

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.

THE SENDING

HYMN #8 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"
(The Presbyterian Hymnal)

BLESSING AND CHARGE

POSTLUDE "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" Arr. Becki Mayo

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TO OUR VISITORS

We welcome you to worship today. If you are visiting with us please feel free to speak to the pastor or one of our greeters if you have questions or want more information about Bethpage.

Bethpage is a church committed to children and families and their needs. We have a nursery and childcare for infants through kindergarten. Feel free to keep your child in worship through the Time with the Children if that works for your family. Jaymie Barrier our children's caregiver will take your cell phone number and will text you if your child needs you during worship.

SERMON NOTES

THIS WEEK AT BPC	LOOKING AHEAD
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The Cabarrus County LunchPlus Club for Seniors provides Indoor Dining and Meal Pickup in the BPC Fellowship Hall, Monday – Friday. Doors open 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Lunch serving times 11:30 AM – 12:15 PM.

Sunday, November 27
ADVENT I
9:00 AM – Children's Sunday School – Room 202
9:00 AM – Sunday School – Room 200
10:00 AM – Worship Service

Monday, November 28
6:00 PM – Session Meeting

Tuesday, November 29
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM – Quilting 101 in BPC Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, November 30
7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 1
6:30 PM – Community Choir in BPC Fellowship Hall

Saturday, December 3
4:00 PM – Community Choir Concert in BPC Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 4
ADVENT II
10¢-A-Meal Offering to be received
9:00 AM – Children's Sunday School – Room 202
9:00 AM – Sunday School – Room 200
10:00 AM – Worship Service followed by Congregational Meeting

Tuesday, December 6
6:30 PM – Circle 1 at El Amigo Restaurant

Wednesday, December 7
7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 8
6:30 PM – Community Choir Christmas Party in BPC Fellowship Hall

Saturday, December 10
7:30 AM – 1:30 PM – Girl Scouts Event in BPC Fellowship Hall
6:00 PM – Kannapolis Parade

Sunday, December 11
ADVENT III
Deadline for returning wrapped Angel Tree gifts to BPC
9:00 AM – Children's Sunday School – Room 202
9:00 AM – Sunday School – Room 200
10:00 AM – Worship Service
3:45 PM – Christmas Caroling
5:00 PM – Soup Supper in BPC Fellowship Hall

THE SESSION OF OUR CHURCH	CLASS OF 2022
Valerie Hicks, <i>Moderator</i> Melissa Wright, <i>Clerk</i>	Connie Goodman, <i>Worship</i> Christel Josey, <i>Property</i> Dougie Kirkman, <i>Christian Education</i>
CLASS OF 2023	CLASS OF 2024
Richie Goodman, <i>Stewardship</i> Ed Kusper, <i>Congregational Care</i> Melissa Wright, <i>Clerk</i>	Chris Ferguson, <i>Mission/Evangelism</i> Sherry Shifflett, <i>Personnel</i>



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Rev. Valerie Hicks

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FIRST SUNDAY

OF

Advent

Welcome to Bethpage Presbyterian Church!
November 27, 2022

**"A family of faith in Jesus Christ,
yesterday, today, and tomorrow."**

We are excited that you have joined us in worshipping God today. Whether you are just visiting, looking to stay or have worshipped here your whole life, it is great to worship the Lord together this day!

The Service for the Lord's Day The First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2022

10:00 A.M.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" Arr. Larry Shackley

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRINITY CHIMES

OPENING MUSIC "While We Are Waiting, Come"
(sing twice)

**While we are waiting, come;
while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
while we are waiting, come.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Charles & Pat Kluttz

Reader 1: We have endured these past few years and know that there is more to face before us. We don't know if we have the strength to withstand what might be around the next corner. And we wonder who will stand with us, who will have our back, who will occupy our corner.

Reader 2: Who is with us? That is what we begin to wonder these days. Who will light our way and chart our course? Who is on our side, who will welcome us home again?

Reader 1: Home. The prophet Jeremiah speaks of a branch that will be raised. Jesus spoke of a Son of Man that will descend. Both point to a hope. A hope that calls us home. Our true home, where we're welcomed and loved and included. Where there is justice and equality and peace. It's time, this Advent season, time to go home.

Reader 2: We light this candle, as a sign of our hope, our strong hope that there is a way to go home. To the home in Christ, and it starts with us, and it starts here, and it starts now. It's time to go home.

ADVENT HYMN "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.
"Come home, come home!
You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O singer, come home!"

OPENING PRAYER

Gentle God, you know that for us, this is a season of hopes and fears. Some of us are caught up in our excitement and plans, while others of us are dreading Christmas and all the preparations. Be with each of us, however we approach this Advent. Help us not to journey with baggage filled with anxiety this year. We worry whether everything will get done, and whether our relationships will blossom, bend, or break in the stress of the season. Slow us down, God and help us to place our hope in you. Be our calm center, that we may show your love to the people around us; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN #2 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The good news in Christ is that when we face ourselves and God with the awareness of our need, we are given grace to grow and courage to continue the journey.

Alleluia! We are forgiven. Praise be to God. Amen.

RESPONSE OF PRAISE

"Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

THE WORD

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

ANTHEM "Living in the Promise"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Jean Brown

OLD TESTAMENT READING
Isaiah 61:1-3, 10-11 (Pew Bible, p. 691)

NEW TESTAMENT READING Matthew 3:1-6 (Pew Bible, p. 2)

SERMON "Preparation" Rev. Valerie Hicks

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And we believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

GIVING GOD OUR OFFERING and OUR 10¢-A-MEAL OFFERING

Offertory "On Eagle's Wings" Arr. Douglas Wagner

Doxology (sung)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication