

PRAYER JOYS & CONCERNS

[If you have a prayer concern or joy to share during the week, please email Rev. Ellen at ellen@bethpagechurch.org.]

December 24

Joys: Suds of Love (Christel)

Concerns: Those in rest homes and those who have lost a loved one or friend this year (Ronnie), Albert (Susan), Anthony (Christine), James (Faith)

SERMON NOTES

THIS WEEK AT BPC

Sunday, December 31

8:45 – 9:00 AM – Coffee Fellowship in Fellowship Hall
 9:00 AM – Sunday School
 9:55 AM – Worship Service
 10:00 – 11:00 AM – LMCS Bible Study
 11:20 AM – 1:30 PM – LMCS Worship in Sanctuary
 1:00 – 4:00 PM – LMCS in BPC Fellowship Hall & Pavilion

Monday, January 1

New Year's Day – Church office closed

Tuesday, January 2

9:30 AM – 1:00 PM – Quilting 101 in BPC Fellowship Hall
 10:00 AM – Nurture Committee

Wednesday, January 3

10:00 AM – Mary's Bible Study – Session Rm
 6:00 PM – Youth Choir
 7:15 PM – Choir

Sunday, January 7

10¢-A-Meal Offering to be received
 8:45 – 9:00 AM – Coffee Fellowship in Fellowship Hall
 9:00 AM – Sunday School
 9:55 AM – Worship Service
 10:00 – 11:00 AM – LMCS Bible Study
 11:20 AM – 1:30 PM – LMCS Worship in Sanctuary
 1:00 PM – Stewardship Committee
 1:00 PM – Take down Decorations
 1:00 – 4:00 PM – LMCS in BPC Fellowship Hall & Pavilion
 6:00 PM – Young Adults Small Group at the Paxtons

LOOKING AHEAD

Monday, January 8

7:00 PM – Gathering Time
 7:15 PM – Ministry Area Teams

Tuesday, January 9

Annual Reports due to church office
 6:00 PM – Property Committee
 6:30 PM – Women's Bible Study Group in the Session Room
 6:30 PM – Personnel Committee
 7:00 PM – Christian Education Committee

Wednesday, January 10

10:00 AM – Mary's Bible Study – Session Rm
 3:00 PM – Staff Meeting
 6:00 PM – Adult Small Groups
 6:00 PM – Youth Choir
 7:15 PM – Choir

Saturday, January 13

9:00 AM – Men's Prayer Breakfast in the BPC Fellowship Hall

Sunday, January 14

8:45 – 9:00 AM – Coffee Fellowship in Fellowship Hall
 9:00 AM – Sunday School
 9:55 AM – Worship Service
 10:00 – 11:00 AM – LMCS Bible Study
 11:20 AM – 1:30 PM – LMCS Worship in Sanctuary
 1:00 – 4:00 PM – LMCS in BPC Fellowship Hall & Pavilion

“This will be a sign for you:
 you will find a child
 wrapped in bands of cloth
 and lying in a manger.”



Luke 2:12, NRSV



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Welcome to Bethpage Presbyterian Church!

December 31, 2017

“A family of faith
 yesterday, today, and tomorrow.”

We are excited that you have joined us in worshipping God today. If you are a visitor, please pick up a church information brochure, found in the pew holders. 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 LECTIONARY

Sunday, 12/31/2017	Monday, 1/1/2018	Tuesday, 1/2/2018	Wednesday, 1/3/2018	Thursday, 1/4/2018	Friday, 1/5/2018	Saturday, 1/6/2018
Morning: Psalms 98; 150 1 st Reading: 1 Samuel 1:1-2, 7b-28 2 nd Reading: Col. 1:9-20 Gospel: Luke 2:22-40 Evening: Psalms 45; 96	Morning: Psalms 98; 145 1 st Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5, 10-12 2 nd Reading: Rev. 19:11-16 Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25 Evening: Psalms 99; 8	Morning: Psalms 48; 146 1 st Reading: 1 Kings 19:1-8 2 nd Reading: Eph. 4:1-16 Gospel: John 6:1-14 Evening: Psalms 9; 29	Morning: Ps. 111; 147:1-11 1 st Reading: 1 Kings 19:9-18 2 nd Reading: Eph. 4:17-32 Gospel: John 6:15-27 Evening: Psalms 107; 15	Morning: Ps. 20; 147:12-20 1 st Reading: Joshua 3:14-4:7 2 nd Reading: Eph. 5:1-20 Gospel: John 9:1-12, 35-38 Evening: Psalms 93; 97	Morning: Psalms 99; 148 1 st Reading: Jonah 2:2-9 2 nd Reading: Eph. 6:10-20 Gospel: John 11:17-27, 38-44 Eve of Epiphany Reading: Isaiah 66:18-23 Eve of Epiphany Reading: Romans 15:7-13 Evening: Psalms 96; 110	Morning: Psalms 72; 149 1 st Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7 2 nd Reading: Rev. 21:22-27 Gospel: Matthew 12:14-21 Evening: Psalms 100; 67

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

December 31, 2017

9:55 A.M.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE "Gesù Bambino" Pietro A. Yon

ANNOUNCEMENTS
(RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP/PRAYER CARDS)

***WELCOME & PASSING OF THE PEACE**

TRINITY CHIMES

CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING (by request)

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Adapted from Psalm 148/Luke 2

Minister: Robust men and women in their prime, and yes, gray bearded ones too and little children. Let them praise the Name of GOD — it's the only Name worth praising.

Congregation: Like Simeon so long ago: Christ's birth makes possible that, "With my own eyes I now see your salvation; it's now out in the open for everyone to see."

ALL: This child marks both the failure and the recovery of Adam's race. This child is the one we have come to worship and adore.

***HYMN 56** "The First Nowell" THE FIRST NOWELL

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Leader: Simeon cried out in the temple, "This child marks both the failure and the recovery of many in Israel, A figure misunderstood and contradicted — the pain of a sword-thrust through him — But the rejection will force honesty, as God reveals who we really are."

People: Lord, we have rejected you. Father, it was my sin and failure to follow you faithfully, that would bring crucifixion to this innocent baby. Jesus, my Christ, forgive such treason. Where I have misunderstood your Holy ways, thinking they limited my life rather than blessing it . . . please pardon. Where my will has sought to have its own way by contradicting your Word . . . bring obedience and forgive. Force me, through the truth telling effect of your Holy Spirit, to confess all my sin, forgive my enemy and live triumphantly into a new understanding of whose I really am be grace. Amen. (Please, take a moment for silent confession.)

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE HYMN 579**

"Glory to the Father" GLORIA PATRI

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, Amen.

THE WORD

TIME WITH YOUNGER CHRISTIANS

SPECIAL MUSIC The Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Marty Paxton

OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 148 (Bible, OT p. 582)
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

NEW TESTAMENT READING Luke 2:22-35 (Bible, NT p. 59)
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON "Truth Telling" Rev. Ellen Campbell Gardner

***HYMN 25** "Away in a Manger" MUELLER

***ASSURANCE OF FAITH** The Apostles' Creed (Hymnal, p. 14)

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.

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.

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'S TITHES & OUR OFFERINGS

Offertory "He Shall Feed His Flock Like a Shepherd" The Messiah
G. F. Handel
OLD HUNDREDTH

*Doxology 592
**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

THE SENDING

***HYMN 23** "Angels We Have Heard on High" GLORIA

***BLESSING AND CHARGE**

***POSTLUDE** "O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion" The Messiah
G. F. Handel

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

TO OUR VISITORS

We welcome you to our worship, and we ask that you sign our Ritual of Friendship as it is passed along the pew. 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.

PASTORAL COUNSELING

Presbyterian Psychological Services is an integrated, interdisciplinary center for psychiatry, psychology, pastoral counseling, career counseling, and community education. We are committed to empowering all individuals, couples, and families in our community to heal and grow in an atmosphere of safety and clinical expertise. Contact info: 704-554-9900 or www.presbypsych.org.

THE SESSION OF OUR CHURCH	USHERS
Rev. Ellen Campbell Gardner, <i>Moderator</i> Roger Hamilton, <i>Clerk of Session</i> Dennis Graybeal, <i>Treasurer</i>	HEAD USHER Roger Hamilton
CLASS OF 2018	USHERS: Kevin Hamilton Aubrey Tarlton
Sherry Childers, <i>Personnel</i> Dougie Kirkman, <i>Mission/Evangelism</i> Brandi Lackey, <i>Christian Education</i>	LECTOR Marty Paxton
CLASS OF 2019	CHILDREN'S NURSERY (Worship only)
Connie Goodman, <i>Worship</i> Mark Gurley, <i>Property</i> Christel Josey, <i>Nurture</i>	Dougie Kirkman Leigh Ann Allen
CLASS OF 2020	CHILDREN'S WORSHIP
Jean Brown, <i>Communications</i> Ed Kusper, <i>Stewardship</i> Madison Scarborough, <i>Fellowship</i>	No Children's Worship