

## THE WORDS OF THE INSTITUTION AND COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Heavenly Father, we have been comforted and fed at your table. Send us out empowered by your Spirit that we may act with justice, confidence, generosity and love. Help us to be true disciples, witnessing to your hope in all that we do. Guide us in sharing your grace with a hungry and hurting world. In Christ's name. Amen.

### GO IN GOD'S NAME

**HYMN #2254**

*"In Remembrance of Me"*  
(Sing the Faith Hymnal)

### CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Take time, in the busyness of this season, for quiet reflection—For the light of God's love is discernible everywhere.

**We will let ourselves be surprised by wonder and set aside time to offer quiet thanks.**

The good news of Advent is this: Christ is coming. Christ is always coming.

**We will welcome Christ into our hearts. We will let ourselves be guided by his ministry. We will go forth from this place in hope.**

### POSTLUDE

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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.*



6020 Mooresville Road • Kannapolis NC 28081  
704-933-2209

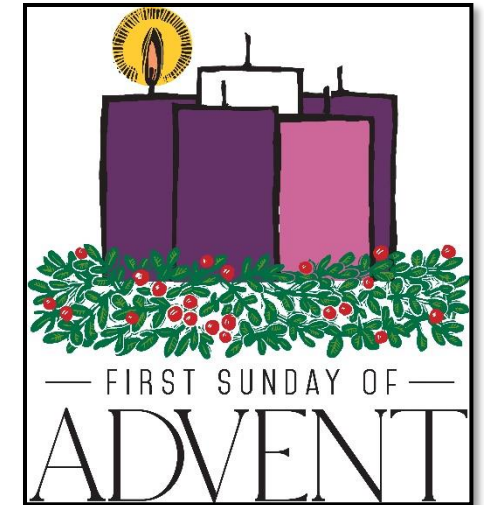
website: [www.bethpagechurch.org](http://www.bethpagechurch.org)  
e-mail: [info@bethpagechurch.org](mailto:info@bethpagechurch.org)

Rev. Valerie Hicks  
704-712-7533 • [valeriedehicks@gmail.com](mailto:valeriedehicks@gmail.com)

## Welcome to Bethpage Presbyterian Church!

*"A family of faith in Jesus  
Christ, yesterday, today,  
and tomorrow."*

**December 3, 2023  
10:00 AM**



### GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

#### PRELUDE

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### OPENING MUSIC

*"Christmas Comes"*

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

*Zach & Kate Craddock*

Christians around the world begin this day to await the advent of Christ. We join with a joyous and hopeful throng in lighting the Advent candles, symbols of our faith and signs of God's love.

#### **We gather as a people of Hope.**

Christian people around the world stand today in breathless anticipation of a miracle that has been repeated for hundreds of years, yet that astounds us anew each year.

#### **Our hope springs anew, from an ancient vision.**

As we light the first Advent candle, let it stand for hope based not on wishful thinking, but on deep conviction. We believe, we have seen, we have received the Promise and the Great Gift, and therefore, in the midst of darkness and imperfection, we hope.

**We gather expectantly, joyfully, and with deep commitment, for we have heard that a special child is to come, that God is to be among us, and that soon we will see a new creation on earth. We are a people of hope.**

Loving God, as we enter this Advent season, we open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing light of Christ. Show us the creative power of hope. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION***

## ***ASSURANCE OF PARDON***

**Lead us in your hope, O God, and teach us your love. You are the God of our days, we wait for you to come to us. Amen.**

**RESPONSE OF PRAISE**      *"Glory Be to the Father"*      GLORIA PATRI

## **THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

## TIME WITH CHILDREN

**ANTHEM** "Adore"

Isaiah 40:1-5 (Pew Bible, p. 667)

**NEW TESTAMENT READING** 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 (Pew Bible, p. 206)

**SERMON** *"A Little TLC"* Rev. Valerie Hicks

## THE PEOPLE RESPOND

## ***GIVING GOD OUR OFFERING***

Offertory *"Messiah"*

Doxology (*sung*)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## Prayer of Dedication

**Accept our offerings, O God in response to your love. You give us every good gift. May we imitate you in our generosity towards others. Help us to be good stewards of all we have received. Use what we offer to spread the good news and to bless others. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

## INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

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

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Minister continues . . .*

**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.**