

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY  
The Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022

Eleven O'clock

**Welcome Into God's House** (responsive)

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit are in our midst.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. In these Advent days of expectation as we return to your house, we pray you to bless our waiting until the day when you make all things new.

Congregation: **Amen, Come Lord Jesus!**

**Chimes of the Trinity**

**Prelude**

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

arr. Jay Rouse

**Choral Introit**, Hymn 103 "O Prince of Peace"

**Call to Worship** (Psalm 146)

Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, O my soul!  
Let us praise the LORD as long as we live;  
Let us sing praises to our God while we have our being.  
The LORD shall reign forever,  
our God, O Zion, throughout all generations.  
Hallelujah!

**\*Hymn 88** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"  
(verses 1, 5-7)

**The Advent Wreath and the Creche**

**Prayer of the Day**

Leader: By the light of three candles, let us follow the beasts to Bethlehem  
All: **Stir up our hearts, Lord God, that our fears may be calmed and our courage kindled. Help us to hear the angel voices and to believe their message, even where we have not seen. Spur us also onward to find the gifts that await us in the most unlikely places. Through the one who is to come, even our Savior Christ. Amen.**

Response in Song: "Rejoice! Rejoice!", Hymn 88  
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Anthem**

"The First Noel"

arr. Dan Forrest

**Scripture Lessons**

**Old Testament Lesson**

Isaiah 7: 10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

**Gospel Lesson**

Matthew 1: 18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
Congregation: **Praise be to you, O God.**

**\*Hymn** (see insert) "The Race That Long in Darkness Pined"

**Sermon**

*The Child is Our Sign*

**\*Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Giving of Tithes and Offerings**

Offertory

"Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming"  
Cole Caudill, Soloist

arr. Mark Hayes

\*Doxology

"Old Hundredth"

**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.**

Offertory Response

Leader: Blessed are you, God of all creation.  
Congregation: **Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.**  
Leader: Accept and use our offerings for your glory.  
Congregation: **And for the service of your kingdom.**  
All: **Amen.**

**Prayers of God's People**

Beginning with Joys and Concerns, and concluding with *The Lord's Prayer, in unison*

**\* Hymn 105**

"People, Look East"

**\*Charge and Benediction**

Response in Song - Hymn 106 "Prepare the Way, O Zion"

**Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is coming near!  
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.  
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.  
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.**

**Postlude**

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

arr. Mark Hayes

\*Those who are able, please stand

**Upcoming Sermon Titles & Scriptures**

**Sunday, December 18**

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
Lessons & Carols  
Joy Offering

**Saturday, December 24**

**Christmas Eve - 8pm**  
*Celebration of the Lord's Supper*  
Luke 2: 1-20

**Sunday, December 25**

**Christmas Day**  
John 1: 1-14  
"A Christmas Story"

### Welcome to Paw Creek Presbyterian Church!

We are a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA), two centuries young and committed to living out the Gospel today as we Seek, Serve, Praise and Love Christ. If you are a visitor today, we are especially glad that you are here. We hope that you will leave us a record of your visit by completing a visitor card and placing it in the offering plate. Feel free to contact our pastor, Elliott Hipp, with questions or prayer concerns: [deh46@columbia.edu](mailto:deh46@columbia.edu) or 704-502-2143. Please come again soon.

### Worshipping On-Line

Our worship service is also streamed live each week, and is available to watch later in the week as well. For Facebook and YouTube links, please visit [pawcreekpc.org](http://pawcreekpc.org). When you worship with us from home, you can use an on-line version of our *Glory to God* hymnal so that you can sing along or follow the words to the hymns. For phone or tablet, search "Glory to God" in your app store. For computer, go to [hymnary.org/hymnal/GG2013](http://hymnary.org/hymnal/GG2013) and click on the hymn number. Most hymns are available, although there are a few that cannot be displayed due to copyright restriction.

### Christmas Joy Offering

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, providing critical financial support to church workers and their families; and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges providing education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage.

We will be taking up the Christmas Joy Offering on **December 18**. Thank you for your support!

### Christmas Events at Paw Creek

- **Service of Lessons and Carols**  
Sunday, **December 18** - Hear the Christmas story come to life in the words of scripture and the music of the Paw Creek Seasonal Choir.
- **Churchwide Christmas Party**  
Sunday, **December 18** after Lessons and Carols in the CFC. Heavy hors d'oeuvres provided by the Fellowship Committee.
- **Christmas Eve**  
Saturday, **December 24** at 8:00 pm - After you share time with family, bring them all for candlelight, communion and Christmas carols. About 45 minutes and a great way to usher in the holiday.
- **Christmas Day**  
Sunday, **December 25** - No Sunday School this day. Enjoy Christmas festivities in the morning, and then stop by for Christmas carols and a special Christmas Day story.

### Christmas Poinsettias

Poinsettias have been ordered and will be used to decorate the sanctuary on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Donations will be accepted in memory or in honor of loved ones, and their name will be included in the Order of Service for December 18<sup>th</sup>. Please be sure to mark your check in the memo section as "Poinsettia", and list who it is in memory or honor of. **Names must be received in the church office by Tuesday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>**. Monies collected will be used to offset the cost of the poinsettias with extra money going to the Chuck Overbeck Fund to be used for the beautification and maintenance of the gardens and landscaping around the church. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 704-392-0329. ~Thank you!

### New Offering Envelopes for 2023

Offering Envelopes for 2023 are available for pick up from the Narthex before or after worship service. \*\*Please be sure to use the correct year's envelope when making your offering. ~Thank you!

### Prayer Garden

Get your Prayer Garden Paver Orders in now! **Great Gift idea!** Great for Christmas, Birthdays, Graduations, Weddings, Babies, Mother's/Father's Day, Anniversaries and Eagle Scouts! A wonderful way to celebrate a loved one & family with a beautiful memory that will last forever.

Each brick paver cost \$40.

Order forms available in the Narthex, Church Office, and website.

### Stitches for Missions

The Stitches for Missions group will have our next meeting on **Saturday, January 21st, at 10:30am** in the Parlor.

### Online Giving

Paw Creek has Online Giving for the convenience of church members and our friends who worship with us. Please go to our website at [www.pawcreekpc.org](http://www.pawcreekpc.org) and follow the link on the home page.

For those who like to use mobile apps, you can download the **new app: Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement** and search for Paw Creek Presbyterian Church.

### Paw Creek Presbyterian Church Staff:

Pastor ..... Elliott Hipp  
 Director of Music ..... Andrew Cumbow  
 Pianist ..... Mark Burleson  
 Administrative Assistant / Webmaster ..... Kim Whittington  
 Videography Coordinator ..... Clint Shaw

### The Session

Moderator: Elliott Hipp  
 General Treasurer: Danny McClure  
 Cemetery Treasurer: Brian Gross  
 Endowment Treasurer: Clerk: Mary Ellen Edwards

### Class of 2022

Paul Bradley  
 Karen Cathey  
 Mary Ellen Edwards  
 Danny McClure

### Class of 2023

Celia Gray  
 Sam McCord  
 Barbara Ullem

### Class of 2024

Gene Hall  
 Jim Pinkston  
 David Turner

### Committee Chairs

**Mission Team:** Sam McCord  
 Christian Education: Barbara Ullem  
 Congregational Care: Karen Cathey  
 Fellowship: Sam McCord  
 Outreach: Celia Gray  
 Worship: David Turner

**Resource Team:** Jim Pinkston  
 Administration: Eddie McArver  
 Finance: Mary Ellen Edwards / Gene Hall  
 Property: Sam McCord  
 Cemetery Sub-Committee: Phillip McCord  
 Endowment Sub-Committee:

**Strategic Planning Team:** Paul Bradley  
 Jim Pinkston, Jim Stogner, Karen Turner

**Sunday School Officers:** Sarah Kendrick & Jim Stogner  
**Children's Ministry:** Barbara Ullem & Victoria Krebs

### Presbyterian Women

Secretary: Donna Hall  
 Historian: Dina Salvo  
 Go & Grow Circle Moderator: Gerri Ann Shaw  
 Special Givings: Celia Gray  
 Moderator: Karen Turner  
 Backpack Buddies: Jane McArver, Belinda Springs & Teresa Painter  
 Treasurer: Melissa Mullis  
 Life Seekers Circle Moderator: Dina Salvo

### Church Calendar

#### Sunday, December 11

9:45am Sunday School Classes  
 11:00am Worship

#### Tuesday, December 13

9:00am Cardio Fitness  
 12:00pm Poinsettia Name Deadline  
 6:30pm Scout Holiday Dinner

#### Wednesday, December 14

12:00pm Bulletin Deadline

#### Thursday, December 15

6:30am Men's Bible Study  
 9:00am Cardio Fitness  
 6:30pm Chancel Choir Practice

#### Sunday, December 18

9:45am Sunday School Classes  
 11:00am Worship: Lessons & Carols / Joy Offering  
 12:00pm Churchwide Christmas Party

#### Tuesday, December 20

9:00am Cardio Fitness  
 12:00pm Newsletter Deadline

#### Wednesday, December 21

12:00pm Bulletin Deadline for 12/24, 12/25 & 1/1

#### Thursday, December 22

\*Newsletter  
 6:30am Men's Bible Study  
 9:00am Cardio Fitness  
 6:30pm Chancel Choir Practice

#### Saturday, December 24

8:00pm Christmas Eve Service

#### Sunday, December 25

**Christmas Day**  
 11:00am Worship

#### Monday, December 26

\*Church Office Closed

#### Tuesday, December 27

\*Church Office Closed

9:00am Cardio Fitness

#### Wednesday, December 28

\*Church Office Closed

#### Thursday, December 29

\*Church Office Closed

6:30am Men's Bible Study

9:00am Cardio Fitness

6:30pm Chancel Choir Practice

#### Sunday, January 1

11:00am Worship / Lord's Supper / 10¢ Hunger

#### Monday, January 2

\*Church Office Closed—Happy New Year!

#### Tuesday, January 3

9:00am Cardio Fitness

7:00pm Boy Scouts

#### Wednesday, January 4

10:00am Bible Study

12:00pm Bulletin Deadline

5:30pm Children Connecting w/Christ (CCC)

#### Thursday, January 5

6:30am Men's Bible Study

9:00am Cardio Fitness

6:30pm Chancel Choir Practice



# PAW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



December 11, 2022

7400 Mount Holly Road  
Charlotte, NC 28214

PO Box 64  
Paw Creek, NC 28130

(704) 392-0329 • [pawcreekpc.org](http://pawcreekpc.org)

# The Race That Long in Darkness Pined

John Morison, 1781

American folk hymn, attributed to J. C. Lowry, 1818;  
adapted and harmonized in *Songs of Praise* (1925)

PISGAH, CM

1. The race that long in dark-ness pined have seen a glo-rious light;  
2. To hail thy rise, thou bet-ter Sun, the gath'-ring na-tions come,  
3. To us a Child of hope is born, to us a Son is giv'n;  
4. His name shall be the Prince of Peace, for - ev - er - more a - dored;  
5. His pow'r in - creas - ing still shall spread; his reign no end shall know;

1. the peo - ple dwell in day, who dwelt in death's sur-round-ing night.  
2. joy - ous as when the reap - ers bear the har - vest trea-sures home.  
3. him shall the tribes of earth o - bey, him all the hosts of heav'n.  
4. the Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - lor, the great and might - y Lord.  
5. jus - tice shall guard his throne a - bove, and peace a - bound be - low.