

Welcome to West Side Christian Church

~ November 30, 2008 ~

Rev. Nathan Brown, Minister

Becky Barclay, Minister of Music

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GREETING, ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Fairest Lord Jesus" arr. Pethel

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

**CALL TO WORSHIP "Building the Nativity" Anne Berk and Karen Hartzog

WORSHIP HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" CH, 119

*UNISON INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: Amid threatening clouds of anger and selfish strife, come, O God, to bring light. Into our days of worry and anxiety, send a confident hope. Enrich us with spiritual gifts that transcend disappointments and spill out in generous compassion for all your suffering children. Meet us today where we are so we may be equipped for trials yet to come and for joys yet to be revealed. We ask these things in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray saying, "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen."

*GLORIA PATRI CH, 35

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 64:1-9

MORNING PRAYER Rev. Brown

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

OFFERTORY "Improvisation on 'Divinum Mysterium'" Lasky

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

ALL: Gracious God, we give our best to you, not out of guilt or fear, but with gratitude and faith. You have been our support in times of need. Every breath we take is a gift from you. We would be awake and watchful for opportunities to make a difference, to help others be alert for your presence, to value life in all its fullness, and to learn to care. We dedicate these symbols of thankfulness and all the days of our lives to those purposes. Amen.

THE DOXOLOGY

CH, 46

COMMUNION HYMN "Come to Me, O Weary Traveler" CH, 353

The Lord's Table is open for all who believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Christ has set the Table before us. It is by His invitation we are fed. You may eat of the bread as it is passed and drink of the cup at the conclusion of the Words of Institution.

PRAYER FOR THE BREAD Elder, Larry Hackler

PRAYER FOR THE CUP Elder, Lois Pyles

WORDS OF INSTITUTION Rev. Brown

ANTHEM "Advent Alleluia" Wagner

SERMON TEXT Mark 13:24-37

SERMON "Stay Awake!" Rev. Brown

*HYMN OF INVITATION "O Little Town of Bethlehem" CH, 144

During the singing of the Hymn of Invitation, we invite anyone desiring to become a Christian or wishing to unite with this congregation, please come forward.

*BENEDICTION

*THE POSTLUDE "From Thy Throne So High" Gluck

*PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

**At the conclusion of the Call to Worship, children ages 3-8 are dismissed to "Worship & Wonder".

DIACONATE SERVING TODAY

Bill Lofits, Diane Loftis, Kelly Terry, Stephen Milam

IN NEED OF PRAYER

Brian Balasco, Cecil Dillon, Davenport Family, Lois & Don Nelson, Alyssa Hale, Heather Wilson, Masil Jones, Mary Wyatt, Linda Booth, Jordan Lahy, Melissa & Ed Davidson, Dottie Redmon, Terry Tucker, Robin Thomas, Patrick Petty, John Milam, Janice Deweese, Doug Tatum, Lorraine Shea, Marleen Whitehurst, Betty McCrickard, Brenda Lohse, Cavanaugh Family, Sandy Phillips.

SHUT-INS

Rev. Glenn Weaver, Ruth Blackman, Sylvia Dickens, Sandy Cotton, Dennis Davenport, Roland Thornton, Al Hemby, Esther Daniel.

- Orders for Christmas Poinsettias must be turned in today. Please fill out a dedication form, located on the tables in the foyer, along with your \$13.75 to Jennifer Larson or Donna Nutting.
- Church Women United in Portsmouth is sponsoring Operation Santa Claus on Friday, December 21st at 11AM in Ebenezer Baptist Church. Please check your December newsletter for all the details.
- Volunteers are still needed to participate in our live nativity on December 21st. Please sign up in the foyer.

THE WEEK AHEAD AT WEST SIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Today, November 30th: 9:00 AM – Coffee Fellowship
 9:45 AM – Church School
 11:00 AM – Sunday Worship

Mon., December 1st: 9:00 AM – Preschool & Kindergarten
 7:00 PM – Prayer Group

Tue., December 2nd: 9:00 AM – Preschool & Kindergarten

Wed., December 3rd: 9:00 AM – Preschool & Kindergarten
 9:00 AM – Prayer Group
 10:00 AM – CWF (Rebekah & Lydia)
 11:00 AM – Preschool Chapel
 7:00 PM – CWF (Shiphra)
 7:15 PM – Choir Rehearsal

Thurs., December 4th: 9:00 AM – Preschool & Kindergarten
 7:30 PM – CWF (Sarah)

Fri., December 5th: 9:00 AM – Preschool & Kindergarten

Sat., December 6th: 6:00 PM – Disciples Class Party

Sun., December 7th: 9:00 AM – Coffee Fellowship
 9:45 AM – Church School
 11:00 AM – Sunday Worship

Offering for November 23, 2008

AMOUNT NEEDED WEEKLY TO MEET BUDGET EXPENSES: \$ 3,418.00

Received for Budget:	\$2,191.00
General Building Fund:	115.00
Memorial Fund: (In memory of Nora Davenport)	45.00
Scholarship Fund: (In memory of Rachel Powell & Thomas Thornton)	50.00
Thanksgiving Offering:	530.00
Other: (Coffee, Missions Fund Returns)	991.15

TOTAL for November 23, 2008..... \$ 3,922.15

*** Please pick up your 2009 Stewardship envelopes in the foyer.**



Preparing Our Space For The Season

Advent (from the Latin *Adventus*), meaning “the coming,” is a holy season of joyous preparation for Christmas, the celebration of the birth of Christ.

The 2008 Advent Season is celebrated four Sundays before Christmas, November 30 to December 21. The liturgical color is purple (violet), a symbol of Christ’s divine royalty. It is also the color of suffering used during Lent and Holy Week. However, many churches now use blue to distinguish the Season of Advent from Lent. Royal Blue is sometimes used as a symbol of royalty. The coming of Christ is at the heart of Christian faith. Advent speaks of God coming near to us and relating intimately with us. It celebrates a truth about God, the revelation of God in Christ whereby all of creation might be reconciled to God. The good news of Jesus Christ’s coming into the world is that God’s love reaches humankind. Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, of anticipation, of preparation and of longing. And so it is with this expectation and anticipation that we have prepared this space for the season.



In Ancient Times the cedar was revered as the tree of royalty. It also signified immortality and was used for purification. Cedar branches dwell in our worship space as a sign of Christ, who reigns as King forever, and whose coming in justice and righteousness will purify our hearts.



Because the needles of pine and fir trees remain green from season to season, the ancients saw them as signs of things that last forever. Isaiah tells us that there will be no end to the reign of the Messiah. Therefore, we hang wreaths of Evergreen shaped in a circle, which itself has no end, to signify the Eternal Reign of Jesus, the Christ.



In ancient times, holly and ivy were considered signs of of thorns, the red berries the blood of the Savior, and the bitter bark the drink offered to Jesus on the cross. When we hang holly and ivy, let us rejoice in the coming of Jesus our Savior.



And as we prepare for the coming of Jesus, the Light of the World, we light the Christmas tree. During this Advent, Wherever you see a lighted Christmas tree, let it call to mind the One who brings light to our darkness, healing to our brokenness, and peace to all who receive him.

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