

WHITE MEMORIAL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 17, 2017
8:15, 9:30 & 11:00 A.M.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Greeting

Karl Zinsmeister

One: The joy of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us prepare for worship.

Preparation for Worship

Almighty God, you send your Son into a world where the wheat must be winnowed from chaff and wickedness clings even to what is good. Let the fire of your Spirit purge us of greed and deceit, so that, purified, we may find our peace in you and you may delight in us. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Gathering Hymns/Prelude - Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

(8:15 & 9:30) arr. M. Burkhardt; (11:00: sung) Michael Praetorius

Christian Welcome and Announcements

Judy Pidcock

Please pass the Friendship Register to your neighbor; include all requested information.

(8:15) Ordination and Installation of Gary Pendleton, Deacon

Children through fifth grade will be invited forward for the lighting of the Advent wreath, after which they may return to their seats.

Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Candle

One: I am about to do a new thing, says the Lord.

All: God will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

One: O sing to the Lord a new song,

All: for God has done marvelous things.

Isaiah 43:19; Psalm 98:1

(lighting of Advent candle)

One: Let us pray.

All: Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night. Though dark the winter and cheerless, the rising sun shall crown you with light; be strong and loving and fearless. Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story; may God fill every day we share and bring us at last into glory. Amen.

Glory to God: Hymn 107, stanza 4

*Hymn 772 - Live into Hope

TRURO

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

In the name of Christ, hear this our confession: your prophets speak and we fail to answer. We poke holes in every text and we cast doubt upon the promises of your prophets. It is so easy to miss your movement in our midst and in our lives. But miss them we do: we are so busy and so distracted. Forgive us, we pray. Crash through the background noise of our culture and speak to us your prophetic word of hope which does not change. Remake us as we look for the birth of our Savior and wait for his love to overcome the earth. Amen.



The Stump of Jesse Linoleum block print by Elizabeth Steele Halstead. Reprinted by permission from *Visuals for Worship*, © 2006, Faith Alive Resources.

The Advent wreath is a well established Christian tradition in many churches and homes. Each candle represents one of the four Sundays of Advent and marks with its increasing light the coming of the light of Christ through the birth we celebrate on Christmas. Different groups and families in our church light the candles each week as an expression of the faith and gifts of our entire church family.

Have you ever bargained with God? Looked for loopholes in the law of God? Ignored the prophets' call to justice? Known what was right to do and ignored the call to do so? Such difficult questions are at the heart of this prayer today.

Isaiah 61 is repeated in the Gospel of Luke. It is Jesus who quotes this soaring text in Luke 4. As this text is read, listen to its amazing language and to Isaiah's vision of restoration for those who are living in the darkness of suffering. Isaiah 61 is a text worth of memorizing and reading over and over again.

ES IST EIN' ROS' is a very old and well-known Christmas carol, normally associated with the text of Isaiah 11. The version sung by the choirs today includes the first two stanzas from the hymnal.

The third Sunday of Advent is sometimes referred to as prophets' Sunday. Today we meet John the Baptist in the gospel of John. While Isaiah is the primary Old Testament prophet of messianic hope, John the Baptist is the prophetic voice of the New Testament. Listen closely as John points our gaze to the Messiah, that is Jesus, who is to come after him.



Bethlehem by Steve Erspamer

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Passing of the Peace**

***Gloria - Hymn 583**

Taizé

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!**

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Old Testament Lesson - Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

pew Bible, p. 650

Anthem

(9:30) *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

See Hymn 129.

(11:00) *Advent Celebration*

Mark Patterson (b. 1969)

Celebrate the coming of the King. Light the candles one by one, come share the joy he brings. Celebrate the coming of the King. Soon the child will reign among us, Jesus Christ, the promised one, Prince of peace, Messiah, God's own son. Celebrate the coming of the King! Come share the joy he brings. Hold fast, keep watch; great joy is coming. Look close, stay sharp; Christ is coming soon! Look to the heavens, follow the bright star shining in the dark of night. Soon we will find him born in a manger. He will bring us truth and light. Celebrate the coming of the King. Light the candles one by one, come share the joy he brings. Celebrate the coming of the King. Come share the joy he brings.

Combined Children's Choirs - Agnes Vaglio, director; Kirsten Homdrom, accompanist

New Testament Lesson - John 1:19-28

pew Bible, p. 86

(11:00) **A Time with the Younger Church**

Following our time together, children will return to their seats for the rest of the service.

Sermon - Taking the Prophets at Their Word

Christopher Edmonston

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***Hymn 96 - On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry**

WINCHESTER NEW

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

(8:15 & 11:00) Robert Galloway; (9:30) Grier Richards

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings and the Christmas Joy Offering

Offertory Anthem

(8:15) *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

See Hymn 129.

(9:30 & 11:00) *The Hills Are Bare at Bethlehem*

Robert Scholz (b. 1939)

The hills are bare at Bethlehem, no future for the world they show; yet here new life begins to grow, from earth's old dust a greenwood stem. Wondrous love. The stars are cold at Bethlehem, no warmth for those beneath the sky; yet here the radiant angels fly, and joy burns new, a fi'ry gem. The heart is tired at Bethlehem, no human dream unbroken stands; yet here God comes! What wondrous love is this, O my soul; yet here God comes to mortal hands, and hope renewed cries out: "Amen!" What wondrous love. Amen!

Ruth Mock, oboe; Georgia Schmidt, violin

***Offertory Response Hymn 852 - verse 3**

I'LL FLY AWAY

**When the Lord revives the world from death, we will rejoice.
When the word of God fills every breath, we will rejoice.
We will rejoice with gladness. We will rejoice.
All our days we'll sing to God in praise. We will rejoice!**

***ALL WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND.**

***Affirmation of Faith**

adapted from Romans 8

One: What then are we to say? If God is for us, who is against us?

All: Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For we are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

Hymn 384 - *Soon and Very Soon

SOON AND VERY SOON

***Charge and Benediction**

***Chiming of the Trinity**

The worship service ends with the Chiming of the Trinity.
Please be mindful of those who remain to listen to the postlude.

Postlude - Selections from *Variations on Awake, My Heart, with Gladness

Anne Krentz Organ (pub. 2014)

Greeters: 9:30 - Susie Jackson, Jane Jordan, Amy Leden, Brian Leden, Christian Fellowship Class, Senior High Class; 11:00 - Anne Boney, Diane Britt, Janie Chiles.

Ushers: 8:15 - Betsy Reade Creech, chair, Ann White, Jim Graham, Kristen Beightol, Mary Ward Boerner, Cary Eaton; 9:30 - Betsy Reade Creech, chair, Jim Umbdenstock, Sally Umbdenstock, Mark Vannoy, Bradley Vaughn, Jan Vaughn; 11:00 - Jane Elkins, Tom Elam, Carolyn Elliott, Tim Ellis, Holly Ferguson, John Ferguson.

Service Assistants: 9:30 - Abigail Robertson; 11:00 - Walker McDowell.

Treasurer's Assistants: Elizabeth Saylor, Wesley Jones.

Shuttle Driver: Mel Honeycutt.

Advent Wreath Lighters: 8:15 - Judy Pidcock and Jim Peterson; 9:30 - Nancy and Frank Baird, Bonnie and Matt Stabler, Jackson and Mary Stewart; 11:00 - Members of the Fifth Grade Sunday School Class.

The Advent Banner is a gift of the Sanctuary Choir in honor of Brock Downward, Director of Music Emeritus. It represents Hymn 348, *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending*.

Today we collect the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Christmas Joy Offering. The Christmas Joy Offering is shared equally by the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, which provides much-needed assistance to PC(USA) church workers and their families, and Presbyterian-affiliated racial ethnic schools and colleges, which enable students to develop their gifts and find their calling. Thank you for your gift and for your support.

Christmas Eve Bell Services

Join in the ringing of bells at one of our two Bell Services at 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. on December 24! Bring a bell to accompany the singing of carols. Enjoy the children's choirs, see and hear the Christmas story presented by the WMPC Puppeteers and worship with joy! No nursery is provided.

There's Still Time to Register for the Women's Retreat!

Register by January 5 for the Presbyterian Women's Retreat, January 26-28 in Pinehurst, NC! Join us as we explore *Forgiveness: Seeking Wholeness in a Broken World* with Anna Rainey Dickson. Visit whitememorial.org/pw to register.

Each week we affirm our faith in response to the word as it is read, sung, and preached. Our affirmation this week is from Romans 8, written by the Apostle Paul. This text from Romans is among the strongest affirmations of the power and wonder of Jesus. In its way, it sums up our hopes and expectations of the gift of Christ's birth, celebrated at Christmas.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

WELCOME TO WHITE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PC(USA)

We are glad you are worshipping with us.
Visiting? Stop by the Welcome Table in Jane Bell
Gathering Space for information, directions and a
friendly greeting. New members are received after a
one-day Beginnings Class.
Visit whitememorial.org/join
or contact Elizabeth Viohl at ext. 206
for details, class dates and registration.

THINGS TO KNOW:

- Shuttle buses run every Sunday at five- to ten-minute intervals, 8:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m., from Carolina Place, 2626 Glenwood Avenue, across from Glenwood Village Shopping Center.
- Restrooms are located in the Luther Building immediately behind the sanctuary/Jane Bell Gathering Space.
- Childcare is available for children up to four years old.
- Church School is offered at 9:30 a.m. for all ages.
- Refreshments are served in Carol Copeland Courtyard or Pickard Hall on Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
- The sanctuary has a loop hearing aid system and an FM system.
- Live-streamed services are at whitememorial.org.
- Radio, WPTF 680 AM, every other Sunday at 11:00 a.m.: today and December 31.
- Bulletins left in the sanctuary following worship services are recycled as part of our care for God's creation. WMPC is a certified Earth Care congregation of the PC(USA).
- We are a Stephen Ministry congregation.

PASTORAL & PROGRAM STAFF:

CHRISTOPHER EDMONSTON, PASTOR
CYNTHIA BAGGETT, DIR. OF WEEKDAY SCHOOL
JAMES BENTON, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
LAURA BOYD, DIR. OF HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY
GENEVIEVE BROOKS, DIR. OF MIDDLE SCHOOL
MINISTRY
TRACEY DANIEL, ASSOC. PASTOR FOR FAITH
FORMATION
BROCK DOWNWARD, DIR. OF MUSIC EMERITUS
JIM FERRY, INTERIM PARISH ASSOCIATE
GARY FULTON, ASSOC. PASTOR FOR
ADMINISTRATION AND OUTREACH
ROBERT GALLOWAY, PASTORAL RESIDENT
KIRSTEN HOMDROM, ASSOC. DIR. OF MUSIC
KATHY HOWELL, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
GLORIA JOHNSON, ASSOC. PASTOR FOR
COMMUNITY MINISTRY AND MISSIONS
PAGE KING, NURSERY COORDINATOR
LINDA NUNNALLEE, STEPUP DIRECTOR
JUDY PIDCOCK, PARISH ASSOC. FOR SENIOR ADULT
MINISTRY
CHIP POPE, ASSOC. PASTOR FOR YOUTH
AND THEIR FAMILIES
GRIER RICHARDS, ASSOC. PASTOR FOR
DISCIPLESHIP
RICH RICHARDS, ASSOC. DIR. OF MUSIC
ART ROSS, PASTOR EMERITUS
LYNN SPRINGFIELD, DIR. OF ELEMENTARY
MINISTRY
MARTHA STEVENSON, EDUCATOR EMERITA
AGNES VAGLIO, DIR. OF CHILDREN'S MUSIC
GWEN WHITEMAN, DIR. OF YOUNG CHILDREN'S
MINISTRY
JEAN WILLIAMS, PARISH NURSE
KARL ZINSMEISTER, DIR. OF MUSIC
PASTOR ON CALL: 919-605-4593

Sunday, December 17 *(Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; John 1:19-28)*

Advent III

Worship (8:15, 9:30, 11:00 a.m. - Sanctuary; 11:00 a.m. - OnPoint@1704, Pickard)

- 9:00 a.m. - Christmas Share (Connector)
- 9:30 a.m. - OnPoint House Band (Pickard)
Celebration of Christmas/Farewell to Laura Boyd (Geneva)
- 11:00 a.m. - Cancer Companions Alumnae Group (C203)
noon - Poinsettia Pick-up & Delivery to Shut-ins (Sacristy)
- 12:15 p.m. - Youth Sunday Meeting: Preachers (C200)
- 4:00 p.m. - Youth Choir (S300); Women's Retreat Committee (C301)
- 6:30 p.m. - Diaconate Meeting (K200)

Monday, December 18 *(Ps. 122; Zech. 1:7-17; Rev. 3:7-13; Matt. 24:15-31)*

- 8:00 a.m. - Poinsettia Pick-up & Delivery to Shut-ins (Sacristy)
- 9:15 a.m. - Toddler Open Gym/Worship (Pickard)
- 9:30 a.m. - Russia Sewing Group (C200)
- 5:00 p.m. - Serve Dinner at Salvation Army (Off Site)
- 5:30 p.m. - T'ai Chi for Exercise (Pickard)
- 6:30 p.m. - Not a Silent Night: Mary Looks Back to Bethlehem (C301)
- 7:00 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous (C100)
- 8:00 p.m. - Adult Basketball (Pickard)

Tuesday, December 19 *(Ps. 33; Zech. 2:1-13; Rev. 3:14-22; Matt. 24:32-44)*

- 7:00 a.m. - Men's/Women's Breakfast Bible Study (Geneva/K100)
- 8:00 a.m. - Poinsettia Pick-up & Delivery to Shut-ins (Sacristy)
- 8:30 a.m. - Keenagers Golden Years Breakfast (Raleigh Convention Center)
- 10:00 a.m. - Not a Silent Night: Mary Looks Back to Bethlehem (C301)
- 3:00 p.m. - Labyrinth Open for Walking (Chapel)
- 5:45 p.m. - StepUp Ministry Holiday Party (Pickard)
- 6:00 p.m. - Centering Prayer (W400)

Wednesday, December 20 *(Ps. 50; Zech. 3:1-10; Rev. 4:1-8; Matt. 24:45-51)*

- 8:00 a.m. - Clothing Closet (W100)
- 9:30 a.m. - Bible Belles (Off Site)
- 10:00 a.m. - Building Committee (W400)
- 4:30 p.m. - Carol Choir (L304); Joyful Noise Choir (S300); Cherub Choir (L311)
- 5:00 p.m. - Wednesdays Together Dinner (Pickard)
- 5:30 p.m. - Widows of White Memorial (Geneva)
- 6:15 p.m. - Nursery for Advent Worship (L102)
- 6:30 p.m. - Advent Midweek Service (Chapel)
- 7:00 p.m. - Young Adult Bible Study (C102); Disciple 1 (K307); OnPoint House Band (K100)
- 8:00 p.m. - Al-Anon (C100)

Thursday, December 21 *(Ps. 18:1-20; Zech. 4:1-14; Rev. 4:9-5:5; Matt. 25:1-13)*

- 8:00 a.m. - Labyrinth Open for Walking (Chapel)
- 9:30 a.m. - Thursday Morning Bible Study (W400); T'ai Chi for Exercise (C200)
- 7:30 p.m. - Webelo Scouts (K304-307); Sanctuary and Chancel Choirs (S300)

Friday, December 22 *(Ps. 102; Zech. 7:8-8:8; Rev. 5:6-14; Matt. 25:14-30)*

- 8:00 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous (C100)

Saturday, December 23 *(Ps. 90; Zech. 8:9-17, Rev. 6:1-17; Matt. 25:31-46)*