

THE SENDING

***HYMN #2** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"
("The Presbyterian Hymnal")

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Leader: Take time, in the busyness of this season, for quiet reflection — For the light of God's love is discernible everywhere.

People: We will let ourselves be surprised by wonder, and set aside time to offer quiet thanks.

Leader: The good news of Advent is this: Christ is coming. Christ is always coming.

People: We will welcome Christ into our hearts. We will let ourselves be guided by his ministry. We will go forth from this place in hope.

***POSTLUDE** "Pastoral Symphony" from Messiah G.F. Handel

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*An asterisk indicates that all who are able may stand.

TO OUR VISITORS

We welcome you to our worship. We have a nursery lovingly and carefully attended by church members and childcare following the Time with the Children for ages two through kindergarten. If you have questions, please see an usher and they will be happy to assist you.

SERMON NOTES

THIS WEEK AT BPC

LOOKING AHEAD

The Cabarrus County LunchPlus Club for Seniors provides a Drive Thru Lunch Pickup at BPC Fellowship Hall, Monday – Friday, 11:30 AM – 12:45 PM.

Sunday, November 28

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

Tuesday, November 30

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM – Quilting 101 in BPC Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 1

5:30 PM – G.I.F.T.² Program
7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, December 4

Private Event in BPC Fellowship Hall (all day)

Sunday, December 5

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

Wednesday, December 8

5:30 PM – G.I.F.T.² Program
7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 9

6:30 PM – Personnel Committee

Friday, December 10

6:00 – 8:00 PM – Girl Scouts set up in BPC Fellowship Hall

Saturday, December 11

8:00 AM – 2:00 PM – Girl Scouts in BPC Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 12

ADVENT III
9:00 AM – Children's Sunday School - Room 202
9:00 AM – Sunday School - Room 200
10:00 AM – Worship Service

THE SESSION OF OUR CHURCH	CLASS OF 2022
Valerie Hicks, <i>Moderator</i> Sherry Shifflett, <i>Clerk</i>	Connie Goodman, <i>Worship</i> Christel Josey, <i>Property</i> Dougie Kirkman, <i>Property</i>
CLASS OF 2023	CLASS OF 2024
Richie Goodman, <i>Stewardship</i> Ed Kusper, <i>Nurture</i> Carrie Paxton, <i>Christian Education</i>	Chris Ferguson, <i>Mission/Evangelism</i> Hannah Jackson, <i>Communications</i> Sherry Shifflett, <i>Personnel</i>



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Welcome to Bethpage Presbyterian Church!
November 28, 2021

**"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!

DAILY LECTIONARY						
Sunday, November 28	Monday, November 29	Tuesday, November 30	Wednesday, December 1	Thursday, December 2	Friday, December 3	Saturday, December 4
Morning: Ps. 24; 150 1 st Read: Amos 1:1-5, 1:13-2:8 2 nd Read: 1 Thess. 5:1-11 Gospel: Luke 21:5-19 Evening: Ps. 25; 110	Morning: Ps. 122; 145 1 st Read: Amos 2:6-16 2 nd Read: 2 Pet. 1:1-11 Gospel: Mt. 21:1-11 Evening: Ps. 40; 67	Morning: Ps. 33; 146 1 st Read: Amos 3:1-11 2 nd Read: 2 Pet. 1:12-21 Gospel: Mt. 21:12-22 Evening: Psalms 85; 94	Morning: Ps. 50; 147:1-11 1 st Read: Amos 3:12-4:5 2 nd Read: 2 Peter 3:1-10 Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32 Evening: Psalms 53; 17	Morning: Psalms 18:1-20; 147:12-20 1 st Read: Amos 4:6-13 2 nd Read: 2 Peter 3:11-18 Gospel: Mt. 21:33-46 Evening: Psalms 126; 62	Morning: Ps. 102; 148 1 st Read: Amos 5:1-17 2 nd Read: Jude 1-16 Gospel: Mt. 22:1-14 Evening: Ps. 130; 16	Morning: Psalms 90; 149 1 st Read: Amos 5:18-27 2 nd Read: Jude 17-25 Gospel: Mt. 22:15-22 Evening: Psalms 80; 72

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

November 28, 2021

10:00 A.M.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE "Comfort Ye My People" from Messiah G.F. Handel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRINITY CHIMES

ADVENT SONG "While We Are Waiting, Come"

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE** Wayne & Christel Josey

Leader: The season of Advent is here. We trust that God is never absent from us. God is always preparing something new. O God, in you alone is our hope.

People: We join with the hopeful throng in the lighting of the Advent candles, symbols of our faith and sings of God's love.

Leader: We light the candle of hope.

People: We are a people of hope. Hope lives in us and will abide with us.

Leader: The light of hope dares to pierce through the darkness of desolation and sin.

*ADVENT PRAYER

Loving God, in this time of preparation and planning, we thank you for the hope we have in you. Lift up our hearts this day that we may look forward with hope filled wonder and expectation. Show us the creative power of hope. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

***HYMN #9** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
(“The Presbyterian Hymnal”)

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: 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. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

People: Alleluia! Amen.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (sung)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE WORD

CHILDREN'S ANTHEM

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

CHORAL ANTHEM

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Cheryl Kuser

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 46 (Pew Bible, OT, p. 517)

¹God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. ²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; ³though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. ⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. ⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns. ⁶The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. ⁷The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. ⁸Come, behold the works of the LORD; see what desolations he has brought on the earth. ⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. ¹⁰Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth. ¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:26-38 (Pew Bible, NT, p. 56)

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

THIRD SCRIPTURE READING 1 Peter 1:3 (Pew Bible, NT, p. 232)

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

SERMON "Waiting and Hoping" 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.

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.

GIVING GOD OUR OFFERING

Offertory "O Come, Little Children" (German carol)
Christoph con Schmid

*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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

*Prayer of Dedication

Accept our offerings, O God in response to your love. You give us every good gift. May we imitate you in our generosity towards others. Help us to be good stewards of all we have received. Use what we offer to spread the good news and to bless others. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.