

THE SENDING

***HYMN #53** "What Child Is This"
(The Presbyterian Hymnal)

***BLESSING AND CHARGE**

***POSTLUDE** "Toccata on 'Antioch'" John G. Barr

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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.

An Invitation to the BPC Congregation

You are invited to the Pastor's Open House, **Friday, December 31, 2021. Bring the family and drop by between 3:00 - 7:00 PM for some Holiday goodies.** Valerie and Bill's house, 258 Harper Lee Street, Davidson, NC 28036.

SERMON NOTES

THIS WEEK AT BPC

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. (Please check the calendar below for holidays when LunchPlus will be closed.)

Sunday, December 19

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

Tuesday, December 21

6:00 PM - Session Meeting

Wednesday, December 22

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

Thursday, December 23

12:00 PM - Church office closes
No LunchPlus Club Meal Pickup!

Friday, December 24

8:00 PM - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion
Church office closed
No LunchPlus Club Meal Pickup!

Saturday, December 25

Merry Christmas!

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, December 26

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

Monday, December 27

Church office closed
No LunchPlus Club Meal Pickup!

Tuesday, December 28

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

Wednesday, December 29

7:00 PM - Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 31

Church office closed
No LunchPlus Club Meal Pickup!

Sunday, January 2

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

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>



**Welcome to Bethpage Presbyterian Church!
December 19, 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!



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Rev. Valerie Hicks
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The Service for the Lord's Day The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021

10:00 A.M.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" J.S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRINITY CHIMES

ADVENT SONG "While We Are Waiting, Come"

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES** Chris Ferguson

Leader: Today we light the fourth candle, the candle of Love. For God so loved the world that he sent his only son, to be our savior.

People: This light, too, must brave great darkness.

Leader: God's love is the light of the world.

People: May the light of Advent shine in our lives and may we be open to God's love that is made available to us at Christmas.

Leader: Hope, peace, joy and love are ours.

People: May we be truly grateful, this Advent, as we prepare to celebrate the coming of the Christ child.

***ADVENT PRAYER**

Loving God, in this time of preparation and planning, we thank you for the love you offer us. Show us the creative power of your love. Help us to love others with the love that has been given us in Christ. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

***HYMN #22** "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"
(The Presbyterian Hymnal)

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of Light and Life, As we prepare our hearts this Advent, at the end of a trying year, we are painfully aware of our need for a Savior. Our neighbors dismay and anger us and in our self-focus we have failed to care for them. We've said you're the God who supplies all our needs, but cling tighter to our possessions when our world is turned upside down. We speak of a God whose love is boundless but are scared to unpack the bias in our own hearts. Left on our own, there is nothing right within us. We look for light but find only darkness. We look for brightness, but find changing shadows. This year, we wait for you with a sobering awareness of our own humanity and hypocrisy. Forgive us, Lord. Open us to your presence with us, our Emmanuel, and hear our silent confessions. (Please take a moment for silent confession.)

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

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

People: We rejoice this Christmas, grateful for second chances and ready to begin again to live the life God has created for us. Alleluia! Amen.

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE** (sung)
"Angels We Have Heard on High" (verse 3)

Come to Bethlehem and see,
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

THE WORD

CHILDREN'S ANTHEM "Happy Birthday Jesus"

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

ANTHEM "Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain" Carolyn Jennings

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Cheryl Kusper

OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 (Pew Bible, p. 638)
Matthew 1:18-25 (Pew Bible, p. 1)

ANTHEM "Nativity Carol" words and music by John Rutter

EPISTLE LESSON 1 Corinthians 13:1-8 (Pew Bible, p. 175)

SERMON "Love Came Down at Christmas" Rev. Valerie Hicks

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from A Declaration 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, a virgin. He lived as a Jew among Jews. He announced to his people the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth. We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child. In the person and work of Jesus, God himself and a human life are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated. The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule. Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection, he brings about the relationship between God and humanity that God always intended.

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
AND OUR CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING**

Offertory "How Beautiful Are the Feet of Them"
from The Messiah G.F. Handel

*Doxology (sung) tune TANNENBAUM "O Christmas Tree"

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow,
in ev-ery gen - er - a - tion,
Praise God, all crea-tures here be - low,
who gives to us sal - va - tion.
Praise God a-bove, ye heaven-ly host.
Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.
Let all cre-a- tion praise the Lord
with love and ad - or - a - tion.

*Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, receive these gifts and bless them that they might be used to further your kingdom. Lead us into a right relationship with you. Touch our hearts this Christmas time and inspire in us greater love and faithfulness. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.