

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.

SERMON NOTES

THIS WEEK AT BPC

LOOKING AHEAD

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 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 with Communion

Monday, January 3

Church office closed

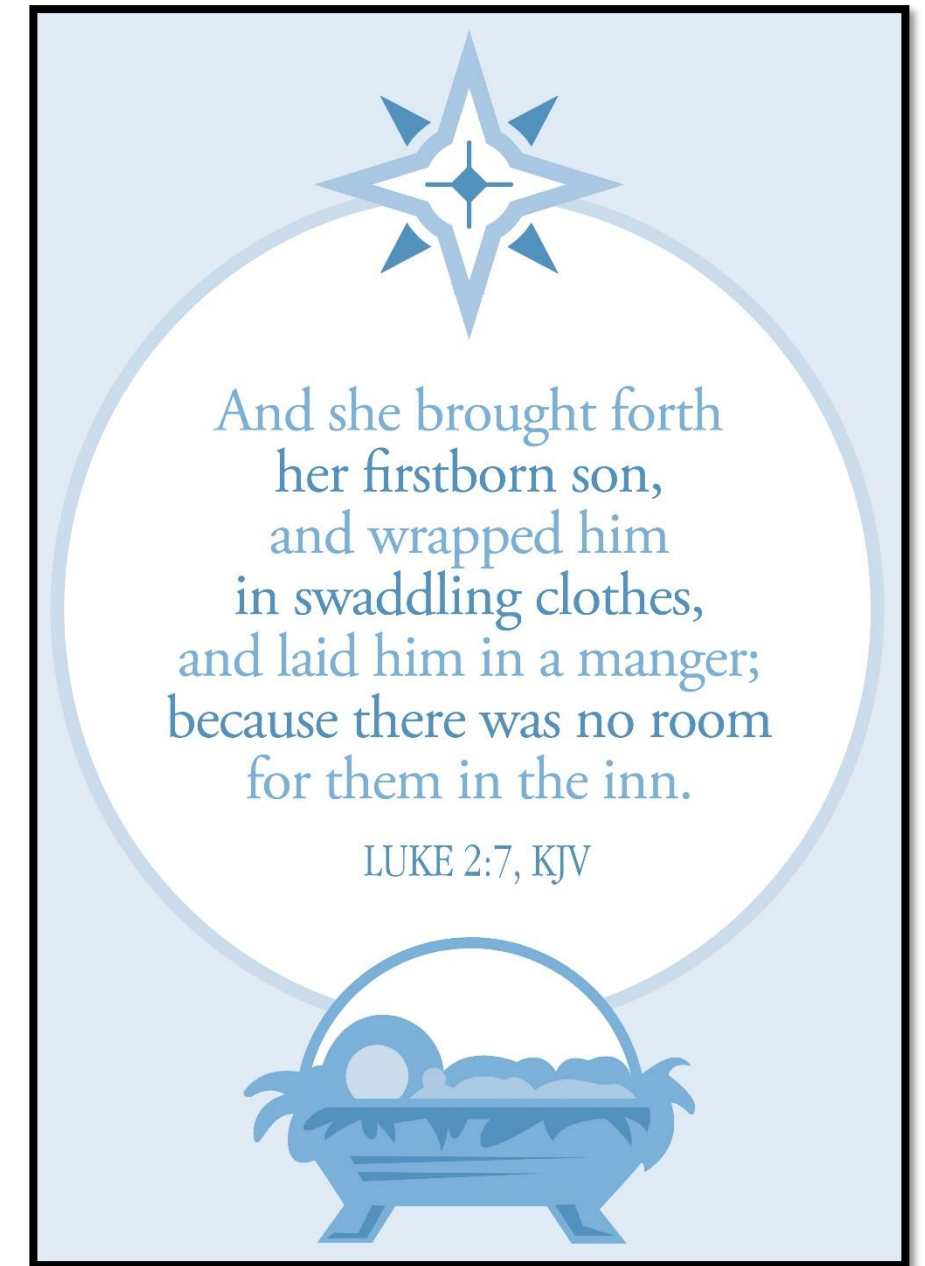
Wednesday, January 5

7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, January 9

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

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 26, 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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e-mail: info@bethpagechurch.org

Rev. Valerie Hicks

704-712-7533 • valerie@bethpagechurch.org

The Service for the Lord's Day The First Sunday of Christmas

December 26, 2021

10:00 A.M.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE "Gesu Bambino" Pietro Yon

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRINITY CHIMES

***HYMN #23** "Angels We Have Heard on High"
(verses 1 & 3, The Presbyterian Hymnal)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: God's salvation has come. Alleluia!

People: Christ is born.

Leader: Light has shined in our darkness.

People: Christ is born.

Leader: God's salvation has come.

People: Alleluia!

***OPENING PRAYER**

Holy God, in days of old you sent your angels to tell shepherds the good news: "To you is born this day a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord." Help us hear with the shepherds this good news, that we too may glorify and praise you for all that we have seen and heard. Amen.

***HYMN #56** "The First Nowell"
(verses 1 & 6, The Presbyterian Hymnal)

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Eternal God, who can make all things new, we humbly bring before you the record of our lives in the year now ending. Where life has been good to us, do not let us take more of the credit than we deserve. Where we have been good to others, help us to forget all thoughts of honor and reward. Where we have fallen short, forgive us, and free us from brooding over what is past. Cleanse us by your mercy, guide us by your truth, fill us with your love, lead us forward in your all-conquering hope. Through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen. *(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: Christ comes in the form of a little baby to save us from our sins. Spread the Good News! Alleluia, Amen.

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE** *(sung)*
"O Little Town of Bethlehem" *(verse 4)*

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!**

THE WORD

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

ANTHEM "Joy Has Dawned" Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

(The congregation is invited to join the choir in the last verse of this hymn which is in our Hymns of Grace hymnal, #237.)

Words for the 4th verse:

Son of A - dam, Son of heav'n,
Giv - en as a ran - som;
Rec - on - cil - ing God and man,
Christ, our might - y cham - pion!
What a Sav - ior!
What a Friend!
What a glo - rious my - st'ry!
Once a babe in Beth - le - hem,
Now the Lord of his - t'ry.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Jean Brown

OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 126 (Pew Bible, p. 572)

NEW TESTAMENT READING Luke 2:8-18 (Pew Bible, p. 58)

SERMON "Shepherds and Such" Rev. Valerie Hicks

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

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. Jesus lived a truly human life. Jesus prayed, struggled with temptation, knew anger and was subject to suffering and death. He was like us in every way except sin. We recognize in Jesus what God created us to be. He demonstrates the new humanity God promises to give us through him. Jesus was God in the flesh.

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

Offertory "Come, all ye Shepherds"
VI Century Bohemian Carol, English version by Cecil Cowdrey
*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

THE SENDING

***HYMN #225** "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"
(verses 1 & 3, Hymns of Grace)

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Leader: May the grace of God lead you forth.

People: May the light of Christ shine on your paths.

Leader: May the presence of the Holy Spirit fill your days.

People: And may love be your way in the new year!

***POSTLUDE** "Climb To the Top of the Highest Mountain"
Carolyn Jennings

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