

May Memorial Baptist Church



The Third Sunday of Advent
December 17th, 2023

3922 Old Buckingham Road
Powhatan, VA 23139
maymemorialchurch.org | (804) 598-3098

Order of Worship

Gathering Music		Sandra Parker
Welcome and Announcements		Michael Edwards and Carlisle Davidhizar
Prelude	<i>Episode on "Veni Emmanuel"</i> Don Moro	Lani Smith
Anthem	<i>Come, Adore the Newborn King!</i> Adult Choir	arr. Lloyd Larson
Invocation		Michael Edwards
* Hymn No. 85	<i>The First Noel</i>	THE FIRST NOWELL

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Joy Robbie, Christina, Brooke, and Blaire Fredette

When God's people were surrounded by hardship, suffering, and grief, Isaiah proclaimed, The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit (Isaiah 61:1-3a).

We come today as people who are also surrounded by suffering and grief. And yet, the Spirit hovers among us, tending and anointing, inspiring freedom where there is captivity, declaring blessing in places the world has cursed, and igniting fierce joy where mourning and heartache prevail.

We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God's people.

We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, just peace, and fierce joy. May our lives shine with the fierce, tenacious joy of the Light who lives in our hearts as we wait and work for the coming of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Sung Response No. 76 (v. 3)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

A New and Glorious Morning Christmas Cantata with Pageant

Scene 1: Introduction and Gabriel Appears to Mary

* Congregational Hymn No. 77

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

Scene 2: Gabriel Appears to Joseph, Mary and Joseph Travel to Bethlehem; No Room at the Inn.

Anthem

Jesus Our Brother

THE FRIENDLY BEASTS

Adult Choir

Scene 3: Jesus is Born

* Congregational Hymn No. 86

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

Scene 4: The Heavens Declare Jesus' Birth

Anthem

All Glory be to God on High

Lloyd Larson

Adult Choir

Scene 5: Angels Appear to the Shepherds

Anthem

Rise Up, Shepherd, Go Tell It

Lloyd Larson

Adult Choir

Scene 6: The Magi Visit

Offertory Hymn No. 113

We Three Kings of Orient Are

KINGS OF ORIENT

Giving of our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Prayer

Bob Wood

Giving of Tithes and Offering

Music During the Offering

Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming

Arr. Michael Burkhardt

Don Moro, Organ

* Doxology No. 253

OLD 100TH (Altered)

Scene 7: Closing

Anthem

Arise, Shine, Your Light Has Come

Lloyd Larson

Adult Choir

* Benediction

Michael Edwards

* Postlude

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

H. Alexander Matthews

Don Moro, Organ

** Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Welcome to our Intergenerational Combined Paper Bag Pageant and Cantata! This year, we all will bring the story of the birth of Jesus to life together. Each of you will get a surprise role in our play that you'll find in your paper bag. If you don't have one, make sure to grab one. Each bag contains the name of your role, a small costume or prop, and a simple line to read. Once the program begins, watch the screens and our two storytellers to let you know when it's time to perform your line. We hope you enjoy it!

We'd like to give a big thank you to Maryvel and Andy Firda for being our pageant narrators. They're theatrical talents are so appreciated!

This Week at May Memorial:

Sunday, December 17

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

Christmas Cantata

Monday, December 18

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

5:30 p.m. COPC Meeting

Tuesday, December 19

10:00 a.m. Just Kids Open

10:00 a.m. Ladies Bible Study

Wednesday, December 20

9:30 a.m. Food Pantry Ministry

No Activities or Meal at the Church

Thursday, December 21

10:00 a.m. Just Kids Open

WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!

So that we can get to know you, please complete the following and place it in the offering plate later in worship.

Guest Information

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Ages (circle) 0-12, 13-18, 19-35, 36-55, 56+

Preferred way for us to contact you: ___ phone ___ text ___ email

May Memorial Staff

Carlisle Davidhizar, *Associate Pastor
for Families and Community*
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Michael Edwards, *Senior Pastor*
revmkedwards@gmail.com

Patricia Hutchinson, *Financial Secretary*
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Stuart Joerg, *Organist and Director of Music*
stuartj8@earthlink.net

Sandra Parker, *Pianist and Choir Accompanist*
servnhim4@msn.com

Diana Schmitz, *Administrative Assistant*
maymemoffice@gmail.com

Tammy Schoeffel, *Church Custodian*
(804) 598-3098

Arlie Thomas, *Facilities Coordinator*
(804) 598-3098

Announcements

On Sunday, December 24 we will have worship at 10:00 a.m. At 5:00 p.m. we will have our annual "Candlelight" service. There will be no Sunday School on Christmas Eve.

The Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in April has been redirected to Greece for a trip "In the Steps of Paul." We will visit many Biblical sites including Philippi, Ephesus, Corinth, and even the Island of Patmos. If you are interested in this trip, contact Pastor Michael or the church office.

Holiday Gifts - During the month of December, we ask that you consider our Annual Offering for Christmas Gifts for our staff for all they do for our Church Family throughout the year. You will find Special Offering envelopes in our Pew racks. Merry Christmas to you and your family during this holiday season. Blessings!
The Finance Committee

New Member Day! – On Sunday, January 28, May Memorial will welcome new members into our congregation. If you would like to join May Memorial, please let Pastor Michael know, or the church office.

Prayer Request

Please add the following person to the May Memorial Prayer List:

Are you receiving the May Memorial e-mails or mailings?

Several e-mails are sent from the church office weekly including the church's newsletter, the May Memorial Messenger, as well as other important weekly church family updates. Please sign up here if you would like to be added to the email list and start receiving these messages.

Name _____

E-mail _____

May Memorial is a wonderful church family that provides opportunities for people of all ages to pursue their faith story through Worship, Spiritual Formation, Missions, and Fellowship.

We welcome children of all ages in worship with their families. There is a nursery provided as well as children's church. All our children's workers have undergone screening and background checks.

We thank you for choosing to worship with us today. We pray for God's blessing on you and your family.