



MERRY

Christmas

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



Christmas Worship
Sunday, December 24th, 2023

Rev. Leon Perry, III ~ Senior Pastor



Merry Christmas, Metropolitan!

Dear Metropolitan Community Church Family:

What a blessing it is to celebrate my Christmas season with my Metropolitan faith family. I am privileged to be your pastor, and I feel incredibly blessed and honored to serve Jesus. My heart is filled with joy as we prepare to celebrate, once again, the birth of the Christ Child. I know this year has been filled with difficulty on so many levels for so many people. However, these challenging times have also provided us with the opportunity to exercise our faith. We have witnessed acts of profound kindness. We have helped and taken care of each other. We have proven to be incredibly adaptable, flexible, and resilient.

My friends, God has and will continue to help us through as his promise is fulfilled with our Christmas Hope, Jesus! I am eager to see what God has in store for us in the new year. Our lives and ministries will continue to transform in ways we could never imagine.

I am grateful for all the ways you support the ministries of Metropolitan and pray that you will continue to do so with your prayers, presence, service, and gifts in 2024. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

May Christ abide in your hearts always!

Reverend Leon Perry, III

Order of Worship

Processional

Call to Worship

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Scripture Reading

John 1:1-14

Invocation

Congregational Song

"Jesus, The Light of The World"

Prayers of Intercession

Sermonic Selection

Sermon

"The Word Became Flesh"

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Worship Through Giving

Christmas Poinsettias Tributes

Closing Song

"Joy To The World"

Benediction and Threefold Amen

Recessional

Call to Worship - Psalm 100

1 Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. 2 Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. 3 Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. 4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. 5 For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

Welcome to Metropolitan Community Church

Children of God: Welcome!

Welcome to this place of love and grace,

Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.

God invites all of us to be a part of the beloved community,

God invites all of us to share in the good news:

We are welcome, just as we are. We are loved, just as we are.

In gratitude for all of this, let us worship God.

What Is the Candle of Love for Advent Week 4? What Is the Christ Candle?

We cannot be Christians without Christ and without love.

Otherwise, our works and our purpose on earth are for nothing.

We need Christ and Christ's love to share the Good News of salvation throughout the earth.

Christ connects all the Advent candles. Through him, we can have hope, peace, joy, and love. Without him, why have any of those things? Christ steps down into darkness to light the world (John 8:12). Because of him, we can be a light unto others, showing them the true meaning of Christmas.

**O God, we light the fourth candle of Advent.
We hear your angel Gabriel and witness the faith of Mary.
Fill us with your grace and light.**

Rejoice, people of God! The light has come into the world.

O God, now we light the candle of your nativity!

Scripture Reading: John 1:1–14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was with God in the beginning. **3** Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. **4** In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. **6** There was a man sent from God whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. **8** He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. **9** The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. **11** He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— **13** children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. **14** The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Invocation

Heavenly Father, the whole meaning of Christmas can be explained in one little four-letter word...LOVE. You sent your gift of pure love to us that first Christmas. Love descended from heaven to be born of a virgin. Love lay in the scratchy hay of a manger in a meager barn in Bethlehem. All of your love, God, was robed in the delicate skin of a baby and wrapped in swaddling clothes. This final week of Advent helps us to reflect on the magnitude of love that was made manifest in Jesus.

You are King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Messiah, and Ruler of All, yet you came not as a lion but as a lamb. You came as an innocent baby whose purpose was to walk this earth in complete love and then to sacrificially give your life as an atonement for the sins of your children. Emmanuel. God with us. Love in the form of a man.

Congregational Hymn: “Jesus, The Light of The World”

1 Hark! the herald angels sing.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Glory to the newborn King,
Jesus, the light of the world.

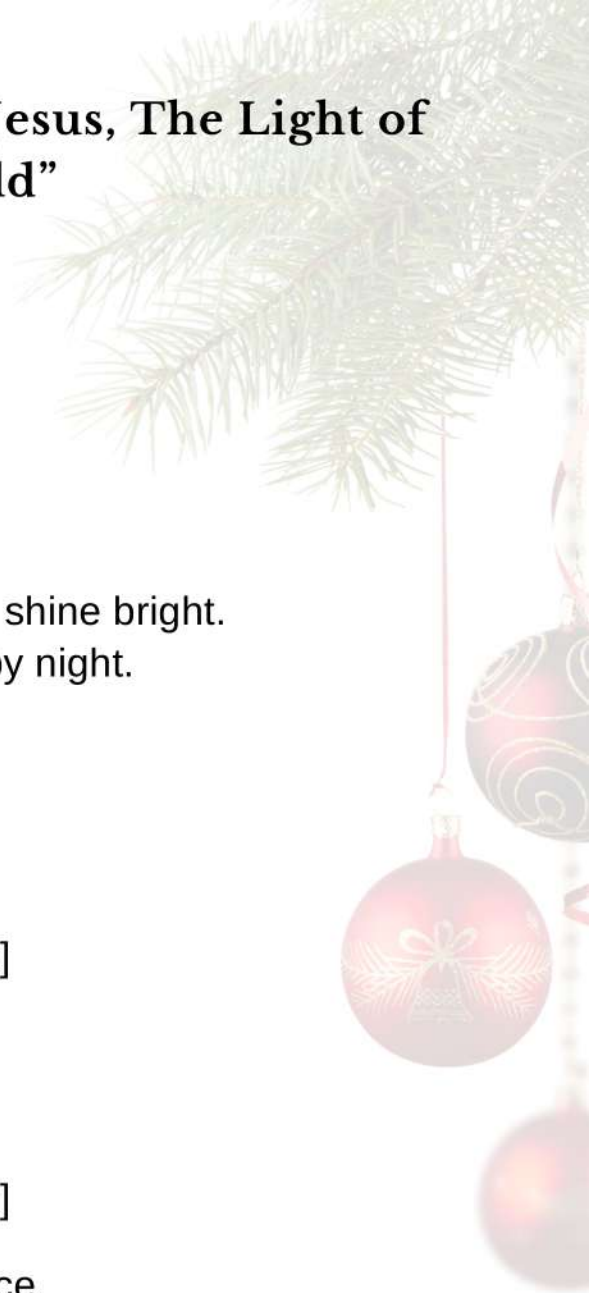
Refrain:

We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
Oh, shine all around us by day and by night.
Jesus, the light of the world.

2 Joyful, all you nations, rise.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Join the triumph of the skies.
Jesus, the light of the world. [Refrain]

3 Christ, by highest heav'n adored.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Jesus, the light of the world. [Refrain]

4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Hail, the Sun of righteousness!
Jesus, the light of the world. [Refrain]



Prayers of Intercession

Sermonic Selection

Sermon

“The Word Became Flesh”

Rev. Leon Perry, III

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Worship Through Giving

Compassionate Father, thank you that you are our strength and our song, you fill our hearts with joy. May we give our offerings to you with gladness and joy. Everything we have belongs to you and we rejoice to give some of your abundant gifts back to you. Bless the tithes and offerings we give today. Let the majesty of the Father be the light that guides us, the compassion of the Son be the love that inspires us and the presence of the Spirit be the power that empowers us. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen

Christmas Poinsettias Tributes

Closing Song: “Joy To The World”

Joy to the World, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the World, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

Joy to the World, the Lord is come!

Benediction and Threefold Amen

Recessional

2023

Christmas Poinsettias Tributes

Judith Bell

In Honor of Gus and June Jones

Yvonne Bryant

**In memory of my parents, Joseph & Pearl Bryant
and my grandparents, Eugene & Daisy Allen**

Dorothy Cole-Gary

In Memory of Florence McCoy

Nefertari Cutler

In Honor of my Mother, Dorries Hailey

Shirlene Daniels

**In Memory of my Mother, Doris Smith and Father,
William Daniels**

Patricia Flakes

In Memory of my Mother, Bernice H. Evans

Karen Hannsberry

**In Memory of E. Mildred Henderson and Mitzi
Slack Reid
In Honor of Theresa Burroughs and Veronica
Mosley-Raggs**

Tracey Johnson

In Memory of my Mother, Dolores Johnson

Patricia Lenear

In Memory of Lela and Julius Gater

James Lexsee

In Memory of Isabella Lexsee and Martha Watkins

2023

Christmas Poinsettias Tributes

Sylvia Mandeville

In Memory of Eugene Mandeville, David C. Mandeville, Sr., and Martha C. Dial

Elaine Mann

In Memory of Patricia Mann, William Mann and Margaret Mann

Loretta Moppins

In Memory of Dolores Elliott

Chandra Nicks

In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Adell Nicks, Prince Smoot, Jr., and Bobby Simmons

Pastor Leon Perry, III

**In Memory of my Beloved Parents, Ruben & Dorothy Pace, Leon, Jr. & Letrice Perry
In Memory of my Beloved Uncle, Joseph Mosely
In Memory of Felecia Robinson and Nicholas Robinson
In Honor of Dolores J. Elliott & Gloria Stratton
In Appreciation of My Sister, Ronie & Brother, Gary Bell
In Appreciation of My Cousins, Veronica Mosely-Raggs & Veronica Ramey**

Lori Reavley

In Memory of William & Annie Oats

Brenda Ross

In Memory of Yvette Barfield and Jeanette Sutton

Ruth Simplins

In Memory of Willa Ross, Mother and Mason N. Simpkins, Husband

2023

Christmas Poinsettias Tributes

Frank Smith

In Memory of Susie Stokes

**Minister Darnette
Solomon**

In Honor of Dorothy Scott

Bernard Stinson

In Memory of Rochelle Stinson

Carolyn Terry

In Memory of OC & Marie Buckner

Janice Thomas

In Honor of my Father, Willie L. Green

Helena Wiley

In Memory of Mary Ann Peterson

Paulette Wilson

**In Honor of my Loving Parents, Ellen & Rupert
Wilson.**

**In Memory of my Wonderful and Loving Husband,
Mitchel Melson, Jr.**

Marshall Wright

**In Memory of John Hart & Margaret Lexsee
In Memory of Ellis McInnis & Ernestine Gilliam
In Memory of Martha Hilliard and Frank Clay
In Honor of Elsie Harrison and Marcella Wright**

MaryE Young

**In Memory of Claudia Johnson and Lorenzo
Young**



HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

REVEREND LEON PERRY, III
SENIOR PASTOR

Are you ready?



2024
**THE
YEAR
OF THE
OPEN
DOOR**

"I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name." (Revelation 3:8)

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

WAYS TO GIVE

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

-2 Corinthians 9:6-7

1

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2

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AND DROP OFF FOR YOU) IN THE
MAILBOX LOCATED ON THE
FRONT OF THE CHURCH**

4

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AND FOLLOW THE LINK**

#WEARETHECHURCH



**#MONEYISAKINGDOM
RESOURCE**



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