND SANCTUARY EVERGREENS* Rhett Josey, Jill Bonatz

THE CRECHE

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CRECHE Kelli Eshleman

THE CHRISTMAS STORY (Children's Time) Kelli Eshleman
(*All children are invited to join Kelli at the Chancel steps.*)

***HYMN** *The First Noel* THE FIRST NOEL

*Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
Who hath made heav'n and earth of nought,
And with His blood our life hath bought.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.*

POINSETTIAS

Wondrous Love arr. Gary Smoke
Bobby Horton, violin

SIGNIFICANCE OF POINSETTIAS Rhett Josey

THE CHRISMON TREE

***HYMN** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* ST. LOUIS

*How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still
The dear Christ enters in.*

*O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!*

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CHRISMON TREE Rhett Josey, Jill Bonatz

THE CHRISMONS

The Fish Jill Bonatz

And the people said with one voice,
**Savior of the nations, come.
Like Peter and Andrew may we learn to follow Jesus.**

The Butterfly Jill Bonatz

And the people said with one voice,
**Savior of the nations, come.
The same power that raised Jesus from the dead,
raises us out of fear and defeat.
Like the butterfly, we are transformed by God's power—
for if Christ lives in us, we are new creatures.**

The Triangle Jill Bonatz

And the people said with one voice,
**Savior of the nations, come.
Fill us with your Creative love, your Saving grace
and your Sustaining power.**

The Crown

Jill Bonatz

*Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of Light descendeth
From the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away.*

And the people said with one voice,
**What wondrous love is this?
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.
With angels and all creation we worship Jesus as Lord
and King.**

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Jill Bonatz

*At His feet the six-winged seraph;
Cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Lord Most High!*

**Holy God, in these quiet moments we have caught
a glimpse of your glory.
Inspire us to carry into our lives all that we have felt here today.
Help us to enter this Advent season with a resolve to seek you
and to transform our common tasks into actions of love
and humility.
May we return to face the monotony of our daily routine
with a new vision.
Do not let our doubts and fears interrupt the flame of our lives.
Do not let the pressures of life extinguish our hope.
May the light of Jesus shine in our faces and be seen in our lives.
May we continually be your light in this world of darkness.
Amen.**

OFFERING

Offertory Statement

Offertory

Star in the East
Bobby Horton, banjo

Paula Cospers
arr. Gary Smoke

***Doxology**

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

Paula Cospers

***HYMN**

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

PICARDY

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded,
For with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.*

*King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav'nly food.*

(continued)

***CHARGE**

Jill Bonatz

***RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION**

Cary Speaker

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away
the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light.
**As we leave this place may the spirit of Christ lead us
to share with others the joy we have felt
and the good news we have heard.**
May we leave this place filled with light and radiance,
for we have been in the presence of God.
May our souls be peaceful,
for we have been cleansed by the healing power of God.
May we leave this place empowered and strengthened,
for if we are Christians, the Holy Spirit dwells in us.
May we leave this place having worshiped God,
**and having our hearts and souls mended by the blood of
Christ, who was born to set us free.**
Glory to God in the highest!
Savior of the nations, come!

***CHORAL RESPONSE** *Savior of the Nations, Come* arr. Gary Smoke

POSTLUDE

Wachet auf

J. G. Walther

*Those who are able, please stand.

Congregation, please join in reading responsively the sentences
printed in bold.

Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church

Hanging of the Greens

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP

First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2011

PRAYER OF PREPARATION (Silent Prayer)

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

*As the session gathers at the chancel steps to pray for our worship,
we invite you to join us in prayer.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cary Speaker

SIGNIFICANCE OF SYMBOLS

Jill Bonatz, Rhett Josey

PRELUDE

Wachet auf

Jacobus Kloppers

SIGNIFICANCE OF BELLS

Rhett Josey

Savior of the Nations, Come

arr. Gary Smoke

Peggy Thompson, handbells; Bobby Horton, violin
Chancel Choir

THE MEANING OF ADVENT

Rhett Josey, Jill Bonatz

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

Paula Cospers

Savior of the Nations, come.
We are here preparing for Christ's Advent.
Savior of the Nations, come.
We are here listening for a word from God.
Savior of the Nations, come.
We are here seeking answers to our questions.
Savior of the Nations, come.
We are here hoping for renewed strength and energy.
Savior of the Nations, come.
We are here discovering power in Christ's presence.
Savior of the Nations, come.
**We are here. Our hearts are filled with longing
and expectation.**
Savior of the Nations, come.

***HYMN**

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

*Come, Thou long expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.*

(continued)