

**ADVENT
PROCESSIONAL
WITH
CHAMBER SINGERS -**

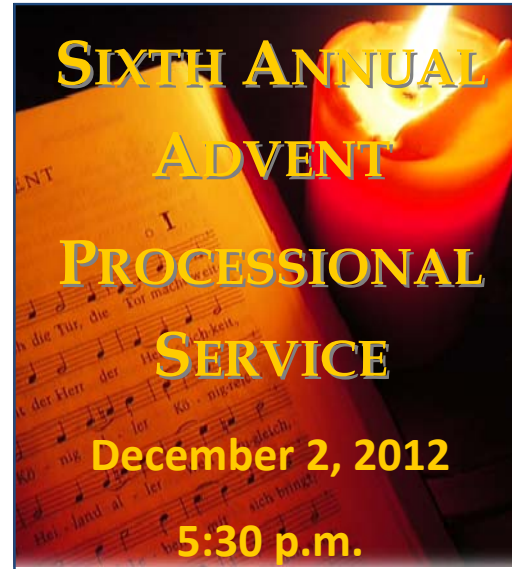
One Service...
Three Locations.

The sixth annual Advent Processional is one of the year's most dramatic and solemn services. Words and music focus on Advent, preparing for Christ's coming. Please join us today at St. Matthew's Episcopal at 5:30 p.m. From there we will process to First Presby-



terian and then to First UMC. The Chamber Singers of Christ Church in Memphis will again lead the music. Potluck chili fellowship meal will follow.

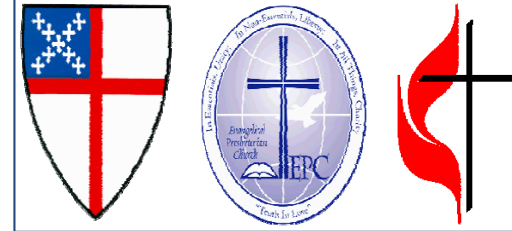
If you have volunteered to bring chili, please deliver it to the FUMC kitchen between 4:45 p.m. and 5:15 p.m.



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GREETINGS FROM CHRIST CHURCH CHAMBER SINGERS

Dear friends,

We are delighted to join you again for this year's Advent Processional Service on December 2, at 5:30 p.m. Here is a brief synopsis of the pieces we will be singing.



The introit for the evening, *When Came in Flesh*, is based on a hymn text by Joseph Anstice (1808-1836) and outlines some of the major themes of Advent. Most noticeable is the contrast between those who are prepared to welcome the coming Christ and those who are not. The music's unadorned melody and sparse accompaniment bid us to give sober consideration to the nature of our expectant waiting. Next follows a joyful setting of scripture, *Lo, in the Time Appointed*, which draws largely from the prophet Isaiah and suggests that nature itself will greet Christ's coming with singing. The next anthem, *Creator of the Stars at Night*, is a modern setting of one of the oldest of Advent texts and tunes dating from the 7th century. Using metaphors favored by the Gospel of John, the work references Christ as the *logos* (creative word) of creation and then describes the struggle between light and darkness. The delicate piano accompaniment is star-light in its effect. The beautiful southern hymn, *My Song In The Night*, follows. In its haunting plea for Christ's presence we hear an appropriate confessional tone. It should be noted that Advent is a penitential season like Lent; herein lies the use of the liturgical color purple in both seasons. The service ends with an anonymous text, *Thou Shalt Know Him*, which suggests that the most poignant recognition of Christ's coming is as close as the inner sanctuary of our own hearts.

We hope that you will be blessed by this music as much as we have been in preparing it.

May the light of Christ grow brighter in the midst of our worship together.

Perry Redfearn, Director
Christ Church Chamber Singers
Christ United Methodist Church

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