

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

All: 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'S TITHES & OUR OFFERINGS

- Offertory
- *Doxology (*Instrumental only*)
- *Prayer of Dedication

THE SENDING

***BLESSING AND CHARGE**

***POSTLUDE**

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

TO OUR VISITORS

We welcome you to our worship. We hope that you will return to worship with us again! We have a nursery lovingly and carefully attended by church members.

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome into membership all who love Jesus Christ, accept him as Lord of all life, and seek to serve him as part of his body in the church. We invite you to speak to one of our elders, greeting you at the door as you leave the worship service.

SERMON NOTES

THIS WEEK AT BPC

LOOKING AHEAD

The Cabarrus County LunchPlus Club for Seniors provides a Drive Thru Pickup at BPC Fellowship Hall, Monday – Friday, 11:30 AM – 12:45 PM.
[Note: No meal pickup on holiday dates listed below!]

Sunday, December 13

ADVENT III
9:00 AM – Sunday School in the BPC Fellowship Hall
9:55 AM – Worship Service
11:30 AM – 1:30 PM – Latin Mission Christ Savior Worship in BPC Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 20

ADVENT IV
Christmas Joy Offering to be received
9:00 AM – Sunday School in the BPC Fellowship Hall
9:55 AM – Worship Service
11:30 AM – 1:30 PM – Latin Mission Christ Savior Worship in BPC Fellowship Hall

Thursday, December 24

Church office closed
No LunchPlus Club Meal Pickup today
4:00 PM – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion

Friday, December 25

Merry Christmas!
Church office closed
No LunchPlus Club Meal Pickup today

Sunday, December 27

9:00 AM – Sunday School in the BPC Fellowship Hall
9:55 AM – Worship Service
11:30 AM – 1:30 PM – Latin Mission Christ Savior Worship in BPC Fellowship Hall

THE SESSION OF OUR CHURCH	CLASS OF 2021
Sherry Shifflett, <i>Clerk</i> Dennis Graybeal, <i>Treasurer</i> Jenny Linebarrier, <i>Asst. Treasurer</i>	Chris Ferguson, <i>Mission/Evangelism</i> Brandi Lackey, <i>Christian Education</i> Linda VanPelt, <i>Fellowship</i>
CLASS OF 2020	CLASS OF 2022
Jean Brown, <i>Communications</i> Ed Kusper, <i>Stewardship</i> Madison Scarborough, <i>Personnel</i>	Connie Goodman, <i>Worship</i> Christel Josey, <i>Property</i> Dougie Kirkman, <i>Property</i>



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**Welcome to Bethpage Presbyterian Church!
December 13, 2020**

***"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, December 13	Monday, December 14	Tuesday, December 15	Wednesday, December 16	Thursday, December 17	Friday, December 18	Saturday, December 19
Morning: Ps. 24; 150 1 st Read: Isa. 13:1-13 2 nd Read: Heb. 12:18-29 Gospel: John 3:22-30 Evening: Ps. 25; 110	Morning: Ps. 122; 145 1 st Read: Isa. 8:16-9:1 2 nd Read: 2 Pet. 1:1-11 Gospel: Luke 22:39-53 Evening: Psalms 40; 67	Morning: Ps. 33; 146 1 st Read: Isa. 9:2-7 2 nd Read: 2 Pet. 1:12-21 Gospel: Luke 22:54-69 Evening: Psalms 85; 94	Morning: Ps. 50; 147:1-11 1 st Read: Isaiah 9:8-17 2 nd Read: 2 Peter 2:1-10a Gospel: Mark 1:1-8 Evening: Psalms 53; 17	Morning: Psalms 18:1-20; 147:12-20 1 st Read: Isaiah 9:18-10:4 2 nd Read: 2 Pet. 2:10b-16 Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12 Evening: Psalms 126; 62	Morning: Ps. 102; 148 1 st Read: Isaiah 11:1-9 2 nd Read: Eph. 6:10-20 Gospel: John 3:16-21 Evening: Ps. 130; 16	Morning: Psalms 90; 149 1 st Read: Isaiah 11:10-16 2 nd Read: Rev. 20:1-10 Gospel: John 5:30-47 Evening: Psalms 80; 72

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

December 13, 2020

9:55 A.M.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES *Ed and Cheryl Kusper*

Leader: Awake from your sleep, salvation is near!

People: The night is far gone; the day is at hand.

Leader: God has promised us a new creation . . .

People: . . . where righteousness will be at home.

Leader: The Spirit of the Lord is upon us;

People: God sends good news to the oppressed.

(Advent Readers continue . . . May we celebrate in the joy found in You. Amen.)

All the People: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen!

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: . . . let us humbly confess our sins before God.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, you have called us to participate in your saving work of rebuilding and repairing your creation. Yet we know we have fallen short of that calling. Indeed, we have contributed to the devastation of our world. The afflicted await good tidings. The brokenhearted would have their wounds bound. The captives still yearn for freedom, and those who mourn remain to be comforted. Forgive us who fail to follow Christ's call to faithful ministry; restore us and make us worthy to serve in his name. Renew us and help us be discerning and ready partners in your great restoration project for the world. Amen. *(Please take a moment for silent confession.)*

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: . . . Friends, hear and believe the good news, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

(spoken by all)

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

TIME WITH YOUNGER CHRISTIANS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Ed and Cheryl Kusper

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (NRSV)

- 1 The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
- 2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
- 3 to provide for those who mourn in Zion —
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
- 4 They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
- 8 For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
- 9 Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
- 10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
- 11 For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

Lector: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 1:46b-55 (NRSV)

- 46b My soul magnifies the Lord,
- 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
- 48 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
- 49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
- 50 His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
- 51 He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud
in the thoughts of their hearts.
- 52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
- 53 he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
- 54 He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
- 55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Lector: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Joy!"

William Watkins, CLP

*INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

*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 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.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS