

THE SENDING

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

BLESSING AND CHARGE

As you go out this day, may you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ.

POSTLUDE "Celebration of Joy" Arr. David Clydesdale

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TO OUR VISITORS

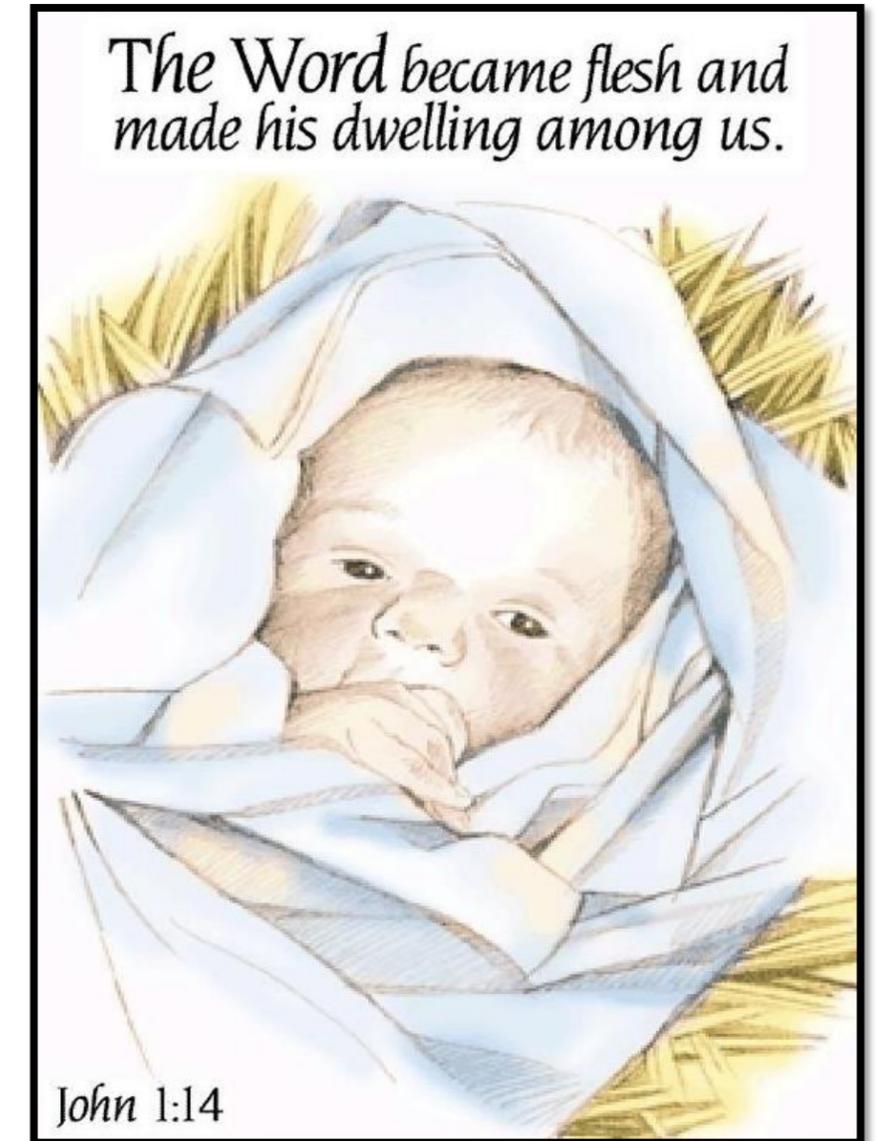
We welcome you to worship today. If you are visiting with us please feel free to speak to the pastor or one of our greeters if you have questions or want more information about Bethpage.

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. Days closed during the holidays are listed below.</p>	
<p>Sunday, December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY 10:00 AM – Casual Worship Service in BPC Fellowship Hall</p> <p>Monday, December 26 Church office closed No LunchPlus Club meeting</p> <p>Tuesday, December 27 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM – Quilting 101 in BPC Fellowship Hall No LunchPlus Club meeting</p> <p>Friday, December 30 Church office closed</p> <p>Sunday, January 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY Deadline for returning Reverse Advent Calendar boxes to BPC 10¢-A-Meal Offering to be received 10:00 AM – Worship Service</p>	<p>Monday, January 2 Church office closed No LunchPlus Club meeting</p> <p>Tuesday, January 3 6:30 PM – Circle 1 in Session Room</p> <p>Wednesday, January 4 7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Thursday, January 5 6:30 PM – Community Choir in BPC Fellowship Hall</p> <p>Friday, January 6 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</p> <p>Sunday, January 8 Baptism of the Lord 9:00 AM – Children's Sunday School – Room 202 9:00 AM – Sunday School – Room 200 10:00 AM – Worship Service</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>



**Welcome to Bethpage Presbyterian Church!
December 25, 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!



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Rev. Valerie Hicks
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The Service for the Lord's Day Christmas Day

December 25, 2022

10:00 A.M.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE "Come and Worship Medley" Arr. David Clydesdale

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

The world is decked in the garb of celebration:

Tinsel and lights, garlands of greenery, brightly colored packages and flashing Christmas greetings cover our world.

The world is engaged in the spirit of celebration:

Festive singing, fine food, merry parties, and grand traditions abound.

Yet the best efforts fall short,

For it is the birth of the Messiah we celebrate.

It is the incarnation of God.

How can we respond to the greatness of this event?

How can we celebrate the Messiah's birth?

We celebrate in worship.

Christmas is a time of worship. It is the moment when the busiest of us pause in wonder.

Let us worship together!

OPENING MUSIC "Come Celebrate Christmas"
Chancel Choir

OPENING PRAYER

Eternal God, Ruler of all worlds and Shepherd of the stars, whose glory is revealed in vastness and in power, yet whose secret name is Love; this is the time when we remember your gentleness, hidden in a mother's hope and in the joy of a birth. This is the time when we believe again, if only for a season, that love is stronger than fear, peace more enduring than hate, and that the darkness will never put out the light. We bring our joy, our tears, our hopes, our dreams, and our fears to you this day. We offer to you our gift of gratitude, and we make bold to believe that you have graced us with your presence, for we are gathered in the name of Love. Amen.

HYMN #28 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"
(The Presbyterian Hymnal)

CHRISTMAS LITANY

God of unimaginable love, on the first Christmas You became one of us.

We celebrate Your love for every person in every place and time.

God of all humanity, You offered Your Peace to anyone who would be satisfied with Your presence.

We celebrate Your Peace in Your Church and accept Your commission to share it in all the world.

God of the shepherds, You announced Your arrival among us to the poorest, the most humble.

We celebrate Your good news to each of us and to everyone, right here where we are.

God of the manger, You came to us through Your Son in a small and simple place.

We celebrate Your presence with us this day in this small place made glorious by Your being in it.

God of deliverance, You came to be one of us in order to deliver all of us.

We celebrate Your protection and mercy toward all who are sick or in trouble.

God of birth, when You became as we are, You opened Yourself to each of us, no matter who or what we are.

We celebrate this day Your Kingdom and that we are welcome in it right now and always. Keep us close, now and in the life to come.

RESPONSE OF PRAISE #53 "What Child Is This"
(The Presbyterian Hymnal)

THE WORD

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

ANTHEM "Angels From the Realms of Glory"

NEW TESTAMENT READING

John 1:1-14

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

Rev. Valerie Hicks

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that God has come to us as a little child, making our weakness his strength, securing our Salvation by becoming one of us, blessing us with with a steadfast savior, filling our hearts with joy to be shared With one another. We believe that God has birthed righteousness and justice into the world, giving us a law That will be written upon our hearts, making the cause of the oppressed the highest priority, declaring an everlasting reign of peace, defeating the power of pain and suffering. We believe that God calls us to participate in this reality of love, inviting us to proclaim Christ's resurrection, transforming us as disciples to go out into the world, sending us forth to announce his kingdom of peace and comfort, challenging us to see everyone as nothing less than beloved children. This we believe. This we preach. This we seek to embody in word and deed.

GIVING GOD OUR OFFERING

Offertory "Transcription of Silent Night" Franz Gruber

Doxology (sung)

**Praise God for gifts of hope and peace
Praise God for gifts of joy and love
Praise God for sending Christ to dwell
On earth for us — Immanuel. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

Compassionate Father, thank you that you are our strength and our song, you fill our hearts with joy. We give our offerings to you with gladness and joy. Everything we have belongs to you. Bless the tithes and offerings that we bring this day and use them to bring about your glory. In Christ's name we pray. Amen

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.