



# PAW CREEK

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### LESSONS AND CAROLS

December 17, 2023

7400 Mount Holly Road  
Charlotte, NC 28214

PO Box 64  
Paw Creek, NC 28130

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

# PAW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

Eleven O'clock

### Welcome into God's House (responsive)

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

Leader: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God now and forever.

In this place where God kindles in our hearts the longing for a Savior, we lift our ardent prayer.

Congregation: **Come Lord Jesus! Hallelujah!**

### Chimes of the Trinity

#### Prelude

"Angels From the Realms of Glory"

arr. Jim Lucas

#### Choral Introit

"A Stable Light is Lighted"

Hymn 160

### Call to Worship (Isaiah 9)

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light:  
they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death,  
upon them hath the light shined.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:

and the government shall be upon his shoulder:

and his name shall be called

Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God,

The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end.

### \*Hymn 113

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

### The Advent Wreath and the Creche

#### Prayer of the Day

Leader: By the light of three candles, let us follow the shepherds 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

"Magnificat" Hymn 646

**Sing out, my soul. Sing out, my soul. Sing out and glorify the Lord who sets us free.**

**Sing out, my soul. Sing out, my soul. Sing out and glorify the Lord God!**

## Welcome and Announcements

### The Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas

**The Bidding Prayer** (concluding with *The Lord's Prayer*)

**The First Lesson**                      *Isaiah Foretells the Coming of God's Peace*                      Isaiah 11: 1-9

**The First Carol**                      "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"  
For the Congregation                      Hymn 129

**The Second Lesson**                      *Isaiah Promises Comfort to God's People*                      Isaiah 40: 1-5

**The Second Carol**                      "Arise, Your Light Has Come"                      David Dinner

Awake, my spirit, Awake, lute and harp; I will awake at the dawn of the day.  
I will confess You, O Lord among the nations. I will raise a psalm to You,  
for Your love is wide as the heavens, And your truth reaches to the skies!

Wake, awake, for night is flying, The watchmen on the heights are crying;  
Awake, Jerusalem at last.

Midnight hears the welcome voices, And at the thrilling cry rejoices:  
"Come forth, you maidens! Night is past.

The bridegroom comes, Awake; Your lamps with gladness take!" Alleluia!  
Prepare yourselves to meet the Lord, Whose light has stirred the waiting guard.

Zion hears the watchmen singing And in her heart new joy is springing.  
She wakes, she rises from her gloom.

For her Lord comes down all glorious, The strong in grace, in truth victorious.  
Her star is risen, her light is come.

Oh, come, you Blessed One, Lord Jesus, God's own Son. Sing hosanna!  
We go until the halls we view Where You have bid us dine with you.

Now let all the heav'ns adore You, And saints and angels sing before You.  
The harps and cymbals all unite.

Of one pearl each shining portal, Where, dwelling with the choir immortal  
We gather round Your dazzling light.

No eye has seen, nor ear Has yet been trained to hear. What joy is ours!  
Crescendos rise; Your halls resound Hosannas blend in cosmic sound.

Arise, O Jerusalem! Arise clothed in light! Your light has come,  
and the glory of God upon yours hearts will shine. Alleluia!

## The Third Lesson

*Luke Tells of the Angel's Visit*  
Debbie Taylor

Luke 1: 26-38

### The Third Carol

"Song of Mary"

Richard Shepherd

My Lord and Saviour is my song, He fills my spirit with delight  
To raise me up his arm is strong, The lowly precious in his sight  
*Magnificat anima mea Dominum.*  
My name shall live from age to age, And every tongue his servant bless,  
For mercy is their heritage Whose hearts the Holy One confess.  
*Magnificat anima mea Dominum.*  
The proud beguil'd by dreams of pow'r Divided and degraded lie:  
He casts them down from throne and tow'r And stoops to lift the humble high  
*Magnificat anima mea Dominum*  
He feeds the hungry at his board And sends the rich unfill'd away,  
And mindful of his promis'd word Has answer'd Israel's prayer today.  
*Magnificat anima mea Dominum.*  
With all the elders of our race, and those unborn who seek this birth,  
I sing the glory of his grace Who brings eternity to earth.  
*Magnificat anima mea Dominum.*

## The Fourth Lesson

*Luke Tells of the Birth of Jesus*  
Gabriel Comes

Luke 2: 1-7

### The Fourth Carol

"Child of the Stable's Secret Birth

Thomas Hewitt Jones

Child of the stable's secret birth, the Lord by right of the lords of earth,  
let heaven sing of a King newborn- the world is weaving a crown of thorn:  
a crown of thorn for that infant head cradled soft in the manger bed.  
Eyes that shine in the lantern's ray; a face so small in its nest of hay-  
face of a child, who is born to scan the world of men through the eyes of man:  
and from that face in the final day earth an heaven shall flee away.  
Voice that rang through the courts on high contracted now to a wordless cry,  
a voice to master the wind and wave, the human heart and the hungry grave:  
the voice of God through the cedar trees rolling forth as the sound of seas.  
Child of the stable's secret birth, the Father's gift to a wayward earth,  
to drain the cup in a few short years of all our sorrows, out sins and tears-  
ours the prize for the road he trod: ris'n with Christ; at peace with God.

## The Fifth Lesson

*Luke Tells of the Shepherd's Visit*  
Gene Hall

Luke 2: 8-20

### The Fifth Carol

"Gaudeamus Hodie"

*Earlene Rentz*

*Gaudeamus hodie! Gaudete! Halleluiah!*  
Let us rejoice today! Rejoice! Halleluiah!

## The Sixth Lesson

*Matthew Tells of the Wise Men*  
Karen Turner

Matthew 2: 1-12

### The Sixth Carol

"The Jesus Gift"

Gilbert M. Martin

Shall I gather ear'alds, shall I bring him gold?  
Shall I shower diamonds, white-hard, bright cold?  
Shall I spangle jewels like stars above?  
Give him laughter, bring peace-filled laughter,  
Offer him warm laughter and love.  
Simplest of gifts, gentlest of hearts;  
kindness he'll use as he leads.  
So, give him these gifts, hand him your hearts,  
Honor his birth and you'll need no  
Em'ralds nor rubies, silver nor gold  
neither bright diamonds, white-hard, bright cold.  
Spangle not rich jewels like stars above;  
You'll have laughter, sweet peace-filled laughter,  
simple warm laughter and love.

## The Seventh Lesson

*John Tells of the Word Made Flesh*  
Elliott Hipp

John 1: 1-14

### The Seventh Carol

"The Dream Isaiah Saw"

Thomas H. Troeger & Glenn L. Rudolph

Lions and oxen will sleep in the hay,  
Leopards will join with the lambs as they play,  
Wolves will be pastured with cows in the glade,  
Blood will darken the Earth that God made.  
Little child whose bed is straw,  
Take new lodgings in my heart.  
Bring the dream Isaiah saw:  
Life redeemed from fang and claw.  
Peace will pervade more than forest and field:  
God will transfigure the Violence concealed  
Deep in the heart of systems gain,  
Ripe for the judgment the Lord will ordain.  
Little Child whose bed is straw,  
Take new lodgings in my heart.  
Bring the dream Isaiah saw:  
Justice purifying law.  
Nature reordered to match God's intent,  
Nations obeying the call to repent,  
All of creation completely restored,  
Filled with the knowledge and love of the Lord.  
Little child whose bed is straw,  
Take new lodgings in my heart.  
Bring the dream Isaiah saw:  
Knowledge, wisdom, worship awe.

## Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

"The First Nowell"

arr. Tracey Craig McKibben

\* Doxology

*Old Hundredth*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, 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.**

**\*Christmas Prayer of Adoration** (in unison)

**Great God of power, we praise you for Jesus Christ, who came to save us from our sins. We thank you for the hope of the prophets, the song of the angels, and the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. We thank you that in Jesus you became flesh and dwelt among us, sharing human hurts and pleasures. Glory to you, eternal God; through Jesus Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords forever. Amen.**

**\*Hymn 119**

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude**

"Carol of the Bells"

arr. Mark Hayes

\*Those who are able, please stand

### Christmas Events at Paw Creek

- **Churchwide Christmas Party:** **Today** after Lessons and Carols in the CFC.  
Catered meal from Sports Page provided.
- **December 24:** 11:00am Luke 1: 26-38, 46-55 "Call and Response"
- **Christmas Eve Service:** 8:00 pm Luke 2: 1-20 Candlelight and Christmas Carols
- **December 31:** Psalm 147 "Hallelujah!"

**\*Sunday, December 24 and December 31 - There will be no Sunday School on these days.  
Prayer time will be in the chapel at 10:30am**



**The Poinsettias in the Sanctuary Today are Given as Follows:**

**In Memory Of:**

Joe Adkins  
Grady Alexander  
Grady Alexander  
Gary Bryant  
Jillian Hope Cashion  
Joshua Ray Cashion  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Dale  
Susan Todd Gustafson & "Gus" Gustafson  
Andy & Doris Harrington  
Evans & Lillie Johnston  
Evans & Lillie Johnston  
Jean Johnston  
Melanie Johnston  
Robert Lamb  
Kelley Cashion Longshore  
Will & Emma Rozzelle  
Mary & Ed Rozzelle  
Doris Sisk  
Libby Stogner  
Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Adam Summerlin  
Sally Summerlin Green  
Joe Michael Summerlin  
Mitch Sutton  
Marlene Thames  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Joel Todd, Sr.  
Clyde, Juanita & Mateo Tyler  
David Ullem

**In Honor Of:**

Shelby Alexander  
Shelby Alexander  
Karen Cathey  
Elliott Hipp  
Anna Rettew  
Debbie Taylor  
My Children & Grandchildren

**By:**

His Family  
Shelby & Stephanie Alexander  
Joyce & Roger Cloninger  
Gail Bryant  
Ann & Tommy Cashion  
Ann & Tommy Cashion  
Their Families  
Skip, Carolyn & Families  
The Family  
Hoyt Johnston  
Their Families  
Hoyt Johnston  
Hoyt Johnston  
Joy Tyler  
Ann & Tommy Cashion  
Their Families  
Their Families  
Joy Tyler  
Jim Stogner  
Carolyn & James  
Carolyn & James  
Carolyn & James  
George & Debbie Taylor  
Gail Bryant  
Skip, Carolyn & Families  
Joy Tyler  
Barbara Ullem

**By:**

Joyce & Roger Cloninger  
Tommy & Beverly Rapp / Dylan & Natalie Thompson  
Gail Bryant  
Gail Bryant  
Shelby & Stephanie Alexander  
Gail Bryant  
Gail Bryant

## 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 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. 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 and click on the hymn number. Most hymns are available, although there are a few that cannot be displayed due to copyright restriction.

## Paw Creek Presbyterian Church Staff:

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

### Wednesday Bible Study

There will be **NO** Bible Study on **Dec. 20 and Dec. 27**.  
Merry Christmas!  
We will meet again on Jan. 3.

### 5th Friday Festivities

**December 29th**

We will have our next 5th Friday event on 12/29 @ 6:30pm Menu will be Soup, Chili, Salads, Tea & Desserts. We will also be working on a service project for Room in the Inn.

## Church Calendar

### Sunday, December 17

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

### Monday, December 18

12:00pm Newsletter Deadline

### Tuesday, December 19

9:00am Cardio Fitness

### Wednesday, December 20

#### \*Newsletter

12:00pm Bulletin Deadline 12/24 & 12/31

### Thursday, December 21

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

### Sunday, December 24

#### Christmas Eve

11:00am Worship  
8:00pm Christmas Eve Service

### Monday, December 25

\*Church Office Closed—Merry Christmas!

### Tuesday, December 26

\*Church Office Closed

9:00am Cardio Fitness

### Wednesday, December 27

\*Church Office Closed

### Thursday, December 28

\*Church Office Closed

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

### Sunday, December 31

**New Year's Eve**

11:00am Worship

### Monday, January 1

\*Church Office Closed—Happy New Year!!

### Tuesday, January 2

9:00am Cardio Fitness  
10:00am PW Go & Grow Circle Meeting  
7:00pm PW Life Seekers Circle Meeting

### Wednesday, January 3

10:00am Bible Study  
12:00pm Bulletin Deadline  
5:30pm CCC

### Thursday, January 4

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

### Sunday, January 7

9:45am Sunday School  
11:00am Worship / Lord's Supper / 10¢ Hunger

### Monday, January 8

6:45pm Girl Scouts