

Mark Your Calendars:

# Advent

Sunday, December 16, 3:00pm

**Christmas Cantata presented by the Chancel Choir**



*Christmas Cantata*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 3:00PM**

**Church of the Palms  
1960 N. Swinton Avenue, Delray Beach**

**“What Sweeter Music:  
A Festival of Carols”  
by Mark Hayes**

*... a feast of fifteen Christmas carols plus new songs  
from the pen of one of this generation’s master  
composers.*

**Reception follows**

*No tickets or admission charge; there will be a free*

Sunday, December 23, 10am


**A special service of Advent Carols and Lessons**

Monday, December 24, Christmas Eve

**6:30pm Christmas Chorale presented by the Chancel Choir**

**7:00pm Christmas Eve Service of Candlelight and Communion**

# Peace

The image features two tall, slender purple candles with bright yellow flames, standing upright. They are set against a deep red background. The base of the candles is decorated with a lush arrangement of green pine needles, gold-colored leaves, and small white flowers. The overall scene is festive and evocative of the Christmas season.

*Glory to GOD in  
the highest, and on earth peace,  
good will towards men.*

# Church of the Palms

## United Church of Christ

*Where faith happens and love abounds*

1960 N. Swinton Avenue  
Delray Beach, Florida 33444  
561.276.6347 + [www.churchofthepalms.net](http://www.churchofthepalms.net)



Sunday, December 9, 2018 + 10:00 am  
*Second Sunday of Advent*

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,  
No matter who you love, you are welcome here!*



**Visitors are a special blessing!** *Please sign our Guest Book, located in the back of the sanctuary. If you would like to receive our newsletters and weekly emails, include your email address. And join us after worship for conversation and refreshments in the Friendship Center.*



To enhance your worship experience...

- Kindly silence your cell phone in the sanctuary
- Back cushions are available in the back pew or ask an usher
- A hearing loop encircles the sanctuary for those with hearing aids
- There are no assigned seats – sit where you feel most comfortable
- If you do not wish to keep your bulletin, please place it in the recycle box as you exit to Friendship Center
- Let us know what we can do for you!

**Nursery Care** is available for infants and toddlers in the education building. Ask an usher for assistance. **Sunday School** classes meet in the Education Building following the Children's Conversation.

**Prayer Requests** may be submitted using a form in the pew rack and placing it on the offering plate. Requests are at Prayer Ministry Gatherings on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month, 10:30am. Requests may also be called in to the Church Office during the week.

## THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

**Office Hours** this week are Tuesday - Friday- 9AM-1PM.  
Pastor Brad will be in on Monday and Thursday.

**New Beginnings Round 2** is today at 11:30 AM in Friendship Center.

**Leadership Council** meets tomorrow at 11 AM in the Church volunteer office.

**Women's Fellowship Special Meeting** is Tuesday at 11 AM in Fellowship Hall.

**Bible Study** is Thursday at 10:30 AM in Fellowship Hall.

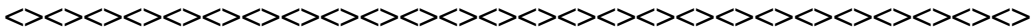
**Deadline** to order Poinsettias is December 12<sup>th</sup>. See Bulletin Insert.

**Deadline** for *City of Delray Holiday Toy Drive* is December 17<sup>th</sup>. Board games and balls (basketball, baseball, kickball, etc.) are requested. Collection bin is at the back of the sanctuary.

**Stewardship Pledge Cards** are available on the back table. If you have not returned your pledge of support for 2019, please do so as soon as possible.

**2019 Offering Envelops** for those who ordered them are located on the table at the back of the sanctuary. If you are interested in ordering envelops, please complete the form located on the table.

**Volunteers** are needed to serve as liturgists, ushers, greeters, and Communion servers. Sign up at the back of the church.



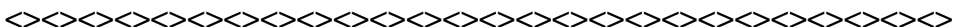
### PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Rev. Brad S. Lutz, M.Div., Designated Term Pastor

Ed Krynicki, Director of Music

Elaine Reinhardt, Pianist

Charles Mory, Liturgist



**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**God of hopeful waiting,**

**we give thanks for all of the ways in which you reveal yourself to us.**

**Help us to clear away the many distractions of this season**

**and offer our whole lives as gifts to you.**

**May these offerings nurture all of the ways**

**in which your promise is breaking into the world in acts of compassion  
and justice.**

**May these gifts nurture your rule of peace. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #121**

*Toda la Tierra (All Earth is Waiting)*

**\*Sending and Blessing**

**Postlude**

*Angels We Have Heard On High*

arr: Bock

*You are invited to exit quietly or remain seated during  
the postlude to enjoy a last moment of worship.*



# SERVICE OF THE WORD

*\*please stand in body or spirit*

## Welcome and Life of the Church

**Prelude** *All Creatures of Our God and King* arr. Innes/Fasig  
*(You are encouraged to use this time for prayer & meditation.  
In respect for others, please refrain from unnecessary conversation.)*

**Choral Introit** *Come, O Long-Expected Jesus* Stuttgart

## Lighting of Advent Candles: Hope, Peace

**One:** The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.  
**Many:** **We are easily distracted by the darkness of force and power  
and we often choose strife and turmoil.**  
**All:** **Source of light, shine in our lives and in your world with your  
everlasting peace.**

## Response #756 (*sung by all, 3X*)

**Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!**

## Call To Worship (*based on Luke 1:68-79*)

**One:** Christ is coming!  
**Many:** **Valleys will be filled and mountains will be made low!**  
**One:** Christ is coming!  
**Many:** **The crooked shall be made straight and the rough ways will be  
made smooth!**  
**One:** Christ is coming!  
**Many:** **All flesh shall see the salvation of God!**  
**One:** Siblings in Christ, we have work to do.  
**Many:** **Let us prepare the way of the Lord.**  
**One:** Come, let us worship God.

**\*Gathering Hymn #115**

*The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore*



### **\*Gathering Prayer**

One: Christ is with us!

**All: Christ is in our midst!**

One: Let us pray:

**All: God of Peace,**

**still our hearts this morning**

**as we gather to prepare the way for your Child.**

**Help us let go of what is weighing us down**

**and open our arms to welcome Emmanuel. Amen.**

### **\*Prayer of Jesus** (*trespasses*)

#### **Anthem**

*Every Valley*

arr: Hayes

Let every valley be lifted up, and every mountain and hill made low, and the crooked be made straight, and the rough places plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together; For the mouth of the Lord, for the mouth of the Lord, yes, the mouth of the Lord has spoken. Let every valley be lifted up, and every mountain and hill made low, and the crooked be made, crooked be made straight, and the rough places plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together; For the mouth of the Lord, for the mouth of the Lord, yes, the mouth of the Lord has spoken. The Lord has spoken. Amen!

### **Children's Conversation**

Song: **To be like Jesus, to be like Jesus! My desire to be like Jesus!**

**All through life's journey from earth to glory, My desire to be like Jesus.**

## **Prayer for Understanding**

### **Reading of the Scripture**

Epistle                      Philippians 1:3-11

Gospel                      Luke 3:1-6

### **Response** (Tune *Munich*, #315)

**O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of clouded sky:  
We praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,  
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.**

### **Reflections on the Scripture**      *Prepare the Way*

### **Hymn #146** *Nu Oli (Glad Tidings)*

### **Prayers of the People and Response** (Tune: *St. Louis*, #133)

**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!**

### **Invitation to the Offering**

### **Offertory**

*The First Noel*

arr: Pollock

### **\*An Advent Doxology**

**Hope in the God who reigns above, who holds us all in steadfast love;  
whose spirit blows across the earth, preparing us for second birth.**