

A Service for the Worship of God

December 9, 2018

Second Sunday of Advent

11:00 am

Gathering Around the Word

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONGS (1st verses only)

Hymn No. 145

What Child Is This

Hymn No. 133

Angels We Have Heard on High

Hymn No. 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

...In today's terms, the scripture *could* sound like this:

The wolf shall live with the lamb,

Israel and Palestine will tear down their wall.

A leopard shall lie down with the kid,

Refugee lives and black lives and poor lives will matter to all.

The calf and the lion will feed together,

Democrats and Republicans will work together in harmony,

and a little child will lead them

And without fear, the Church will lead them...

HYMN No. 378

We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom

MERLE'S TUNE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O promised Christ: We are a world at war.

Our peace depends on your coming.

We are a sinful people.

Our pardon depends on your coming.

We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises;

our only hope of doing God's will is that you should come and help us.

Lord Christ, Word made flesh,

our world waits for your peace, for your pardon, for your grace.

Even so: come, Lord, Jesus.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE OF PRAISE No.143

Angels, from the Realms of Glory (stanza 4)

All creation join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son, evermore your voices raising to

the eternal Three in One: come and worship, come and worship,

worship Christ, our coming king!

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Hearing the Word

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 1:68-79

ANTHEM

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Micah 5:1-5

*This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.***

SERMON

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Rev. Julie Hill

Responding to the Word

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Jesus, the long expected Savior, came into the world as a child, descended from David, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, servant of the Lord.

We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child.

He lived as a Jew among Jews. He announced to his people the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth

He preached good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed, blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, and calling all to repent and believe the good news of God's grace.

The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule.

In the light of his birth, life, death, and resurrection, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*HYMN No. 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

THE OFFERING

You are invited to place prayer requests in the offering plate

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Taking the Word With Us Into the World

*HYMN No. 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE No. 93

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.

Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

*POSTLUDE

**All those who are able, please stand*

We rejoice that you are worshipping with us today. If you are visiting and would like to know more about the church and membership, our pastor would be delighted to talk with you following worship. **Your children are always welcome here.** A nursery is provided for your convenience and Children's Church is available for ages 3- 5th grade following Faith Sharing with Children.

Worship Notes

Minister: Rev. Julie Hill, juliehill203@gmail.com; cell 704-904-7261

Music Director: Johnny Almond, johnny@mgcca.com

Secretary: Paula Blake, office@norwoodfpc.org

Nursery Attendant: Gloria Lopez

Session: Clerk of Session, Kaye Coble

Elders of the Month: Mason Crump & Kirk Wallace

Class of 2018: Vera Kaye Coble, Mitchell Edwards, Jeff Russell

Class of 2019: Mason Crump, Susie Lisk, Jana Lowder,

Class of 2020: Eric Jones, Finley Sutton, Kirk Wallace

Ushers for Sunday: Bill Evans, Beverly Johnson, Jim Lewis

Next Sunday: Mike Carlis, Susie Lisk, Marion Lisk-Deese, Susan Moss

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, December 9 ~ Second Sunday of Advent

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

4:00 pm Holiday Book Discussion

5:00 pm Longest Night Worship

Sunday, December 9 ~ Third Sunday of Advent

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship ~ Christmas Cantata

6:00 pm White Christmas Pot Luck & Program

Happy Birthday

Tom Jennings December 11

Jackie Beeker December 13

Stephen Braswell December 14

Leslie Solarek December 15

Green Prayer Cards are available in each pew. Please place your prayer requests in the offering plate.

SCCM – Canned Vegetables

Isn't the color for Advent Purple? Yes and no. Both purple and blue are appropriate liturgical colors for Advent. With the promise of new paraments, we started a new tradition here and moved to blue. Blue represents hope, expectation and heaven. Deep blue is the color of the predawn sky. Blue in Advent is meant to inspire in us the hope of faith, and to encourage us to keep watch for the promised light of Christ to break over the horizon, dispelling the darkness with Christ's glorious light.

Thank you! Thank you! The beautiful Blue paraments and the stunning Christmas banners will be created by Joan Garner. Please thank Joan for these visual creations that point us to the coming of the Christ Child.

Thank you to Beverly Johnson who artistically provided greenery for our Advent Wreath.

Prayer Concerns: Marion Lisk-Deese (bulging disc), Bobby Parker (torn tendon in knee), Gwen Davis (surgery), Jeanette Thompson (fall), Al Calder, Joyce Somerset, Stuart Barbee

Members: Home: Jean Barbee, Jeanette Thompson **Nursing Home:** Bonnie Blalock

Friends and Family: Tommy Fincher (kidney transplant), Kevin Bowers (brain tumor), Jeff Schmalfeldt (Hodgkin Lymphoma), Steve Mabry, Jason Tyson, Joyce Kimrey (colon cancer), Aileen Ballard (broken hip), Marilyn Davis (cancer, Bobby Parker's sister), Emmojean Campbell (Duane's mother), Brandon Waldrup (cancer), Renee Brazeale (Kaye Tyson's sister), Don Russell, Ray Byrd (Marie Byrd's husband), Max Lanvere

Please see the newsletter for a complete list



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First Presbyterian Church

A PC (USA) Congregation

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