

THE SENDING

HYMN #229 "Sing We Now of Christmas"
(verses 1, 2 & 3, Hymns of Grace)

BLESSING AND CHARGE

POSTLUDE

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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
<p>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.</p>	
<p>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</p> <p>Tuesday, December 13 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM – Quilting 101 in BPC Fellowship Hall</p> <p>Wednesday, December 14 7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Thursday, December 15 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM – "Suds of Love" at Harris Laundromat 5:30 PM – Personnel Committee 6:00 – 8:00 PM – "Suds of Love" at Harris Laundromat</p>	<p>Sunday, December 18 ADVENT IV Christmas Joy 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</p> <p>Wednesday, December 21 11:30 AM – LUNCH OUT at Logan's Roadhouse 7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Friday, December 23 Church office closed No LunchPlus Club meeting</p> <p>Saturday, December 24 5:00 PM – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion</p> <p>Sunday, December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY 10:00 AM – Casual Worship Service in BPC Fellowship Hall</p>

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



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THIRD SUNDAY
OF
Advent

Welcome to Bethpage Presbyterian Church!
December 11, 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 Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022

10:00 A.M.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRINITY CHIMES

OPENING MUSIC # 22 "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"
(verse 1, The Presbyterian Hymnal)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Barbara, Sherry & Anita Shifflett

Reader 1: It's a reunion, every time we go home, every time we embrace those we love, no matter how long it has been. It feels like sunrise, like the clouds are parting and the rain has ended. It is joy, nothing less than pure joy to grab hold of those who are home for us, who make home for us. Whether we wake up to them every day, or travel many miles to see them again, it is joy to go home.

Reader 2: The prophet Zephaniah tells us to rejoice at the thought of going home. The prophet tells us to imagine being set free, being unburdened, being released to live, to fully live in the grace and wonder of life itself, surrounded by those who love us like no one else. And then to live like that was our truth even now, even here. It is joy to go home.

Reader 1: John the Baptist reminds us, however, that it takes choices to live in this joy. It doesn't just happen; we choose to make life a joy by how we love others, by how we serve and give and care for others, by how we do the job we do and how we impact the world around us. We build joy as we build a home in this world and the next.

Reader 2: We light these candles, the candle of hope, and of peace, and of joy, as a sign that we are on our way home, and we walk with a skip in our step because we can see the destination, and it is pure joy. It is 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 sinner, come home!"

OPENING PRAYER

Living God, in the deserts and the dry places of our lives, we struggle, powerless and weak. Show us the way home. Lead us to places of healing and peace, where we may grow in the power of your love, where we may flourish in the waters of life, and where we may find everlasting joy and gladness. Amen.

HYMN #23 "Angels We Have Heard on High"
(The Presbyterian Hymnal)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Advent, we live in the promise that you will fulfill your will for earth. Yet nations are in chaos and our lives are often in turmoil. We are afraid of following your light, because it leads us into places where much is demanded of us. Forgive us when we take the easy way, choosing to ignore the opportunities for love and forgiveness that you place before us. We are often depressed and down hearted especially during the holidays. Lord, remind us that you send us the joy, your joy deep in our souls. Forgive us when we close ourselves off from your joy. Hear us as we continue our confessions in silence . . . (Please take a moment for silent confession.)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the Good News! Christ came that we might have life, and have it abundantly. Brothers and sisters in Christ, we are forgiven.

Alleluia, 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 "The Glory of God"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Heather Kirkman

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 9:2, 6 (Pew Bible, p. 638)

NEW TESTAMENT READING John 1:1-5, 14 (Pew Bible, p. 91)

SERMON "Became Flesh" Rev. Valerie Hicks

HYMN #44 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"
(verse 4, The Presbyterian Hymnal)

GIVING GOD OUR OFFERING

Offertory

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

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.