

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN OF WELCOME

**We are God's family, serving together.
Bound by the Spirit, Welcome new friends!
Grace freely given faith for the journey,
Worship our Savior, love never ends.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

GO IN GOD'S NAME

HYMN #29

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"
(The Presbyterian Hymnal)

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

† † † † †

Announcement: There will be a called meeting of the congregation immediately after worship next Sunday, January 7th for the purpose of hearing a report from the Nominating Committee.

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.



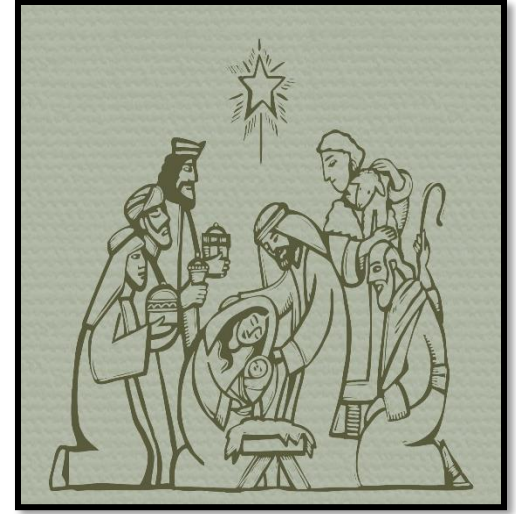
6020 Mooresville Road • Kannapolis NC 28081
704-933-2209
website: www.bethpagechurch.org
e-mail: info@bethpagechurch.org

Rev. Valerie Hicks
704-712-7533 • valeriedeehicks@gmail.com

Welcome to Bethpage Presbyterian Church!

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

**December 31, 2023
10:00 AM**



GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING MUSIC

CALL TO WORSHIP

To disciples, then and now, Jesus has said, "You are the light of the world. Let your light so shine before all, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

We have come together to be community, to receive light, and to be light. Let us dedicate ourselves.

We have come together to be windows through which, instructed and illuminated by God, we might see the world more clearly.

We have come to be windows through which the world might know the light and love of God. Let us praise and glorify the Lord.

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN #31

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"
(The Presbyterian Hymnal)

CALL TO CONFESSION

God’s love has been shown to us in Jesus Christ, yet we sometimes live as if that made no difference to us. Let us come together in confession before God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sometimes, O God, your Word is too much for us. You ask us to love our enemies, when we can scarcely love our friends as we should. You ask us to give when we want to take, and to forgive when we want to nurse bitterness. We thank you that you accept us as we are, and that you show us what we can be. Help us to believe that we can be loving, just and holy like you; through the grace of Jesus Christ, hear our silent confessions. *(Please take a moment for silent confession.)*

RESPONSE #44 *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*
(verse 4, The Presbyterian Hymnal)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is the good news in Jesus Christ: God loves us more than we love ourselves. God forgives us, encourages us, and frees us to love others. Thanks be to God.
Alleluia, Amen!

RESPONSE OF PRAISE #23 *“Angels We Have Heard on High”*
(refrain only, The Presbyterian Hymnal)

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

TIME WITH CHILDREN

ANTHEM *“He Still Came”*

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 9:6-7 (Pew Bible, p. 638)

NEW TESTAMENT READING Luke 2:15-21 (Pew Bible, p. 58)

SERMON *“Christmas Is Over”* Rev. Valerie Hicks

THE PEOPLE RESPOND

GIVING GOD OUR OFFERING

Offertory
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
God, we have been made in your image. So, in your generosity, make us generous. In your faithfulness, make us faithful. So that whatever gift we bring to you might be an offer of worship before you, as the gold, frankincense, and myrrh were before your son Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER *Maloree Phaedra Foster*

LITANY

We rejoice that we are one with each other in the family of God.
We celebrate the gifts that you will bring to Christ’s church.
We welcome you with love and acceptance.
We look forward to serving together and growing in our faith as we serve.
We want Bethpage to be a place where you are, a safe place to express your questions and doubts, a place where you sense the Sprit’s presence and a place where you can grow in your discipleship.
We praise God for bringing you to this place on your journey. Alleluia. Amen.

QUESTIONS AND PRAYER

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. *(continued →)*