

**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.

**A Special Thank You**

We welcome and give thanks to our guests during this morning's worship service, Rev. Billy Kluttz III, pastor at Govans Presbyterian Church, Baltimore, MD and Charles Kluttz III, music teacher and director for the Yadkinville Arts Council and teacher of the Acting Out program at The University of NC School of the Arts in Winston. Rev. Kluttz and Charlie Kluttz are the sons of BPC's new members, Charles and Pat Kluttz.

**Flowers in the Church Sanctuary This Sunday**

The flowers in the church sanctuary this Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Calvin S. and Nina VanPelt Gurley on the occasion of their anniversary, December 8, 1939, and in loving memory of Zachary Calvin Gurley (Aug. 18, 1981 – July 8, 2021). The flowers are given by Ben, Hilda, Ken and John. The family would like for the Bethpage congregation to please take a rose when you leave worship service today.

**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.

**Sunday, December 5**

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

**Wednesday, December 8**

5:30 PM – G.I.F.T.<sup>2</sup> Program  
7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, December 9**

6:30 PM – Personnel Committee

**Friday, December 10**

6:00 – 8:00 PM – Girl Scouts set up in BPC Fellowship Hall

**Saturday, December 11**

8:00 AM – 2:00 PM – Girl Scouts in BPC Fellowship Hall

**Sunday, December 12**

ADVENT III  
9:00 AM – Children's Sunday School - Room 202  
9:00 AM – Sunday School - Room 200  
10:00 AM – Worship Service

**Monday, December 13**

7:15 PM – Mission/Evangelism Committee  
7:15 PM – Worship Committee

**Tuesday, December 14**

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM – Quilting 101 in BPC Fellowship Hall  
7:00 PM – Christian Education Committee

**Wednesday, December 15**

11:30 AM – LUNCH OUT at Logan's Roadhouse  
5:30 PM – G.I.F.T.<sup>2</sup> Program  
7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal

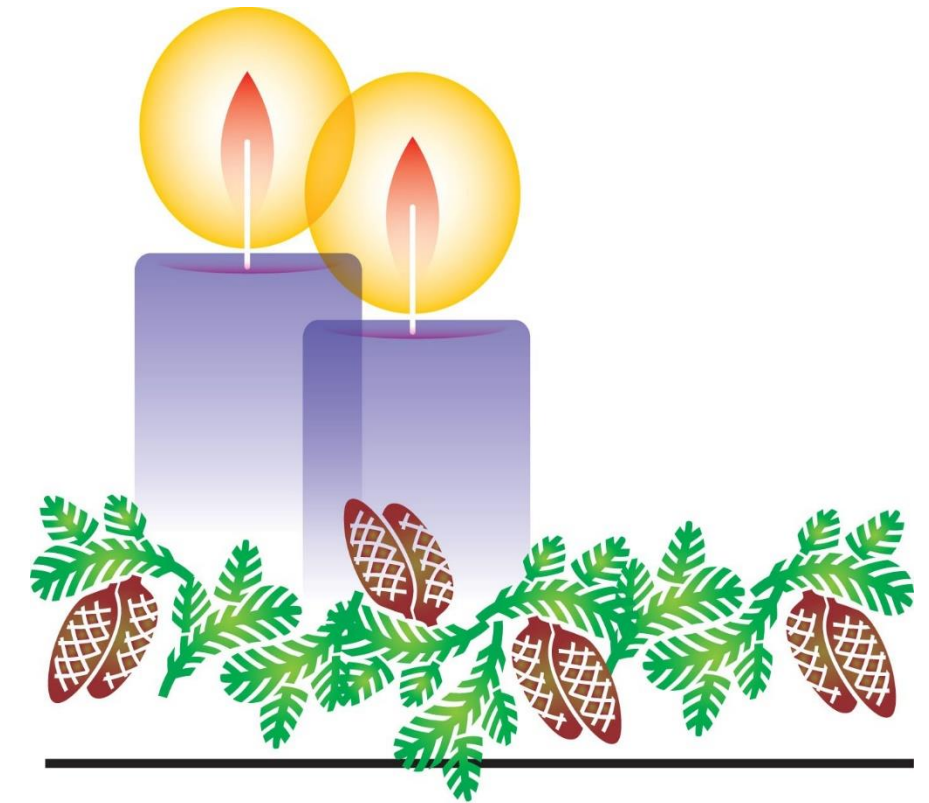
**Thursday, December 16**

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM – "Suds of Love" at Harris Laundromat  
6:00 – 8:00 PM – "Suds of Love" at Harris Laundromat

**Sunday, December 19**

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

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>



*Peace*

**Welcome to Bethpage Presbyterian Church!  
December 5, 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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Rev. Valerie Hicks

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

December 5, 2021

10:00 A.M.

## THE GATHERING

**PRELUDE** "Panis Angelicus" Cesar Franck

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **TRINITY CHIMES**

**ADVENT SONG** "While We Are Waiting, Come"

**\*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES** Reid and Linda VanPelt

Leader: The season of Advent continues. Today we light the candle of peace.

**People: This light, too, must brave great darkness.**

Leader: In an age when people so seldom find peace within themselves, and when all the earth stands under threat of total annihilation, we light a fire called peace.

**People: Peace that is not merely the absence of war and conflict, but peace that is the fullness of blessing for all — that is the peace for which we dare to hope.**

Leader: Christ comes to bring peace to those who have been separated from God and from one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

### **\*ADVENT PRAYER**

Loving God, in this time of preparation and planning, we thank you for the hope and peace you unfailingly offer us. Give us the peace that is shalom, wholeness in you, O Lord. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

**\*HYMN #8** "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"  
(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. Be known among us now and forever! (Please take a moment for silent confession.)

### **\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Leader: Friends, the Prince of Peace comes and heals us. The Prince of Peace comes and forgives us. The Prince of Peace comes and loves us.

**People: We will live as a forgiven people and spread the peace of Christ. Alleluia and Amen.**

### **\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (sung)**

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.

## THE WORD

### **TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

**ANTHEM** "Day by Day"  
composed by Martin How (Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester)

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** Ed Kusper

**HEBREW SCRIPTURES** Psalm 34:11-15, 18 (Pew Bible, p. 508)

**NEW TESTAMENT READINGS** Romans 12:9-18 (Pew Bible, p. 162)  
James 3:17-18 (Pew Bible, p. 230)

**SERMON** "Advent Peace" Rev. Valerie Hicks

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** from The Belhar Confession

We believe

- that God has revealed God's self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;
- that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged

(continued →)

- that God calls the church to follow God in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;
- that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;
- that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream;

### **AFFIRMATION IN MUSIC**

"Goodness is Stronger than Evil"

### **RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

Charles and Pat Kluttz

**SPECIAL MUSIC** "For Everyone Born"

### **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 & OUR 10¢-A-MEAL OFFERING**

Offertory "Welcome to This World"  
Pat, Charlie and Billy Kluttz

\*Doxology (sung)  
based on tune CAROL ("It Came Upon the Midnight Clear")

**Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow.  
Praise God all crea - tures here be - low.  
Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host.  
Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.**

\*Prayer of Dedication

## THE SENDING

**\*HYMN #386** "O for a World"  
(The Presbyterian Hymnal)

### **\*BLESSING AND CHARGE**

**\*POSTLUDE** "Greensleeves"  
R. Vaughan Williams, arr. by Stanley Roper

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