

WALLACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

205 West Main Street • Wallace, North Carolina 28466

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Visit our Website: www.wallacepresbyterian.com

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2022

11:00 a.m.

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

The congregation is asked to remain silent during the prelude as a time of prayer and meditation.

Prelude "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" arr. by Dennis Alexander
*Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung.
Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung.
It came, a flower bright, amid the cold of winter
When half-gone was the night.*

Welcome and Announcements

(During this time the friendship pads are passed to be signed.)

Choral Call to Worship "While We Are Waiting, Come" Don Cason
*While we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.*

Opening Sentences Elder Fred Burroughs
Leader: "Prepare the way," the prophet calls, "make ready the highway for God."

All: How we long to walk down the sidewalks in God's kingdom of peace!

Leader: Prepare your hearts, for God's realm opens up a new day.

All: We yearn for the time when the wolf and lamb will live together in harmony.

Leader: Prepare the way. God promises a new day when adversaries will lay down their arms.

All: We dream of a world transformed by God's love.

Leader: May the God of hope fill your hearts with all joy and peace.

All: We rejoice for God's Spirit is in our midst!

Leader: Let us pray.

All: God of hope, we come to you in the midst of a world fraught with troubles. Although the darkness is powerful, open our eyes, Lord, to the light of your presence. Give us faith to stand against the voices of division and violence. Through your Spirit remake us into hope-filled disciples, discovering lives attuned to your wonder, and sparking in others a desire to know you more. In the name of the One who comes to us, we pray. Amen.

*Hymn #129

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

ES IST EIN' ROS'



*In those days
John the Baptist
appeared in the
wilderness of
Judea,
proclaiming,
"Repent, for the
kingdom of
heaven has
come near."
Matthew 3:1-2*

*"Bear fruit worthy
of repentance."
John the Baptist,
Matthew 3:8*

*"God cannot give
us a happiness
and peace apart
from Himself,
because it is not
there. There is
no such thing."
C.S. Lewis
(1898-1963),
British writer and
lay theologian,
from Mere
Christianity*



*Unison Prayer of Confession

We confess, O God, we are like those that gathered at the river with John the Baptist. We want to believe. We want to be part of your coming kingdom, but we do not want to change. You have called us to repent and we dig in our heels. You have called us to come into the water, but we are afraid to stick in our toe. You have called us to bear fruit, warned us that the axe lies at the root of the tree, but we fail to bear forth your goodness and mercy in us. Forgive us. Help us to turn back to you, to wade into your waters of new life, to blossom in justice, mercy, and hope. Help us to repent and to believe the good news, for your reign has drawn near. In the name of Christ, we pray. Lord, hear our prayers . . .

*Responsive Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. In Jesus Christ, our sins are pardoned. Thanks be to God.

All: Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might to our God forever and ever. Amen.

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Gloria Patri

Glory Be to the Father

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.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Children's Sermon

Lighting the Second Advent Candle: PEACE

Prayer for Illumination

Speak to us, Lord. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching, the hoping, the longing, the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing. Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days, and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 11:10-10

Elder Fred Burroughs

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 3:1-12

Sermon

"Advent GPS"

Dr. Philip K. Gladden

A Time for Silent Reflection

Pastoral Prayer with 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 THANKS TO GOD

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

P.A.T.H. Offering

*"While you are
proclaiming peace
with your lips, be
careful to have it
even more fully in
your heart."*

*Francis of Assisi
(died 1226 A.D.),
Italian Catholic
friar, founder of
the Franciscans*

Offertory Anthem

"With Open Hearts"

Pepper Choplin

With open hearts, we are waiting. With open hearts, now we pray.

In our quietness, we are calling, "Lord, come to us."

Emmanuel, O come, Emmanuel, and quench our thirsty souls.

Emmanuel, O come, Emmanuel, and make our spirits whole.

Our prayer is the same as the meaning of Your name, "God be with us."

Lord, come and touch our open hearts 'til our open hearts are full.

To the wounded hearts, come and heal them.

Let the grieving hearts be consoled.

With open hearts, we are calling, "Lord, come to us today."

With open hearts, we wait for you.

*Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him all creatures here below;

Praise Him above ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*The Affirmation of Faith: from "A Declaration of Faith" of the
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

**Jesus, the long expected Savior, came into the world as a child,
descended from David, conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of Mary, a virgin. He lived as a Jew among Jews.**

He announced to his people

the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth.

**We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child,
yet born of God's power as was no other child.**

**In the person and work of Jesus, God himself and a human life
are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated.**

The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule.

Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection,

**he brings about the relationship between God and humanity
that God always intended.**

We recognize in Jesus what God created us to be.

**He exposes our failure to live as he lived. He demonstrates the new
humanity God promises to give us through him.**

*Hymn #145

"What Child Is This"

GREENSLEEVES

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction

"Come, Come, Emmanuel"

James Chepponis

Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel. Amen.

*Postlude

**All who are able may stand.*




*"Hope is being
able to see that
there is light
despite all of the
darkness."*


*Desmond Tutu
(1931-2021),
South African
Anglican bishop
and theologian*



WEEKLY CALENDAR

Today
December 4

 **Nursery**
12/04:
Ellie Newton & Gloria Wells

 **USHERS**
Joyce Ange
Charley Farior
Hayes Ludlum

Opening Church Building
December 1-15:
Hayes Ludlum

Children's Church
12/04:
Sara Matthews

 **St. Nicholas Project**

Check Tree in Fellowship Hall for tags with Family name & wishes. See December Newsletter for complete details.

Sunday, December 4	9:30 am	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Alternative Sunday School Class, Room 304 & via Zoom
	10:00 am	Sunday School Classes
	11:00 am	Worship in person and live stream/ P.A.T.H. Offering
	12:00 pm	Congregational Meeting
Monday, December 5	10:30 am	Circle #1: Room 304 No Monday Night Bible Study
Tuesday, December 6	10:30 am	Circle #3: Fellowship Hall
	7:00 pm	Circle #4: Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, December 7		No Wednesday Morning Bible Study
	6:00 pm	Handbells
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Thursday, December 8	12:05 pm	Advent Worship Service & Luncheon

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* **The session** has called a congregational meeting to be held immediately following worship for these purposes: (1) to hear a report from the Nominating Committee who will nominate Debbie Price, Sandy Cobb, and Blake Wallace as Ruling Elders in the Class of 2025; (2) to receive the 2023 budget as information; (3) to act on proposed changes in the minister's terms of call; and (4) to hold the annual meeting of the corporation.

* **Today we** receive our quarterly P.A.T.H. (Presbyterian Answer to Hunger) offering. The money supports the Hunger Program of the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina which funds feeding programs for children in Haiti and Malawi and supports congregational food ministries.


* **Join us** for our Advent worship service and luncheon on Thursday, December 8 at 12:05 p.m. Karla and Vera will provide a program of four-hand piano music as our Advent meditation. Lunch in the Fellowship Hall will follow worship.

* **Please pick up** your 2023 Offering Envelopes at the front of the sanctuary on your way out after worship.

* **There will be** no Monday night or Wednesday morning Bible Study this week.

* **Our youth will be visiting Cinderella Farms** (419 Northeast Rd, Wallace, NC) on Sunday, December 11 for lunch, a hayride, hot chocolate, s'mores, and a devotion. We will meet there directly after church and should be done around 2:00pm. Please text Emily Ludlum (910-296-4039) with a head count if you would like to attend.

Flowers



The beautiful flowers in the sanctuary today are given in loving memory of Robert F. (Bob) and Leora Powell by Donna Pigford