



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

November 27, 2022 – 11:00 am

Advent 1: Hope



Untitled, Bruce Critelli

Look among the nations and watch!
Be astonished and stare because something is happening in your days
that you wouldn't believe even if told.
Habakkuk 1:5 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Welcome to the Season of Advent. Although we are worshipping in a variety of locations, we still affirm that God is present in our worship, whether in-person or virtually. Our prayer is that all who worship with us this day will truly feel the presence of God in this time. Know that you are loved and we are so glad you are here! Parts of today's liturgy are from Ruth Burgess, Winter: Liturgical Resources for November, December, and January (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2016).

*During Advent we will be working on art together! You are invited to come forward at any point in the service and participate in the *décollage* we are creating. We will be tearing pieces from holiday ads and catalogues and adhering them to the base in the areas that are prepared (painted) for today. After the fourth Sunday of Advent, our work will be complete and our artist will touch things up and finalize the image, which we will display in the sanctuary throughout the Christmas season.*

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Song of the Watchman*

EDWARD GRIEG-ARR. BY GEORGE BLAKE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

"AS WE WAIT," JOAN REPPERT

As we wait for the gift of the Christ child,
as we pray for the ways we can give,
let us light this candle of hope,
and live as God wants us to live.

*LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

"ADVENT WREATH CEREMONY," TERI CAROL PETERSON

In the beginning was the Word –
spoken and breathed,
a promise made and kept.

Listen and hear –

God's promise is true!

The Word was in the beginning,
and through him all things came into being.

***Eternal and near at hand,
already and not yet,***

God's promise is the foundation of all life.

Listen!

Hear the covenant anew, giving voice to a future with hope.

First candle is lit

*OPENING HYMN #1: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

CHARLES WESLEY

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.

By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

PSALM 27: 1-4: *Wait for the Lord*

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 682-683

Refrain: *(sung 2x)*
Wait for the Lord,
whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord;
be strong; take heart!

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?
The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?
***When evildoers come upon me to eat up my flesh,
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.***

Though an army should encamp against me, yet my heart shall not be afraid;
and though war should rise up against me, yet will I put my trust in the Lord.

One thing I have asked of the LORD; one thing I seek;
That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;
to behold the fair beauty of the LORD to seek God in the temple.

Refrain: *(sung 2x)*
Wait for the Lord,
whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord;
be strong; take heart!

HABAKKUK 1:1-7; 2:1-4; 3:3B-6, 17-19

PEW BIBLE, PAGES 1135,1136,1138-1139

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

"POEM FOR ADVENT," MARY HANRAHAN

RESPONSE: *Prepare the Way of the Lord (Choir)*

We must prepare a way.
Try to straighten paths made crooked
by our selfishness and compulsions.

We have forgotten the grace-filled room,
the angel's message, "Do not fear."
We fear the very joy he promised.

We are afraid of the journey,
the hard road, the bitter cold
and the doors slammed in our faces.

We are terrified of giving birth.

Yet within us there is such a thirst for innocence.

We must enter our heart's dark stable,

clear away the dirty straw of resentment and pride,
soil our hands and make some effort
to find a fresher, sweeter hay of welcome,
light a candle of hope,
as we humbly await the birth of Wonder.

A MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE: *Prepare the Way of the Lord (All, sung 2x)*

TAIZE COMMUNITY

Prepare the way of the Lord.
Prepare the way of the Lord,
And all people will see the salvation of our God.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Immanuel*

BENJAMIN KNOEDLER

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Waiting for Hope"*

REV. PHILLIPS

ADVENT PRAYER

"DAILY BREAD," THOM M SHUMAN

RESPONSE: *Comfort, Comfort Now My People (verse 1)*

"Comfort, comfort now my people;
tell of peace!" So says our God.
"Comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning under sorrow's load.
To my people now proclaim
that my pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their sins I cover,
and their warfare now is over."

Loving God,
we gather in this season of promise to worship you and sing your praise.
We praise you for your love and for your faithfulness,
for you are the source of all hope and from you all joy springs.

RESPONSE: *Comfort, Comfort Now My People (verse 2)*

For the herald's voice is crying
in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance,
since the reign of God is here.
O, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way.
Let the valleys rise in meeting
and the hills bow down in greeting.

You are the one we expect, but your coming is always unexpected.
You are the one who turns everything upside down and you make all things new.
Advent God of surprises, we worship you and we wait for you to awaken our wonder
and astound us with your arrival.

RESPONSE: *Comfort, Comfort Now My People (verse 3)*

Straight shall be what long was crooked,
and the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits God's holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token
that God's word is never broken.

Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN #8:** *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

GEORG WEISSEL

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates,
Behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here!

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide
My heart to Thee: here, Lord, abide.
Let me Thy inner presence feel;
Thy grace and love in me reveal.

***SPOKEN CHARGE**

Prepare the way of the Lord! ***Thanks be to God.***

POSTLUDE: *Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall Come*

JAMES DENTON

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

November is Helping Hand Fund month. Throughout the month we will be collecting all loose offering for the Helping Hand Fund.

November 20th – December 18th - Bethany Angel Tree 2022

The Angel Tree will be up and loaded. This year we will be adopting Alamance Eldercare and Alamance Meals on Wheels clients. Please see handout for all the details.

November 27th – December 18th Advent Book Study

Join us for our 2022 Advent Study with *Holy Disruption: Discovering Advent in the Gospel of Mark* by Tracy S. Daub. We will meet every Sunday in Advent during the Sunday School hour beginning on November 27th (Advent 1). Books will be available from the office for \$11. Please register online (<https://www.bethanypreschurch.org/advent-devotional-2022.html>) or through the office by the Monday, November 7th to ensure we have a book for you.

Please come prepared to discuss the first chapter on November 27th. They are pretty short and our discussions will be based on the reading. We will meet at 9:45 in the Fellowship Hall.

November 27th – December 18th Advent

Let Joy or me know if you're interested in being a candle lighter or reader in the Advent season

December 17th – 2022 BLUE CHRISTMAS DAY OF PRAYER

Our sanctuary chapel will be open to the public on Saturday, December 17th from 9am to 9pm for prayer.

The holidays are a time of great joy and celebration for many. However, for a lot of people, they can also be overwhelming, stressful, depressing, and a reminder of those who we have lost. You are invited to come and pray and experience a space of quiet respite and sanctuary in the midst of all the holiday busyness.

We are looking for people to help us do this - one person to act as a host who will help people get to the sanctuary and one person who will sit in the sanctuary and pray with people as requested. The sign up is in the Narthex. Talk to Pastor Jon if you have any questions

Scouts Looking for Storage Space

Pack and Troop 9 Scouts are looking for a Donor to provide a 1,000 Sq foot storage type building, or warehouse, to store the following Scout Equipment:

2 camping trailers , 1 sailboat (Sailing Merit Badge), 1 demo car (Automotive Merit Badge).

Space needed for security and protection from the weather.

Feel free to contact:

Jeff Benes - Committee Chair Cub Pack 9 & Troops 9

(336) 675-9086 cell

benes.nc@att.net

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

Sunday, November 27th – Advent 1: Hope

9:45 – Advent Book Study in Fellowship Hall

11:00 – Worship (In-Person inside & Live Stream)

Wednesday, November 30th

6:30 – Hand Bell & Choir Practice

Sunday, December 4th – Advent 2: Peace

Communion

9:45 – Advent Book Study in Fellowship Hall

11:00 – Worship (In-Person inside & Live Stream)

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Session

Moderator: Rev. Jon Phillips

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

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Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp

Helen Brown

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Class of 2023:

Chip Allen

Randy Cousins

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Class of 2024:

Karen Maxwell

Kim Snyder

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