

# COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, eleven o'clock

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2009

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP AND CONGREGATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Tony Madden

## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

SOUNDING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

"Jesus Is All the World to Me"

Arr.: Sid Richardson

CHORAL INTROIT # 9, Stanza 2 (Congregation & Choir)

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Listen –

People: **God invites us to prepare the way.**

Leader: Watch –

People: **Signs appear in the wilderness.**

Leader: Prepare –

People: **Good news is on the way.**

Leader: Rejoice –

People: **Our hard times are over.**

Leader: Be at peace –

People: **We rest in God's promises, and exult in God's coming.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE # 46 (red hymnal)

"O Splendor Of God's Glory Bright"

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dear God, we confess that we are sinners undeserving of your unconditional and unending love. We think of you on Sunday morning, then soon forget you in the midst of our daily lives.

Help us in this season of joy and giving to follow more closely to your Holy Word. We ask for your forgiveness, and to guide us in our lives to live more like Jesus did.

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 23

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

## THE ILLUMINATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Jimmy Cary & Joel Hillhouse

UNISON PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

You sent messengers to point to your coming,  
and to tell us how we ought to prepare.

Give us the wisdom to listen to them,  
and the courage and humility  
to submit ourselves to the refiner's fire,  
so we will be ready when you come again;  
in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

A READING FROM THE PROPHETS pg. 889

Malachi 3:1-4

ANTHEM

"E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come"

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him Who freed us from our sins, Who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be. Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord Almighty God. Who was and is and is to come; sing holy, holy, Lord! Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming, is coming soon! E'en so Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more; they need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their all!

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CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

\*\*Gateway to Worship

Deborah Lewis

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS pg. 60

Luke 3:1-6

SERMON

Those Presbyterians Sure Are Refined People!

Rev. Sharon Amstutz

## RESPONDING FAITHFULLY TO GOD'S WORD

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH pg. 15

The Nicene Creed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

\*COMMUNION HYMN # 300

"Down to Earth, as a Dove"

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Offering

Offertory

"Blessed Assurance"

Phoebe P. Knapp

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.**

**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.**

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

## GOING OUT TO SERVE

\*COMMITMENT HYMN # 432

"Song of Hope"

\*BENEDICTION

\*SENDING RESPONSE (see insert)

"Soon and Very Soon"

\*POSTLUDE

"Jesus Loves Me"

Arr.: Sid Richardson

\*For those who are able, please stand.

\*\*Gateway to Worship is our worship program for 4-year olds through first graders. The Gateway leader will take the children to their classroom in the Fellowship Hall after the Children's Moments.

**Please join us in the library immediately after worship for a time of fellowship and refreshments.**

**Service Notes:**

- The Advent Candles will be lit by this year’s Confirmands and their Mentors.
- The prayers of confession this Advent season were written by members of the high school group: John Cary, Melissa Freeman, Ellen Hagelberg and Nik Hopkins.
- The bulletin covers for Advent were created by the elementary school children with the able assistance of their teacher, Eileen Madden.
- Many thanks to the team who worked long and faithfully to plan for worship in Advent: Randy Adams, Ellen Hagelberg, Nik Hopkins, Eileen Madden and Sue Sheffield.

The **5-Cents-a-Meal Offering** will be received during the final hymn. You are asked to consider giving 5 cents for each meal you have eaten last month (or any amount you wish) to help feed those who are hungry. This offering supports both local and global hunger programs.

**ADVENT SUNDAY EVENING SCHEDULE**

Everyone is welcome on Sunday nights for food, fellowship & fun and we observe Advent. **All events begin at 6:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, December 6 (tonight):** Service Project: The River – After dinner, we will be stuffing stockings and wrapping donated gifts for the women of The River.

**Sunday, December 13:** Church Night Potluck Supper – Supper will be followed by the youth-led Christmas program.

**Sunday, December 20:** Christmas Caroling – Meet at the church to carol at various members’ houses and nursing homes. After caroling we will bring snacks to share at the Amstutz home.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service:** Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – 5:30 p.m. Music, 6:00 p.m. Service

**TODAY AT COVENANT**

Morning Greeter:	Jim Starr	Chimer:	Mark Jones
Liturgist:	Ellen Hagelberg	Gateway:	Chris Adler Hillhouse
Cantor:	Leonard Robertson	Nursery:	Linda Dulin
Acolytes:	Carolee Mabe & Grace Madden	Coffee Hosts:	Congregational Life

**THIS WEEK AT COVENANT**

<u>Today, December 6</u>		<u>Wednesday, December 9</u>	
9:00a	Chime Rehearsal	4:45p	WNL!
After Worship	Angel Tree	7:30p	Choir Practice
After Worship	Session Meeting	<u>Thursday, December 10</u>	
6:00p	Advent Activity	8:00a	Men’s Bible Study
<u>Monday, December 7</u>		9:30a	Women in the Bible
10:30a	Melting Pot	Noon	Al-Anon Meeting
<u>Tuesday, December 8</u>		<u>Friday, December 11</u>	
10:00a	Ladies’ Bible Study	Sr. Traveler’s Trip to Rocky Mount	
6:00p	Friendship Circle		
7:30p	Al-Anon Meeting		

**CHURCH STAFF:**

Pastor:	Rev. Sharon H. Amstutz	Secretary:	Tina Simon
Director of Youth Ministry:	Andy Irvin	Nursery:	Jeanne Gamble
Choir Director:	Randy Adams	Custodian:	Marie Britt
Pianist:	Amy Jones		

**PEOPLE IN OUR PRAYERS**

John Merriss, Rod Irvin (Andy’s father), the Dulin family, Elva McCartt, Roger Hecht, Peter Block, Pat Adams, Will Favre (friend of David Wood & Phyllis Thompson) and family in the death of Will’s dad, Sue Sheffield, Marvin Parker (Evelyn Kemp’s cousin), Bob Hunter (Hal’s brother), Christian James Ward (baby of friend of Sue Crandall), Anna Welker (friend of the Sutter’s), George Gardner (the Willis’ brother-in-law), Lane Johnson (CB Willis’ cousin), Harriette Carr, Ed & Marie Britt, Bill Bader (Steve’s brother), Stephanie Muncie (friend of Hines family), Shelly Thornton (Gwen Hunter’s cousin’s 4-year old granddaughter), Corrine Broyles, Julia Trifiletti, Aneita Carr, Agnes Plank, Helene Herbert

**If you know of other reasons for rejoicing or concerns you would like to share with others please complete a prayer card with your requests.**

Is it too late?! Not for **Alternative Gift** giving. Each mission could still use and appreciates your help, this year more than ever. If you missed worship last Sunday and would like to give a gift in a friend or family member’s name, there is still time. Missions are: **Grandfather Home for Children, Heifer Project International, Holston Presbytery Camp, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Living Waters for the World, The River, and Youth & Young Adult Ministry at ETSU.** You may use the **enclosed Alternative Gift form** to indicate your support. (Cards and envelopes for your use are available in the church office.) These forms may be turned in any time during Advent. Thank you.

**Friendship Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>** for the Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner. We will gather at **6:00 p.m.** and eat at 6:30. If you didn’t sign up at the last Circle meeting, please call Janet Powell (610-0445) and let her know if you will attend and what dish you plan to bring. (The meat and drinks will be provided.) Hostess: Janet Powell, Co-Hostess: Betsy Hagelberg, 417 Shade Tree Way, J.C., 610-0445. To carpool, meet at the church at 5:40 p.m.

Join the **Senior Travelers on Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>** and visit Rocky Mount for the Candlelight Christmas tour. The group rate is \$6.00 per person. There will be music, dancing, decorations, and sacred tales during this magical candle-lit evening. We have reservations beginning at 6:30 p.m. on December 11<sup>th</sup>. We will be in two groups, the first will be at 6:30 p.m. and the second at 6:45 p.m. **After the tour**, all are invited to George and Bobbie Carroll’s home for punch and cookies. This will be a great way to begin the Christmas celebrations. If anyone needs a ride to Rocky Mount, please call Bobbie at 610-0738. We will not be using the church van.

Each year we are given the opportunity to provide monetary gifts to the **Elder’s Fund**, the majority of which is used for Christmas honoraria for our fine staff. Our congregation has always been very generous in providing donations to the fund. Our members are appreciative of the dedication of our staff members, and this is a wonderful opportunity to show that appreciation. We ask that each member consider making their donations as generous as possible and, since it would be helpful for the staff to have their gifts well before Christmas, to make their donations as soon as they can. Please make your check out to Covenant and note "Elder’s Fund" on the memo line and place in the offering plate or send to the church office. We know we can count on our membership, as we always have. Thanks so much, **Karen Mabe**, Chairperson

We’re about to begin a new year and with that comes the need for **ushers** and for **elders to volunteer to serve communion.** New calendars for the coming year are posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please use them to let us know when you will be available to help out. Many thanks.