

Leader: God our hope, as the promised day approaches, fill us with the joy of your Holy Spirit and strengthen us to serve you faithfully; through Christ, who is coming to reign.

All: **Come quickly, Lord; our hope is in you.**

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 and OUR CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING**

Offertory

\*Doxology (*Instrumental only*)

\*Prayer of Dedication

### **THE SENDING**

### **\*BLESSING AND CHARGE**

### **\*POSTLUDE**



\*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.

### **THIS WEEK AT BPC**

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 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  
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

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

#### **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

#### **Monday, December 28**

Church office closed  
No LunchPlus Club Meal Pickup today

#### **Friday, January 1**

Happy New Year!  
Church office closed  
No LunchPlus Club Meal Pickup today

#### **Sunday, January 3**

10¢-A-Meal 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



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**Welcome to Bethpage Presbyterian Church!  
December 20, 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 LECTORY**

Sunday, December 20	Monday, December 21	Tuesday, December 22	Wednesday, December 23	Thursday, December 24	Friday, December 25	Saturday, December 26
<i>Morning:</i> Ps. 24; 150 <i>1<sup>st</sup> Read:</i> Isa. 28:9-22 <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Read:</i> Rev. 20:11-21:8 <i>Gospel:</i> Luke 1:5-25 <i>Evening:</i> Ps. 25; 110	<i>Morning:</i> Ps. 122; 145 <i>1<sup>st</sup> Read:</i> Isa. 29:9-24 <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Read:</i> Rev. 21:9-21 <i>Gospel:</i> Luke 1:26-38 <i>Evening:</i> Psalms 40; 67	<i>Morning:</i> Ps. 33; 146 <i>1<sup>st</sup> Read:</i> Isaiah 31:1-9 <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Read:</i> Rev. 21:22-22:5 <i>Gospel:</i> Luke 1:39-48a (48b-56) <i>Evening:</i> Psalms 85; 94	<i>Morning:</i> Ps. 50; 147:1-11 <i>1<sup>st</sup> Read:</i> Isaiah 33:17-22 <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Read:</i> Rev. 22:6-11, 18-20 <i>Gospel:</i> Luke 1:57-66 <i>Evening:</i> Psalms 53; 17	<i>Morning:</i> Ps. 18:1-20; 147:12-20 <i>1<sup>st</sup> Read:</i> Isaiah 35:1-10 <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Read:</i> Rev. 22:12-17, 21 <i>Gospel:</i> Luke 1:67-80 <i>Christmas Eve Psalm:</i> Psalm 132 <i>Christmas Eve Psalm:</i> Psalm 114 <i>Christmas Eve Read:</i> Isa. 59:15b-21 <i>Christmas Eve Read:</i> Philippians 2:5-11 <i>Evening:</i> Psalms 126; 62	<i>Morning:</i> Psalms 2; 148 <i>1<sup>st</sup> Read:</i> Zech. 2:10-13 <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Read:</i> 1 John 4:7-16 <i>Gospel:</i> John 3:31-36 <i>Evening:</i> Psalms 98; 96	<i>Morning:</i> Ps. 116; 149 <i>1<sup>st</sup> Read:</i> 2 Chr. 24:17-22 <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Read:</i> Acts 6:1-7 <i>Gospel:</i> Acts 7:59-8:8 <i>Evening:</i> Ps. 119:1-24; 27

# The Service for the Lord's Day

## The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020

9:55 A.M.

### THE GATHERING

#### **PRELUDE**

#### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **\*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES** Dougie and Heather Kirkman

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.

Leader: A ruler will come from Bethlehem . . .

People: . . . and he will be the shepherd of peace.

(Advent Readers continue . . . Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. 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**

God our Maker, we confess that we are not ready to meet you. You offer us a place in your house, yet we find no room for you in our lives. You invite us into your eternal realm, yet we fail to welcome others. Forgive us, God of grace. Let your word of life be with us so that we may truly believe that nothing is impossible with you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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**

Dougie and Heather Kirkman

#### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Psalm 89:1-4 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup>I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever;  
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all  
generations.

<sup>2</sup>I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;  
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

<sup>3</sup>You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,  
I have sworn to my servant David:

<sup>4</sup>"I will establish your descendants forever,  
and build your throne for all generations."

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

All: Thanks be to God!

#### **GOSPEL READING**

Luke 1:26-38 (NRSV)

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He 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. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The 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. <sup>36</sup>And 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. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then 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.

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

All: Thanks be to God!

### **SERMON**

"Messengers and Messages"

William Watkins, CLP

### **\*INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

#### **\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Adapted from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
Study Catechism, Question 48

Leader: What does it mean that Jesus "will come again to judge the living and the dead"?

All: Like everyone else, I too must stand in fear and trembling before the judgment seat of Christ. But the Judge is the one who submitted to judgment for my sake. Nothing will be able to separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus my Lord. All the sinful failures that cause me shame will perish as through fire, while any good I may have done will be received with gladness by God.

### **JOYS AND CONCERNs**

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Leader: Watching and waiting for the coming of Christ, we pray for the promise of a new creation, saying: Come quickly, Lord;

All: our hope is in you.

Leader: With expectation, we pray for the church . . . Anoint us with the gift of your Spirit that we may feed the hungry and proclaim good news to the poor. Come quickly, Lord;

All: our hope is in you.

Leader: With expectation, we pray for the world . . . Use us in your work to heal the brokenhearted, grant freedom to those who are held captive, and bring liberation to those who are in prison. Come quickly, Lord;

All: our hope is in you.

Leader: With expectation, we pray for this community . . . Be present in abandoned and forgotten neighborhoods, places where mourning overshadows joy and healthy food is hard to find. Come quickly, Lord;

All: our hope is in you.

Leader: With expectation, we pray for loved ones . . . Remembering your commandment to love, we pray for our enemies and those who trouble us, as well as those whose presence in our lives brings us joy. Come quickly, Lord;

All: our hope is in you.

(continued →)