# Welcome to



## 2024 December 1

## 1st Sunday of Advent

May God who gathers us around Himself in the Word and Sacrament to bless us with His forgiveness this morning be your source of comfort, strength and renewal as you worship today. In the Name of Christ, we are all called to come and hear that the Lord is Good!

Prelude - "Worthy of Worship"

Preparing our Souls through silence, reading and reflection
\*Procession of the Cross

Announcements and Prayer Concerns– Sharing our life together.

Congregational Prayer

Lighting of the 1<sup>st</sup> Advent Candle Sue Greer and Sue Rossiter Invocation and Confession – *Entering into the Presence of the Lord*P: In the name of the Father, and of the ♣ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19) **C: Amen** 

P: Make us to know your ways, O Lord, and teach us your paths. Lead us in your truth and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation; for whom we wait. (Psalm 25:4-5) **C: Amen** 

P: If we say we have fellowship with God while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth; but if we walk in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:6-7)

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.

C: According to your abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us. Cast us not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit. Amen (Psalm 51:1-2, 10-12)

P: Let it be known to you, that through Jesus Christ, the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. (1 John 1:6-7) He commanded us to preach and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name. (Acts 10:42-43) **C: Amen** 

### **Announcements and Schedule**

#### **Studies this Week:**

Wednesday -10:30am Bible Study – 1517 Thomas Jefferson Rd 7:00pm – Women's Group – 169 Buxton Dr. 7:00pm – Men's Group – 169 Buxton Dr. Thursday – 7:00pm– Bible Study– 19 George St.

We have prayer cards for you to mail to anyone you lifted up at the Altar during Communion. Feel free to bless others with these.

Congregation: While fear, anxiety, misinformation, and suspicion surround us on every side, we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice God's grace already at work in our midst.

Advent begins today! Our new Advent Candle is handmade by Keith and Angie Nunn and was gifted to us. Please come and look at the details. The woods used as is follows: Angel #1 – Oak; Angel #2 – Cherry; Angel #3 – Cedar; Angel #4 – Black Walnut; Holly leaves – Poplar; Berries – Redwood

We are hanging clothes on Tuesday at 10:30am at Parkview.

To show our appreciation for the time Mona Thomas was our Music Director, we are gathering a love gift for her. On December 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> you can simply mark whatever you feel led to give as "Mona Thomas". This will be sent with a card to her.

Our Christmas Eve offering in it's entirety will be sent to Samaritan's Purse to aid in the relief efforts for those affected by the flooding in North Carolina and Tennessee.

**Upcoming Dates:** December 8<sup>th</sup> – Annual Congregational Meeting,

December 22<sup>nd</sup> – Christmas Pot Luck Meal

December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve Service – 9:00pm December 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day Service – 10:00am

Lector – Brandon Everett

The Rt. Rev Dr. Tom Bryant, Pastor

Dcn. Jennifer Reynolds, Eucharistic Minister

Mark O'Brien, Pianist

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Call to Worship – Psalm 25.1-10

\*Hymn #172 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

First Lesson – Jeremiah 33.14-16

Call to Prayer #170 "Oh, How He Loves You and Me"

Pastoral Prayer (followed by the Lord's Prayer in unison)

Second Lesson – I Thessalonians 3.9-13

**Baptism** 

Offertory

"It is Well With My Soul"

(Please place your offering in one of the plates)

\*Doxology - #668

\*Gospel- Luke 21.25-36 "Praise be to thee, O Christ"

Sermon— "Overwhelming Love"

\*The Apostles' Creed

Communion

"I Sing Praises to Your Name"

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Unending Hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the Highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the Highest.

The Mystery of Faith:

Christ has died; Christ is Risen; Christ will come again.

Receiving the Body and Blood of Christ

\*Hymn – #175 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

\*Benediction with Choral Response

\*Dismissal and Recessional

#### Prayer List

Tom Langford, Bill Warman, Carolyn Ashwell, Glen Harvey, Liz Griffin, Betty Mann, Katie Epley, Yvette Clark, Darby Atkins, Chris Griffin, Jean Moriety, Starke Camden, Robert Wright, Cyndy Williams, Wayne Williams, Jim and Sue Henry, Gwen Miller, Lora Drinkard, Marion Mantz, Mamie Wetzel, Ned Atkins, Larry Shepley, Greg Anderson & those persecuted around the world.

Let us pray for all our elected Officials and our Country.

The situation and people in Israel

The people of Ukraine and Moldova, esp. Dimitri, Stella Lorina,

The people of Turkey and Syria

Sue Greer, recovering from surgery.

Ruth Harvey, recovering from surgery

Agnes Lowry Campbell, recovering from knee surgery

Chuck Bucklew, father of Web's friend, with esophageal cancer

Teddy Brill

Linda Sparrow, cancer

John Griffin

Ellen Brantley

Ryland French, 11 year old girl with an inoperable brain tumor

Steve Cawthorne, diabetes

Danny Coffman

Glen and Ruth Harvey

Kay and Bobb Rasor

Valerie Soma, with cancer, and her family

Gail Everett, recovering from knee surgery

Dustin Formom, farm accident

Zoe Purvis, Judy Wimmer's granddaughter

Patty Miller

Barbara Smith, Tonni's mom

Winston Brill, Tony's dad

Debbie Morse

Paul Balderson, recovering from surgery.

Bob Bertotski, cancer, friend of Larry Shepley

Trevor, friend of the Griffins

Tiffany Reynolds and Hank Adams, cancer

Dick Kihnley, Sue Rossiter's brother-in-law, great improvement from surgery

Jessie Doss

April Stephens' mom, Cindi Mason, stage 3 colon cancer

Margaret Kihnley, sister of Sue Rossiter

Justice Ashwell, Carolyn's grandson

Debbie Reeves, cancer

Kevin Thomas Mele, on dialysis

Nancy Turner, treatment for cancer, friend of Martha's

Betty Shepherd, friend of Martha Mahanes

# **Beginning Advent**

We can all slow down. We can all breathe more deeply. We can all begin to trust that this will be a blessed time. Then, when we let ourselves be who we are, and hear the Scriptures, we can begin to quietly pray, "Come, Lord, Jesus." We might expand that prayer, in quiet moments of our days ahead, "Come into my life. I trust you don't mind if it is still messy. I believe you love me, because I need your love. I don't fear you can't find the way to my heart. Come and fill me with peace and the love only you can give." Some of us will want to open our hands on our laps or hold up our arms in the privacy of our rooms and say out loud, "Come, Lord, Jesus, come into this house, into my family, into our struggles. Come and heal us, and give us join again. Come and unite us and let us experience, each in our own way, a bit of the joy you are offering me now." And, before a single decoration goes up, we have prepared for Christmas' message with the foundation of faith, with the mystery of Advent's gift. God wants to be with us. Advent is letting God's will be done in our hearts and in our everyday lives.