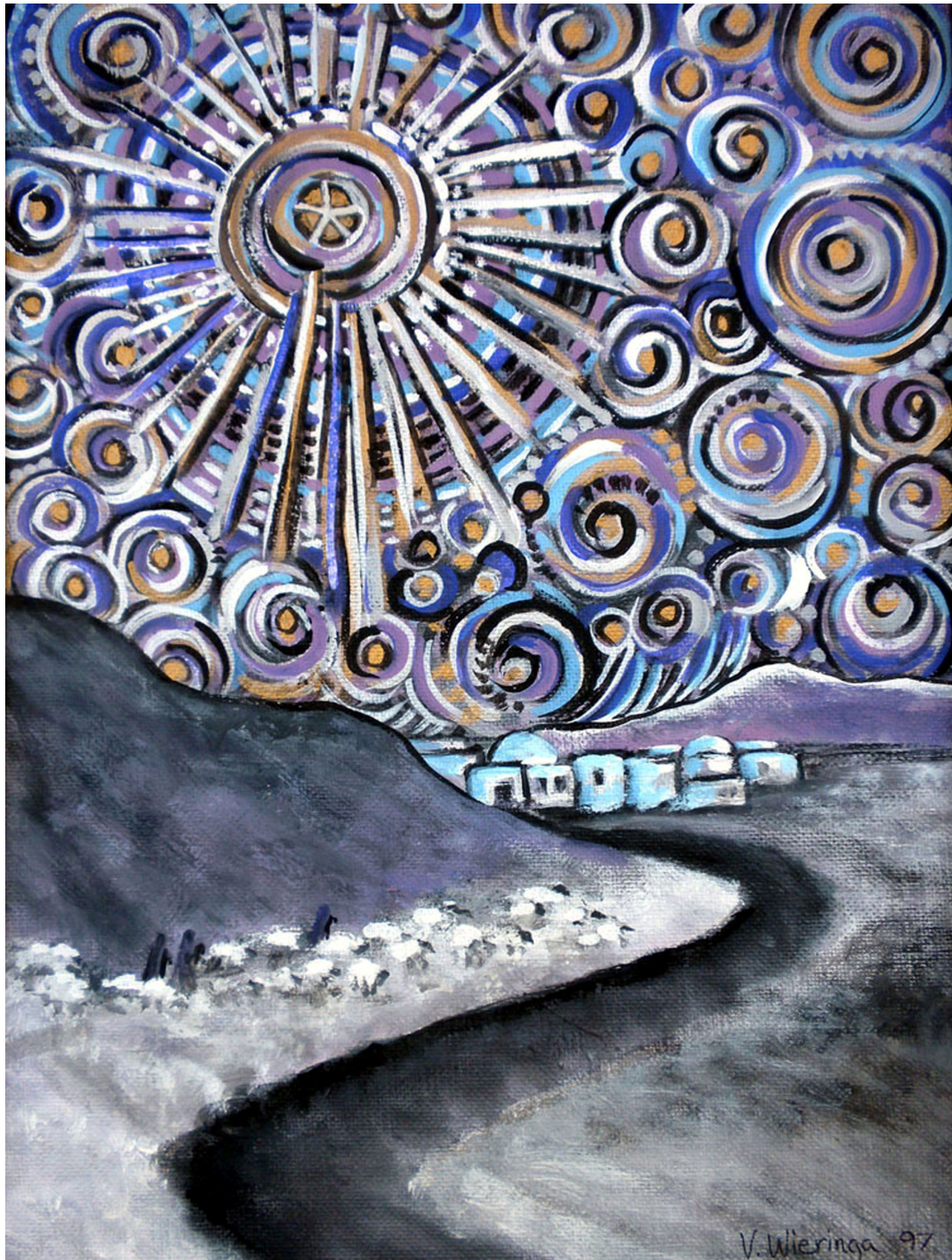


# Journey to Bethlehem



## Advent 2019

December 1 - December 22

8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m. | Sanctuary

# Journey to Bethlehem

Journeys may be long. Or they may be short. Either way, it has been said that every journey has three parts: beginning, middle, and end. Each is important. No journey is successful or complete, without all three parts completed.

The journey to Bethlehem is the most important journey ever taken. Joseph and Mary journey from north to south in ancient Israel to the hometown of their ancestors. They strike out because they are under orders of an immense scale.

The Roman Empire has ordered them (along with the ancient world) to be counted in a census. They are on the move because Rome and her Emperor has said "move."

As if Rome weren't powerful enough, Mary is also following the command of God who has charged her to give birth to the Messiah. All pregnancies move along something like a journey -- every baby and mother are on a journey together.

Under two sets of traveling orders, the journey to Bethlehem is not one of choice but of circumstance.

Long ago the holy family must have seemed like just another couple on their census hike -- so average on the outside that the Romans would have let them pass under their noses.

Advent is a journey and one we need to notice. First we journey with Joseph, and Mary, and Jesus. Once on the path, we realize they are not alone and so we note that we journey also with God. But the fullness of the Advent journey is realized when we admit that we are not passive observers on the road watching them plod by; not at all. The fullness is realized when we admit that we need Bethlehem as much as they do. We need hope to be born. We need the journey to end and end with a baby born and a star in the sky. We need a Messiah. Advent, which is like a beginning and a middle, needs its end.

Otherwise the journey cannot be completed. "Come Lord Jesus!," we say with the saints of light. Come, and let us journey together to Bethlehem. For Bethlehem is an end to our longings, and the beginning of our faith.



Christopher Edmonston  
Pastor

## ADVENT 2019 SERVICES

First Sunday of Advent: Hope .....	3
December 1	
Second Sunday of Advent: Peace .....	7
December 8	
Third Sunday of Advent: Joy .....	11
December 15	
Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love .....	15
December 22	

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover image ADVENT STARRY NIGHT 1 ©1997,  
Virginia Wieringa, [virginiawieringa.com](http://virginiawieringa.com)  
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**In the artist's own words: I have devoted time since retirement to developing my own artistic voice** after years of teaching art to others. I feel blessed to be able to spend time on this creative and contemplative journey. My work is a visual response to faith, the mysteries of life and the world God created.

While studying Vincent van Gogh's Starry Night, I found myself wondering what the stars looked like on the night Jesus was born. In 1997 I did ADVENT STARRY NIGHT 1 as a small painting of the stars over Bethlehem. Since then I've done many variations thinking of the all the miracles that came together that worked toward our salvation. To see more of my work, visit my website: [virginiawieringa.com](http://virginiawieringa.com).

Journey to Bethlehem 20c. (page 3)

Russian Orthodox icon 20c. (page 7)

Annunciation of Mary  
by Nicolas Poussin, 1657 (page 11)

St. Anne and the Christ Child  
by George de la Tour, 17c. (page 15)



# Hope

*Bless sojourners and pilgrims who share this winding way;  
your hope burns through the terrors, your love sustains the day.*

(Sylvia G. Dunstan; an excerpt from our opening response as we light the first candle of Advent)



Today we begin a new liturgical year. In the three-year cycle of the Revised Common Lectionary we return to Year A which features the gospel of Matthew.

There are many themes and ideas that represent Advent: prophecy of a Messiah to come, a people waiting in darkness, longing for salvation. While the world around us promotes the message that “Christmas” is already here, the church offers a counter view: Advent is a time of preparation and progression. We begin by lighting one candle; then two; then three... the light grows as our anticipation of fulfilled promises strengthens. We display one Advent banner today, *HOPE*, and will add another, then another; our appointments to the Sanctuary increase from week to week, starting with wreaths, then garlands, then poinsettia. These visual signs show us a progression on our Advent journey, a journey to Bethlehem. How can we arrive at our destination if there is no journey? Let us walk together this Advent. Walk with us in the worship on Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings in the chapel, or other Advent services, events, and recognitions. Come with us as we journey to Bethlehem.

Listen for the word “hope” today. How does it resonate in each context it is spoken, sung, or prayed? What other words shared communicate hope? How might a renewed sense of hope guide and direct your life today and this week?

Our opening hymn, *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*, refers to Jesus’ birth (*born to set thy people free*) and to his second coming (*raise us to thy glorious throne*). This later eschatological view of Christ coming again is described in today’s gospel lesson from Matthew. The tune of *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* is used for our communion response “... at table we taste bread and wine...” and serves as a Memorial Acclamation. Celebrating the sacrament, the redeeming work of the table, this First Sunday of Advent is in a word, hope.

## WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper.

\*PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE.

### Greeting

Karl Zinsmeister

*One: May the hope of our Lord, Jesus Christ be with you all.*

**All: And also with you.**

*One: Let us prepare for worship.*

### Preparation for Worship

The world says, "All is lost." God says, "All is loved." The darkness says, "The light is dying." The light says, "The fire is catching." Fear says, "Cover your eyes and your ears." Hope says, "Wait, watch, and listen." As we light our first Advent candle, we pray for holy hope of God. Come now, O Child of Mary. Come now, O Prince of Hope. Amen.

### Prelude - PICARDY

arr. Craig Phillips (b. 1961)

### Christian Welcome and Announcements

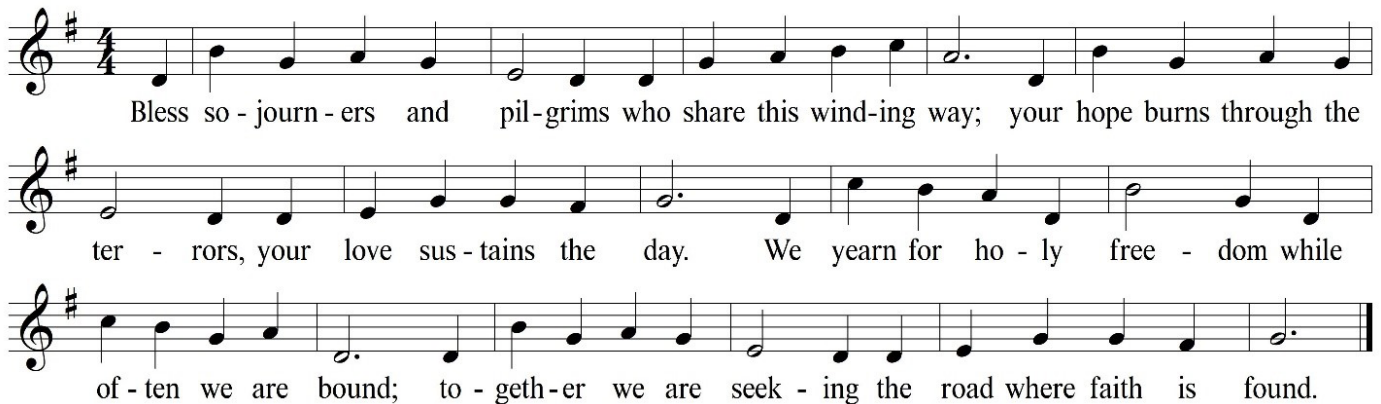
Andrew Amodei

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

### Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

(all singing)

tune: MERLE'S TUNE; text: S. G. Dunstan



*One: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."*

**All: Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

*One: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you."*

**All: For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good. (Psalm 122:1, 6, 9)**

*One: Faithful God,*

*your promises stand unshaken through all generations.*

*Renew us in hope,*

*that we may be awake and alert*

*watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ,*

*our judge and savior,*

*who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,*

*one God, forever and ever.*

**All: Amen.**

### \*Hymn 83 - Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

STUTTGART

### \*Prayer of Confession

Long ago the prophet Isaiah said, "In days to come the Lord's house shall be established and shall be raised above the hills; and all the nations shall stream to it." Knowing that this was your dream, we confess that we have failed to follow your path. We usually lack the faith to follow. Our eyes grow

(continued)



tired and we stop looking to the hills for your promise of grace. Distracted, we lose our way. God of Advent grace and Christmas joy, we confess our sin before you. In the name of your promised Son, forgive our sin and set us on right paths. In the name of Jesus, hear our prayer. Amen.

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

*One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*

**All: And also with you.**

**\*Response - Come with me**

words and music: South African traditional



Come with me for the jour-ney is long, come with me for the jour-ney is long.

Jour-ney, the jour-ney, the jour-ney is long, the jour-ney, the jour-ney, the jour-ney is long.

**WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

**(11:00) Sacrament of Baptism**

Wyatt Liam Colby, child of Gracie and Jeff Colby

**Old Testament Lesson** - Isaiah 2:1-5

pew Bible, p. 594

**New Testament Lesson** - Matthew 24:36-44

pew Bible, p. 26

**(11:00) A Time with Young Disciples**

Following our time together, four year-olds through second graders will meet with Caroline Britt at the door near the baptismal font, to be joined by Diane Britt from the OnPoint service, for Worship Enrichment in L201.

**Sermon** - *Journey to Bethlehem: Staying Awake for Hope*

Christopher Edmonston

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

Tracey Daniel

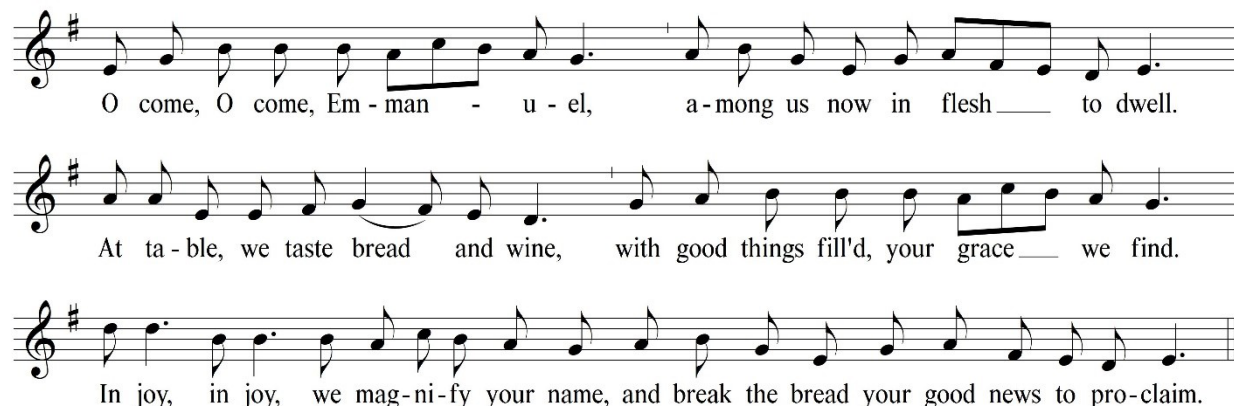
**Invitation to the Table**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Words of Institution**

**Memorial Acclamation (all singing):**

VENI EMMANUEL



O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, a-mong us now in flesh \_\_\_\_ to dwell.

At ta - ble, we taste bread and wine, with good things fill'd, your grace \_\_\_\_ we find.

In joy, in joy, we mag-ni-fy your name, and break the bread your good news to pro-claim.

**Serving of Bread and Cup**

## Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

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

### Offertory Anthem - *Let All Mortal Flesh*

arr. John Ferguson (b. 1941)

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand Christ our God to earth descending comes our homage to demand. King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood, Lord of lords in human vesture, in the body and the blood, he will give to all the faithful his own self for heav'nly food. Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way; as the light of light descending from the realms of endless day, that the pow'rs of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away. At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the presences, as with ceaseless voice they cry: Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord most high!*

### \*Affirmation of Faith

from the *Presbyterian Church (USA) Study Catechism*

*One: What does it mean to say that Jesus Christ is the image of God?*

**All: Despite our turning from God, God did not turn from us but instead sent Jesus Christ in the fullness of time to restore our broken humanity. Jesus lived completely for God, by giving himself completely for us, even to the point of dying for us. By living so completely for others, he manifested what he was — the perfect image of God. When by grace we are conformed to him through faith, our humanity is renewed according to the divine image that we lost. This is our faith and our trust. We journey to Bethlehem to see the light of Christ.**

## WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

### \*Hymn 102 - *Savior of the Nations, Come*

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

### \*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 - *Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661*

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

\*\*\*

For a listing of those helping with worship today please refer to page 19.



# Peace



Our Prelude picks up where we left off at the end of Advent 1, using another setting of *Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland* to set the tone. As we call ourselves to worship, we remember the words of Psalm 72. It is a power-source for justice. Today, Advent 2, is traditionally focused upon peace. The Psalm serves as a reminder that where the justice of God is known, the peace of God is sure to follow. If Advent is about nothing else, it is about our commitment to give witness to the promised peace of Christ.

Confession of sin is hardly anyone's favorite part of authentic worship. There are many things we would rather do. In our tradition, confession is both individual and corporate. Meaning that we also confess on behalf of our community, our nation, or even our world. As Advent Two calls us to peace, we must take stock and confess the violence which frames far too many of our lives.

Today, we read Isaiah 11, one of the most beloved of all our Advent readings. It is known the world over for good reason. Christians believe that these words refer to Jesus even while they have many layers of meaning. As you listen today, note how the prophet lays promise upon promise upon promise. How great is the promise of God's Son: "the earth shall be as full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters that cover the sea."

In Matthew, John the Baptist was a fighter -- at least in a certain sense of the word. It may seem a strange pairing on this Sunday in which we focus upon peace, but it is a reminder that peace is always a struggle. Peace takes courage. Peace takes witness. In the New Testament, John's witness is second only to that of Jesus himself.

## WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

\*PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE.

### Greeting

Kirsten Homdrom

*One: May the peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ be with you all.*

**All: And also with you.**

*One: Let us prepare for worship.*

### Preparation for Worship

A voice cries out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord." A choir sings in the silence, "Come, Emmanuel." Every valley shall be filled. Every heart shall be made whole, for peace is stronger than turmoil, and love is louder than hate. As we light our second Advent candle, we pray for the holy peace of God. Come now, O Child of Mary. Come now, O Prince of Peace. Amen.

### Prelude - *Savior of the Nations, Come*

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637/39-1707)

### Christian Welcome and Announcements

Judy Yates Siker

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

### Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

(all singing)

tune: BEACH SPRING; text: R. Gillard



We are pil-grims on a jour-ney, we're to-geth-er on the road. We are here to help each  
oth-er walk the mile and bear the load. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the  
night-time of your fear. I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

*One: A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.*

**All: The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding.**

*One: The spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.*

**All: His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. (Isaiah 11:1-3)**

*One: God of all peoples,  
your servant John came baptizing  
and calling for repentance.  
Help us hear his voice of judgment,  
that we may also rejoice in his word of promise  
and be found pure and blameless in that glorious day  
when Christ comes to rule the earth as Prince of Peace.*

**All: Amen.**

### \*Hymn 373 - *O Day of Peace*

JERUSALEM



### **\*Prayer of Confession**

Hear our prayer, O Lord: we say we want peace, but we choose conflict. We say we long for peace, but look upon our neighbors with eyes of judgment. We declare we desire peace, but war rages upon the earth. Too many have died on our streets, in our work places, in our schools, and on battlefields. We throw ourselves upon your mountain of grace and pray that you will forgive us. Help us see a day when your children fight no more, and your dawn of peace breaks upon every shore. In the name of Jesus, guide our journeys to this far off land and shape us into the peacemakers that he called blessed. Amen.

### **\*Assurance of Pardon**

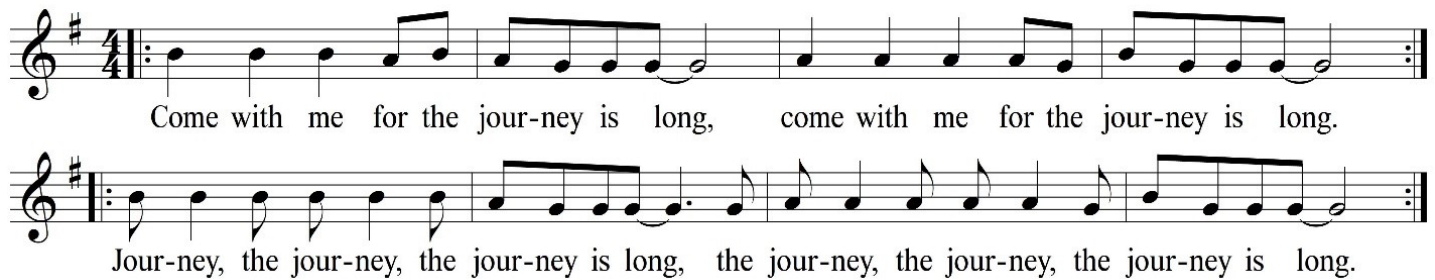
### **\*Passing of the Peace**

*One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*

**All: And also with you.**

### **\*Response - Come with me**

words and music: South African traditional



### **WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

### **Old Testament Lesson - Isaiah 11:1-10**

pew Bible, p. 602

### **Anthem – Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming**

Hugo Distler (1908-1942)

*Lo! How a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung, of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung. It came a flowret bright amid the cold of winter; when half spent was the night. Isaiah was foretold it, the rose I have in mind. With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind. To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior; when half spent was the night. This flow'r whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air dispels with glorious splendor the darkness ev'rywhere. True man yet very God! From sin and death he saves us and lightens ev'ry load.*

### **New Testament Lesson - Matthew 3:1-12**

pew Bible, p. 2

### **(11:00) A Time with Young Disciples**

Following our time together, four year-olds through second graders will meet with Cole Whitford at the door near the baptismal font, to be joined by Ashlyn Whitford from the OnPoint service, for Worship Enrichment in L201.

### **Sermon - Journey to Bethlehem: The Peace of Isaiah and the Fight of John**

Christopher Edmonston

### **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

### **\*Hymn 84 - Creator of the Stars of Night**

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

### **Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

Gloria Johnson

**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**

**Offertory Anthem - Prepare the Way**

arr. Allan Robert Petker

*Prepare the Way, O Zion; Your Christ is drawing near! Let every hill and valley a level way appear. Greet One who comes in glory, Foretold in sacred story. O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name. Christ brings God's rule, O Zion; He comes from heaven above. His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love. Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding. O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name. Fling wide Your gates, O Zion; Your Savior's rule embrace. And tidings of salvation proclaim in every place. All lands will bow rejoicing, Their adoration voicing. O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name!*

**\*Offertory Response Hymn 121 - stanza 3**

ST. LOUIS

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

from a *Brief Statement of Faith*

**We trust in Jesus Christ,  
Fully human, fully God.  
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:  
preaching good news to the poor  
and release to the captives,  
teaching by word and deed  
and blessing the children,  
healing the sick  
and binding up the brokenhearted,  
eating with outcasts,  
forgiving sinners,  
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.  
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,  
Jesus was crucified,  
suffering the depths of human pain  
and giving his life for the sins of the world.  
God raised this Jesus from the dead,  
vindicating his sinless life,  
breaking the power of sin and evil,  
delivering us from death to life eternal.**

**WE GO IN GOD'S NAME**

**\*Hymn 378 – We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom**

MERLE'S TUNE

**\*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 – Prepare the Way, O Zion**

arr. Paul Manz (1919-2009)

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For a listing of those helping with worship today please refer to page 19.



## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# Joy



Advent 3 is a day to declare joy. Joy comes with the Savior. But joy also comes through a devotion to God. Psalm 146 is part of a larger body of praise Psalms which are uninhibited in their declarations of joy. Joy may come in many forms, but it is, according to Galatians 5:22, always a fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Drawing broadly on Isaiah 35, our confession today is about how we turn our backs on joy. Joy is a gift to be savored and celebrated. Advent is about claiming the gifts of God in the midst of a broken world and then keeping watch for those gifts to bear fruit. Joy in Advent comes in the promise of a new born child or of an expectant mother.

Isaiah 35 is a scripture for every person who has ever turned to God for blessings. Our verses today end with the promise: “everlasting joy shall be upon their heads, they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.” That is a promise upon which to root our faith and to strive for the joy which only God’s gracious love can provide.

Matthew 11 is a seminal text for understanding the purpose of Jesus. Jesus was born to offer the gifts of grace and salvation but he was also born to declare the justice and mercy of God. As you listen to our text today, listen for the message that Jesus sends to John. It is one of both reversal and of joy. Advent points our faith in many directions. Today it is pointing us to the new creation which only God may provide.

Our affirmation is mainly about the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is the root of joy, and so the more we can understand how the Holy Spirit works for us -- and in us -- the more we might understand the source and power of joy. When Jesus is born on Christmas, joy breaks forth into the world. Remember the words of the angel on Christmas: “Do not be afraid — I bring you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”

## WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

\*PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE.

### Greeting

Karl Zinsmeister

*One: May 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

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice." The world says, "Worry," and we say, "Rejoice." The news says, "Fear," and we say, "Rejoice." The world says, "Be happy," and the church says, "Be faithful." As we light our third Advent candle, we pray for hope, peace, and joy. Come now, O child of Mary. Come now, O Prince of Joy. Amen.

### Prelude - (8:00 & 9:30) Carol Medley

arr. Forrest Buckthal

WMPC Brass Choir; Bob Phoenix, director

### (11:00) Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Heather Hill, Harp

arr. May Hogan Cambern (1901-1988)

### Christian Welcome and Announcements

Cate Church Norman

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

### Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

(all singing)

tune: MORNING STAR; text: R. Heber



*One: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom.*

**All: They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.**

*One: And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads.*

**All: They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall fall away. (Isaiah 35:1, 2, 10)**

*One: God of grace, you chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace,  
to be the mother of our Lord and Savior.*

*Now fill us with your grace,*

*that with her, we may rejoice in your salvation,*

*and in all things, embrace your will;*

*through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**All: Amen.**

### \*Hymn 88 - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verses 1-4)

VENI EMMANUEL



### **\*Prayer of Confession**

You have called us to hope, O Lord, but we remain forlorn. You have called us to peace, but we continue to fight. And you have given us joy as the fruit of the Spirit, but we leave it behind to spoil. Help our eyes be opened. Help our ears to hear. By the power of the Holy Spirit, help us drink deeply from your streams of joy in our desert places. Gracious God, forgive our sin and show us the holy way that we might know the wonder of your promise and salvation. In the name of Jesus, receive this our prayer of confession. Amen.

### **\*Assurance of Pardon**

### **\*Passing of the Peace**

*One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*

**All: And also with you.**

### **\*Response - Come with me**

words and music: South African traditional

Come with me for the jour-ney is long, come with me for the jour-ney is long.  
Jour-ney, the jour-ney, the jour-ney is long, the jour-ney, the jour-ney, the jour-ney is long.

## **WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

**Old Testament Lesson - Isaiah 35:1-10**

pew Bible, p. 623

**New Testament Lesson - Matthew 11:2-11**

pew Bible, p. 10

### **(11:00) A Time with Young Disciples**

Following our time together, four year-olds through second graders will meet with Lucy Brimberry at the door near the baptismal font, to be joined by Laura Brimberry from the OnPoint service, for Worship Enrichment in L201.

**Sermon - Journey to Bethlehem: John the Baptist and the Declaration of Everlasting Joy** Christopher Edmonston

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

### **\*Hymn 93 - Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates**

TRURO

### **Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

Tracey Daniel

**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**

## Offertory

(8:00 & 9:30) *Coventry Carol*

arr. Douglas Smith

(11:00) *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

arr. Cambern

## \*Offertory Response Hymn 150 – stanza 3

DIX

**As they offered gifts most rare at thy manger, rude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly king.**

## \*Affirmation of Faith

from The Study Catechism of the PC(USA)

*One: How do you live for the love of God?*

**All: I love because God first loved me. God loves me in Christ with a love that never ends.  
Amazed by grace, I no longer live for myself. I live for the Lord who died and rose again,  
triumphant over death, for my sake. Therefore, I take those around me to heart, especially  
those in particular need, knowing that Christ died for them no less than for me.**

*One: How do you live in the communion of the Holy Spirit?*

**All: By the Holy Spirit, I am made one with the Lord Jesus Christ. I am baptized into Christ's  
body, the church, along with all others who confess him by faith. As a member of this  
community, I trust in God's Word and turn to God constantly in prayer. As I grow in grace  
and knowledge, I am led to do the good works that God intends for my life.**

## WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

## \*Hymn 88 - *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (verses 5-7)

VENI EMMANUEL

## \*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

(8:00 & 9:30) *God Rest Ye Merry*

arr. Luther Henderson

(11:00) *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

arr. Susann McDonald (b. 1935) /Linda Wood Rollo (b. 1945)

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For a listing of those helping with worship today please refer to page 19.

# Love



Advent 4 is about love. Not merely human love, but divine love. The love of Jesus is the love of restoration, which is why we begin with Psalm 80. The love of Jesus is the kind of love that risks life and limb for the sake of others. The fourth Sunday in Advent, nearly as much as Christmas itself, pushes us to consider the great risk God has taken on our behalf. Love so great it risks the helplessness of an infant. Love so great it challenges our assumptions about the limits of love and the majesty of the heart of God.

Drawing from Isaiah 7, our confession today is about the promise of signs and how we miss them. We miss them to our own detriment. God is always speaking but the question is, “are we listening?” Turning our gaze to Bethlehem more completely than before, we open our hearts for the sign of new life and the arrival of Jesus in our hearts and homes.

Our text from Matthew today is about Joseph and the trust he shows in the plan of God. Joseph’s faith was certainly tested, but Joseph has faith enough to see the will of God to its end. Part of the love we celebrate at Christmas is rightly the love of God. Yet another part is the love of Mary -- the love of a mother to her child. But the love of Joseph, for his God and for his wife, should not be overlooked.

Our sermon today is about the light of love in the midst of darkness. Our world is so full of light, we forget about the power and wonder of darkness. While darkness can be a great teacher, it can also be suffocating. Into the darkness of despair love comes shining: such is the promise of Christmas. Wherever we find the love of God, we find the light of life.



## WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

\*PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE.

### Greeting

Kirsten Homdrom

*One: May the love of our Lord, Jesus Christ be with you all.*

**All: And also with you.**

*One: Let us prepare for worship.*

### Preparation for Worship

Isaiah spoke to a people called chosen, to a tribe called Israel, with a light of hope. Gabriel came to a town called Nazareth, to a girl called Mary, with a light of joy. Mary went to a place called Bethlehem, to a stable called a nursery, with a light of love. As we light our fourth Advent candle, we rejoice with Mary, for Love has flesh. Come now, O Child of Mary. Come now, O Prince of Love. Amen.

### Prelude - Sleepers, Wake, A Voice is Calling

See Hymn 349.

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

### Christian Welcome and Announcements

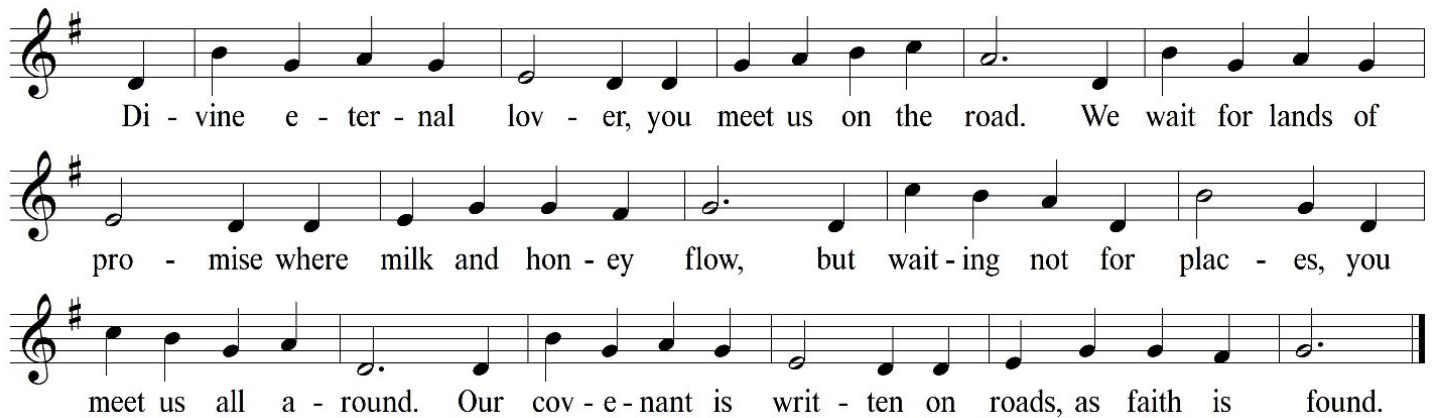
Tracey Daniel

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

### Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

(all singing)

tune: MERLE'S TUNE; text: S.G. Dunstan



*One: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock.*

**All: Stir up your might and come to save us!**

*One: Restore us, O God. Let your face shine, that we may be saved.*

(Psalm 80:1-3)

*One: Almighty God,*

*you have made us and all things to serve you,  
now prepare the world for your rule.*

*Come quickly to save us, so that wars and violence shall end,  
and your children may live in peace,  
honoring one another with justice and love,  
through Jesus Christ, who lives in power with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one  
God, now and forever.*

**All: Amen.**

### \*Hymn 108 – Of the Father's Love Begotten

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

**\*Prayer of Confession**

O Lord our God, receive our prayer of confession: can it be that you are always sending us signs and signals, but we are too preoccupied to notice? Long ago a young woman, Mary, gave birth to a Son who came to save us from the worst in ourselves and to forgive our sins. But so many paid no notice at all. Help us see the signals and listen to your word. Help us live as the redeemed and the restored. Help us complete our journey to Bethlehem, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

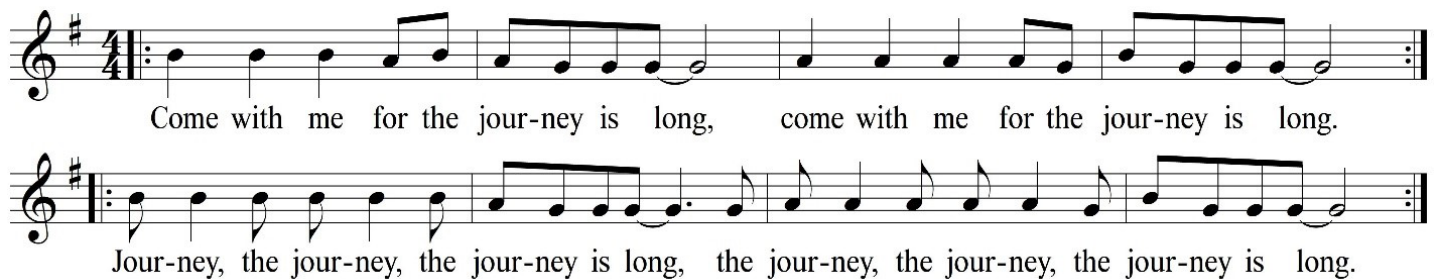
**\*Passing of the Peace**

*One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*

**All: And also with you.**

**\*Response – Come with me**

words and music: South African traditional



**WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

**Old Testament Lesson - Isaiah 7:10-16**

pew Bible, p. 598

**Anthem – Cherry Tree Carol**

arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw (pub. 1953)

*When Joseph was an old man, an old man was he, he married Virgin Mary, the Queen of Galilee. Then Mary spoke to Joseph, so sweet and so mild: "Joseph, gather me some cherries, for I am with child." Then Joseph flew in anger, in anger flew he: "let the father of the baby gather cherries for thee." Then Jesus spoke a few words, a few words spoke he: "Let my Mother have some cherries, bow low down, cherry tree." The cherry tree bowed low down, bowed low down to the ground, and Mary gathered cherries, while Joseph stood around. Then Joseph took Mary all on his right knee: "What have I done, Lord? Have mercy on me." Then Joseph took Jesus all on his left knee: "Oh, tell me, little baby, when thy birthday will be." "The sixth day of January my birthday will be, when the stars in the elements shall tremble with glee."*

**New Testament Lesson - Matthew 1:18-25**

pew Bible, p. 1

**(11:00) A Time with Young Disciples**

Following our time together, four year-olds through second graders will meet with Matthew Corkey at the door near the baptismal font, to be joined by Paula Corkey from the OnPoint service, for Worship Enrichment in L201.

**Sermon - Journey to Bethlehem: Love and the Promise of Light in the Depth of Darkness** Christopher Edmonston

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**\*Hymn 107 – Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn**

REJOICE, REJOICE

**Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

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

### Offertory Anthem – *O come, O come, Emmanuel*

arr. Andrew Carter (b. 1939)

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell thy people save, and give them victory o'er the grave. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. O come thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. O come, O come, thou Lord of Might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height, in ancient times did give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.*

### \*Offertory Response Hymn 113 – verse 3 and refrain

GLORIA

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

### \*Affirmation of Faith

from *The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell;  
the third day he arose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand  
of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic Church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

### \*Hymn 366 – *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

HYFRYDOL

### \*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 – *Toccata on VENI EMMANUEL*

A. Carter

\*\*\*

For a listing of those helping with worship today please refer to page 19.



## Worship Assistants

### DECEMBER 1, 2019

**THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL** this morning are given by Leigh and Reed Raynor, to the glory of God and in loving memory of their son, William Reed Raynor III.

**Greeters:** 9:00 - Claire Glover, Cal Cunningham, Dana Hunt, Sid Hunt; 10:30 - Elizabeth Zimmerman, Joe Sullivan, Kelli Sullivan.

**Ushers:** 8:00 - Betsy Reade Creech (DIC), Katherine Thomas, Bill Turner, Linda Turner, Ann White, James White;

9:30 - Kimberly Layton (DIC), Mary Biathrow, Brent Brockschmidt, Charles Broughton, Howard Browne, Michael Anderson;

11:00 - Rob Wyatt (DIC), Nancy Brawley, Toni Hutto, Bonnie Elam, Carolyn Elliott, Tim Ellis.

**Advent Wreath Lighters:** 8:00 - Mary Ann Turner, Dean Leake; 9:30 - Mary Ann Turner, Honey Music;

11:00 - Elizabeth Robinson, Pam Davis.

**Service Assistants:** 9:30 - Bennett Gillespie; 11:00 - Davis Ellis.

**Treasurer's Assistants:** 11:00 - Geff Bitler, Jonathan Broyles.

**Shuttle Driver:** Mike Carter.

### DECEMBER 8, 2019

**THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL** this morning are given by Jane, Paul Whit, Hadley and Whit Howard, to the glory of God and in honor of Helen Parham, and in memory of W. E. Parham, and Harriet & Alex Howard.

**Greeters:** 9:00 - Susie Jackson, Clai Keel, Wes Lippman, Beth Love; 10:30 - Diane Britt, Jane Worley, Sam Worley.

**Ushers:** 8:00 - Diane Payne (DIC), Mary Ward Boerner, Bruce Broadbelt, Laura Broadbelt, Cindy Carter, Bonnie Elam;

9:30 - Stephen Riddick (DIC), Wendy Burkhard, Cindy Canning, Timothy Canning, Heath Chapman, Claire Glover;

11:00 - DeLana Anderson (DIC), Tom Elam, Butch Gunnells, Gail Gunnells, Julia Harshbarger, Scott Horton.

**Advent Wreath Lighters:** 8:00 - Penny Carlo, Linda Law; 9:30 - Cheryl McLean & Meredith, Andrew, Kelsey and Carson Roberts;

11:00 - Jackie & Bruce Mullin, Kathy Kidd.

**Service Assistants:** 9:30 - Hayden Lund; 11:00 - Margaret Scoggin.

**Treasurer's Assistants:** 11:00 - Gregg Thompson, Caroline McCullen, Robert Ange, Carole Sawicki

**Shuttle Driver:** Chris Martin.

### DECEMBER 15, 2019

**Greeters:** 9:00 - Julie Lyons, Tracey McDowell, Bill McLaurin, Sally McLaurin;

10:30 - Scott Lasso, Sandra Garrison, Mary Clayton, Steve Coker, Paula Corkey, Anne Boney.

**Ushers:** 8:00 - Lydia Pickard (DIC), Jane Elkins, Bill Fairfax, Susan Fairfax, Jim Graham, Bill Gwyn;

9:30 - William Allen (DIC), Tom Elam, Carolyn Elliott, Walt Garrett, Bob Gates, Carol Gates;

11:00 - William Allen (DIC), Harry Montgomery, Gretchen Ivey, William Kimbrell, Carol Lynn, Linda Mahan.

**Advent Wreath Lighters:** 8:00 - Cornelius Swart, James Sherrod, Jim Ferry; 9:30 - Abbey Pope and Winn Williams;

11:00 - Wayne Rogers, Warner Hall, Don Thompson, Jim Ferry.

**Service Assistants:** 9:30 - Banks York; 11:00 - Graham Wilson.

**Treasurer's Assistants:** 11:00 - William Silverman, Alex Flynn.

**Shuttle Driver:** Wendy Burkard.

### DECEMBER 22, 2019

**Greeters:** 9:00 - Margaret Mills, Mike Mullins, Gregg Newton, Adam Olls; 10:30 - Rebecca Kayye, Beth Lambert, Phil Lambert.

**Ushers:** 8:00 - Glenn Matteson (DIC), Nan Hannah, Chris Ingram, Susan Ingram, Susie Jackson, Nancy Jude;

9:30 - Glenn Matteson, Bonnie Elam, Marian Godwin, Matt Godwin, Carter Grimes, Morgan Grimes;

11:00 - Glenn Matteson (DIC), Kerri McMillen, Rob McMillen, Garrison Miller, Kelly Miller, Barry Millward.

**Advent Wreath Lighters:** 8:00 - Judy and Jeff Siker; 9:30 - Butch Gunnells, Karen Hoover, Mary Ann Poole, Jean Williams;

11:00 - Jason, Kelly, Wyatt, and Eva Gold.

**Service Assistants:** 9:30 - Ella Singer; 11:00 - Sallie Summerlin.

**Treasurer's Assistants:** 11:00 - Lydia Pickard, Marlene Batchelor.

**Shuttle Driver:** Varner Olmsted.

## Welcome to White Memorial Presbyterian Church PC(USA)

We are glad you are worshiping with us during this Advent season.

If you are visiting, we invite you to stop by the Welcome Table  
in Jane Bell Gathering Space for more information, directions and a friendly greeting.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a member,  
please contact Elizabeth Viohl at 919.834.3425, ext. 206 or [eviohl@whitememorial.org](mailto:eviohl@whitememorial.org) for details.

## 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 on hallway to Jane Bell Gathering Space on the pulpit side  
and also on the first floor of the Luther Building.
- Childcare is available for children up to four years old.
- 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](http://whitememorial.org).
- Radio, WPTF 680 AM, every other Sunday at 11:00 a.m. Next broadcasts are today, December 1 and December 15.

## Pastoral and Program Staff

**Christopher Edmonston**, Pastor  
**Andrew Amodei**, Executive Director  
**Cynthia Baggett**, Director of Weekday School  
**Levi Bannerman**, Assistant Director of Youth Ministry  
**Genevieve Brooks**, Director of Youth Ministry  
**Cate Church Norman**, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care  
**Tracey Daniel**, Associate Pastor for Faith Formation  
**Brock Downward**, Director of Music Emeritus  
**Jim Ferry**, Parish Associate  
**Kelly Gold**, Director of Children's and Youth Music  
**Kirsten Homdrom**, Associate Director of Music  
**Kathy Howell**, Communications Director

**Gloria Johnson**, Associate Pastor for Outreach  
**Linda Nunnallee**, StepUp Director  
**Chip Pope**, Associate Pastor for Youth and Their Families  
**Grier Richards**, Associate Pastor for Discipleship  
**Rich Richards**, Associate Director of Music and Worship Arts  
**Art Ross**, Pastor Emeritus  
**Judy Yates, Siker**, Parish Associate  
**Lynn Springfield**, Director of Elementary Ministry  
**Martha Stevenson**, Educator Emerita  
**Gwen Whiteman**, Director of Young Children's Ministry  
**Jean Williams**, Parish Nurse  
**Karl Zinsmeister**, Director of Music

After Hours Pastor on Call: 919.605.4593

For a full listing of calendar events during December visit [whitememorial.org/events](http://whitememorial.org/events)  
or check the monitors located throughout the campus for daily activities.

WHITE MEMORIAL  
—PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—

# Toys & CONCERNS

WHITE MEMORIAL  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## IN THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

**Elinor McCorkle** - November 23, 2019

## NEW PRESBYTERIANS

**Grace Potter Smith**, born October 7, child of Caroline and Gil Smith

**Sutton Ann Marshall**, born November 21, child of Susan and Chad Marshall, Midlothian, VA, grandchild of Anne and George Ramsay.

## MARRIAGES:

**Jessica Amanda Carroll and James Benjamin Littleton**, November 23, Melrose Knitting Mill, Raleigh, NC.

If you have experienced a birth, marriage or death you want to share with the church, email Rebecca Turner at [rturner@whitememorial.org](mailto:rturner@whitememorial.org). If you have a relative or church friend who is hospitalized, call the church office or email Amy Clapgood at [aclapgood@whitememorial.org](mailto:aclapgood@whitememorial.org) so our pastoral staff can reach out. If you have a pastoral care need outside of regular business hours, call our after hours pastor on call at 919-605-4593.

december outreach



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7**  
**GENEVA HALL**  
**10-11 A.M.**

WMPC provides 70 sack lunches once a month for Raleigh Rescue Mission's Sunday Sack Lunches program. All we need are willing hands to make and pack the lunches. Everything will be provided.



On Saturday, December 7 we hope you will join us as we will make emergency meal kits for Meals on Wheels and preparing a mailing for Transitions LifeCare.

## Help StepUp Children Shop for Parents

Children love to pick out items for parents or special adults in their lives. This is the eighth year of the Shop for Parents Store, to be held on Tuesday, December 3.

Each StepUp child has the opportunity to pick out several gifts and have them wrapped. We need your help with items for men and women: holiday-themed items, pot holders, dish towels, gift sets, gloves/scarves, wallets, ties, tool kits, flashlights/batteries, candles, or any item that would make a great gift for a child to choose (**new items only**).

Bring items to Gloria Johnson's office in the Witherspoon building, W301 by Monday, December 2.





# Churchwide Advent Bible Study

with Christopher Edmonston  
Sanctuary | 6-7 p.m.  
Monday | December 2, 9 & 16

Reviewing the history and theology of Advent, we will look at prophets and gospels to set the stage for Christmas.

Join Christopher Edmonston in the Sanctuary for this Church Wide Bible Study. Everyone is welcome to come.

Bring your Bibles and notebooks while we dive into the scriptures together.

Childcare is provided.



Bus Stop Nativity by Andrew Gadd

## PEACE ALONG THE JOURNEY: BEARING WITNESS TO LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Thursday, December 5 | 6 p.m. | Davidson Chapel

We hope you will join us for this service on Thursday, December 5 at 6 p.m. in Davidson Chapel as we offer hope and bear witness to the light amidst the darkness of anxiety, seasonal stress, life transitions and grief that some experience during the Advent and Christmas season.

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SHARE



Help children enjoy Advent and Christmas with a \$5 purchase of our 2019 Children's Christmas Share gift –

*A Manger Miracle.* This beautiful gift contains an activity book that tells the story of Jesus' birth and contains a dot-to-dot page and an Advent wreath page with stickers. Included are crayons and a *Children's Christmas Share* card to color and send to a loved one.

Your purchase provides this package for your child and one for a StepUp family's child. StepUp is an organization that meets at our church and helps families who need homes, jobs, food, transportation, and more.

Available while supplies last, beginning mid-November at Wednesdays Together dinners and then on Sunday mornings.



December 8 | 5:30 p.m.  
**SANCTUARY**

A WMPC family worship tradition.

During the Joy Gift Service, the Christmas Story will unfold through lessons and carols. Children, ages four through 5th grade will come forward to WMPC Christmas tree with ornaments that were made in Sunday School and can place under the tree their gift of an unwrapped new toy or food for families during the offertory.

Music will be led by the White Memorial Youth Choir and Youth Band. Childcare is provided for children three and younger, beginning at 5:15 p.m. A reception with light refreshments to follow this special service.

## TURKEY DINNER COLLECTION

We will be holding our annual Turkey Dinner Collection December 8 from 8-11 a.m. We offer curbside pickup by Carol Copeland Courtyard. Dinners will go to Local Food Pantries, StepUp Ministry, and Mayview/Oberlin Community. Visit [www.whitememorial.org/service](http://www.whitememorial.org/service) for a complete list of items needed.

## CHRISTMAS SHARE

Christmas Share is an alternative giving program that meets the need. You can make donations to church-supported agencies and international mission partners. To make a donation please visit our website at [www.whitememorial.org/service](http://www.whitememorial.org/service) to find instructions and a list of ministries we support. Questions? Contact Gloria Johnson at [gjohnson@whitememorial.org](mailto:gjohnson@whitememorial.org).

## ADVENT/CHRISTMAS GREENERY MEMORIALS AND HONORIA

Contributions in memory of a loved one or in honor of a family member, friend or member of the church family are welcomed. Contributions may be made for any amount: suggested gift is \$20 or more. Deadline is Monday, December 16. Please email or call Rebecca Turner at [rturner@whitememorial.org](mailto:rturner@whitememorial.org) or 919-834-3425, ext 222 with questions. Forms are available [www.whitememorial.org/advent](http://www.whitememorial.org/advent) or in the Witherspoon lobby.

## GIFTING APPRECIATED

Gifting appreciated stock is a great way to make your contributions to the church. If you are gifting stock as part of your contributions to the church, please write, fax or phone Jody Grayson when you make the transfer so we can comply with your instructions and give you credit for your gift.

## UNIDENTIFIED STOCK

Will the generous donors of Fresh Del Monte, Cisco Systems, Exxon Mobil or BB&T stocks please call Jody Grayson at 834-3425 ext. 204 to identify your gift so that we can give you proper credit.

## BECOME AN AUDIO/VIDEO VOLUNTEER

Have you ever wondered what goes on in the balcony during worship? Become a volunteer and find out! From adjusting cameras to ensuring proper sound our team of volunteers make sure the services are streamed, recorded and provide a pleasing audio/visual experience for all worship services. Contact Karen Haneline, webmaster at [khaneline@whitememorial.org](mailto:khaneline@whitememorial.org) or 919-834-3425, ext. 219 for more information about how you can be a vital member of this important ministry.



DECEMBER 5  
**OAKWOOD WAITS**

DECEMBER 12  
**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY TRADITIONS**

DECEMBER 19  
**TOUR OF GOVERNOR'S MANSION**

DECEMBER 26  
*NO MEETING*

DECEMBER 29  
*NO MEETING*



## Mary's Song

MUSIC FOR ADVENT WITH FEATURED  
WORKS BY JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH  
presented by  
Sounds on Oberlin Concert Series

**SUNDAY | DECEMBER 15**  
**3 P.M. | SANCTUARY**  
**FREE ADMISSION**

The song of Mary as found in Luke 1:46-55 has inspired countless works of art and music. This concert presents four settings based on the text, all by Johann Sebastian Bach.

The combined choirs of WMPC accompanied by orchestra under the leadership of Karl Zinsmeister and Kirsten Homdrom present this Advent Concert.

Childcare available by registration through December 11  
[www.whitememorial.org/register](http://www.whitememorial.org/register)

A love offering in support of the Sounds on Oberlin concert series will be collected.

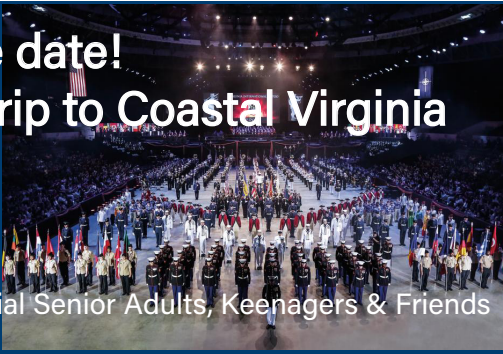




# Save the date! Spring Trip to Coastal Virginia

April 28 –  
May 1, 2020

White Memorial Senior Adults, Keenagers & Friends



Our exciting 2020 trip is to the beautiful and patriotic city of Norfolk, and the historic and picturesque Eastern Shore of Virginia. A highlight of the trip is the Virginia International Tattoo on Thursday evening. We hope you will join us on this fun trip.

Registration begins November 1. Flyers in Witherspoon lobby.



## WEEKLY YOUTH EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Contact Deb Smith at [dsmith@whitememorial.org](mailto:dsmith@whitememorial.org) to be added to the contact list for our weekly email!

### TONIGHT

- **Sabbath Sunday**  
(Thanksgiving Weekend)  
No Sunday Night Youth Program  
*Look for your family email devotions*

### LOOKING AHEAD

- **December 22**  
Youth Sunday  
Theme Planning Meeting for HS Seniors  
12-1:30 p.m., C200  
  
Joy Gift  
A WMPC Family Worship Tradition  
5:30-6:30 p.m.  
Sanctuary  
Reception to follow in JBGS  
*Childcare provided*
- **December 15**  
HS Connections, MS Impact Groups, and 5th Connection  
5-6:30 p.m.  
*See email newsletter for locations.*
- **December 22**  
Sunday School  
Christmas Parties  
  
College Students Coffee Hour  
9:30-10:30 a.m., Geneva Hall  
  
No Sunday Night Youth Group
- **December 24 (Christmas Eve)**  
College Student Drop In  
10:00-11:00 p.m., C200
- **December 29**  
No Sunday Night Youth Program
- **January 5**  
Mini Kick Off  
5:00-7:00 p.m.  
Pickard Hall  
For Students and Parents  
Grades: 5-12



# Journey to Bethlehem

## SUNDAY MORNINGS IN ADVENT

December 1, 8, 15 & 22  
8:00, 9:30 & 11 a.m. | Sanctuary  
9:30 a.m. | Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. | OnPoint@1704  
in Pickard Hall

## WEDNESDAY EVENINGS IN ADVENT

December 4, 11\* & 18\*  
**Fellowship Dinner**  
5:00-6:30 p.m. | Geneva Hall  
**Advent Evening Prayer**  
6:30-7:00 p.m. | Davidson Chapel

### ALSO JOIN US FOR

**Churchwide Advent Bible Study with Christopher Edmonston**  
Monday, December 2, 9 & 16 | 6:00-7:00 p.m. | Sanctuary  
**Peace along the Journey: Bearing Witness to Light in the Darkness**  
Thursday, December 5 | 6:00 p.m. | Davidson Chapel  
**Joy Gift Service** - Sunday, December 8 | 5:30 p.m. | Sanctuary  
**Advent Communion Service\*** - Monday, December 9 | 11:30 a.m. | Sanctuary  
**Sounds on Oberlin presents the Magnificat** with works by J.S. Bach\*  
Sunday, December 15 | 3:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Tuesday, December 24  
**Children's Christmas Eve Services** - 3:00 & 4:00 p.m. | Sanctuary  
**Christmas Eve Candlelight Lessons & Carols** - 6:00 & 11:00 p.m. | Sanctuary  
Pre-service music begins at 5:35 p.m. and 10:35 p.m.  
6:00 p.m. | OnPoint@1704 in Pickard Hall

\* Visit [whitememorial.org/register](http://whitememorial.org/register) or call 919-834-3424 for dinner/childcare reservations.