

# Welcome to



## 2024 December 22 4<sup>th</sup> 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- “Holy, Holy, Holy”

Announcements and Prayer Concerns– *Sharing our life together.*

Congregational Prayer

Lighting of the 4<sup>th</sup> Advent Candle The Williams

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 – Not this week

6:30pm – Women’s Group– Not this week

6:30pm– Men's Group – Not this week

Thursday – 7:00pm– Bible Study– Not this week

*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: God invites us to receive the promise of His salvation and the sustenance of His mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as Christ-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we cling to God’s invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.**

Our new Advent Wreath is handmade by Keith and Angie Nunn. Please come & 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

Our Christmas Eve offering in its 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 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve Service – 9:00pm

December 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day Service – 10:00am

January 8<sup>th</sup> – Prayer and Healing Service – 7:00pm

Lector – Dave Gardner

The Rt. Rev Dr. Tom Bryant, Pastor  
Dcn. Jennifer Reynolds, Eucharistic Minister  
Mark O’Brien, Pianist  
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Call to Worship – Psalm 80.1-7

\*Hymn #180 – “The First Noel”

First Lesson – Micah 5.2-5a

Call to Prayer #188 “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

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

Second Lesson – Hebrews 10.5-10

Offertory *“O Holy Night”*

(Please place your offering in one of the plates)

\*Doxology – #668

\*Gospel- Luke 1.39-56 **“Praise be to thee, O Christ”**

Sermon– “Overwhelming Peace”

\*The Apostles’ Creed

Communion

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 *“Joy Has Dawned”*

\*Hymn #192 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

\*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

The family of Lester Harvey  
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 joy 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.