

THE SENDING

HYMN #38 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"
(verses 1, 2, & 4, The Presbyterian Hymnal)

BENEDICTION

Go forth with God's blessing.
We will follow God's ways with open hearts.
Walk with God in peace and harmony.
This Advent we will go with God.

POSTLUDE

Congregational Meeting [Members please remain seated. Visitors may leave at this time.]

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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
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.	
<p>Sunday, December 4 ADVENT II 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 followed by Congregational Meeting</p> <p>Tuesday, December 6 6:30 PM – Circle 1 at El Amigo Restaurant</p> <p>Wednesday, December 7 7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Thursday, December 8 6:30 PM – Community Choir Christmas Party in BPC Fellowship Hall</p> <p>Saturday, December 10 7:30 AM – 1:30 PM – Girl Scouts Event in BPC Fellowship Hall 6:00 PM – Kannapolis Parade</p>	<p>Sunday, December 11 ADVENT III Deadline for returning wrapped Angel Tree gifts to BPC 9:00 AM – Children's Sunday School – Room 202 9:00 AM – Sunday School – Room 200 10:00 AM – Worship Service 3:45 PM - Christmas Caroling 5:00 PM – Soup Supper in BPC Fellowship Hall</p> <p>Tuesday, December 13 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM – Quilting 101 in BPC Fellowship Hall</p> <p>Wednesday, December 14 7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Thursday, December 15 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM – "Suds of Love" at Harris Laundromat 5:30 PM – Personnel Committee 6:00 – 8:00 PM – "Suds of Love" at Harris Laundromat</p> <p>Sunday, December 18 ADVENT IV Christmas Joy 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</p>

THE SESSION OF OUR CHURCH	CLASS OF 2022
Valerie Hicks, <i>Moderator</i> Melissa Wright, <i>Clerk</i>	Connie Goodman, <i>Worship</i> Christel Josey, <i>Property</i> Dougie Kirkman, <i>Christian Education</i>
CLASS OF 2023	CLASS OF 2024
Richie Goodman, <i>Stewardship</i> Ed Kusper, <i>Congregational Care</i> Melissa Wright, <i>Clerk</i>	Chris Ferguson, <i>Mission/Evangelism</i> Sherry Shifflett, <i>Personnel</i>



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SECOND SUNDAY
OF
Advent

**Welcome to Bethpage Presbyterian Church!
December 4, 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!

The Service for the Lord's Day The Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2022

10:00 A.M.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRINITY CHIMES

OPENING MUSIC "While We Are Waiting Come"

While we are waiting, come;
while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
while we are waiting, come.

Come, Savior, quickly come;
come, Savior quickly come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
while we are waiting, come.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Glenda Kirkman

Leader: For many of us, the call to head home is one of joy and of hope. We can't wait to reconnect with family, with history and tradition, with a wonderful time of freedom and loving support. We can't wait to go home.

People: There are those who fear going home, however, and there are times when going home brings back memories that are not so good, not so healing. We are reminded of when we didn't fit in, when we didn't measure up, when we weren't loved like we needed to be loved. Home can be a difficult place for some.

Leader: The prophet Malachi tells us that even when we are in the hottest of fires, there is a presence who can make us better, who can refine and purify. John the Baptist tells us that the road home is always under construction, mountains leveled, and valleys filled in, to make smooth the path that leads us to our true destination, where we can live in peace and unity with all.

We light these candles, the candle of hope and the candle of peace, as a sign of our assurance that though the road is hard, we believe it is worth the journey. It is time to go home.

ADVENT HYMN "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.
"Come home, come home!
You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinner, come home!"

OPENING PRAYER

O living Christ, we need your peace today to shine in the dark corners of our world, where loneliness and hatred, war and suffering, greed and lust destroy. Come to us and shine in our lives, that we may more perfectly love you. May the peace of Christ be present in our lives and in our world. Amen.

HYMN #9 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (The Presbyterian Hymnal)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the loving heart, we confess before you those places in our hearts where we have refused you entrance: people we have refused to love; habits we never get around to changing; good things we have left undone; and ways in which we hurt you, ourselves, and others. Come to us in the light of Christ. Shine on those places we have hidden from you. Show us new ways to live. Forgive us, O Lord. Sweep clean the rooms of our hearts, that Christ may find a home among us. Hear our silent confessions . . .
(Please take a moment for silent confession.)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Rejoice and be glad, people of God, you have been redeemed.

Christ died for us. Christ rose for us. Christ reigns in power for us.

In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

Alleluia! Amen.

RESPONSE OF PRAISE

"Glory Be 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 THE CHILDREN

ANTHEM "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Ed Kasper

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 1:1-17 (Pew Bible, p. 1)

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 1:18-25 (Pew Bible, p. 1)

SERMON "Joseph" Rev. Valerie Hicks

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.

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.

GIVING GOD OUR OFFERING and OUR 10¢-A-MEAL OFFERING

Offertory Amber McCullough

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

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.