

Service For The Lord's Day

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 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

"Emmanuel"

arr. Mark Hayes

Call to Worship (Psalm 89)

Your love, O Lord, forever will I sing;

from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

For I am persuaded that your love is established forever;

you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.

Blessed be the Lord forevermore!

Amen, I say, Amen.

*Hymn 347

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

The Advent Wreath and the Creche

Prayer of the Day

Leader: By the light of four candles, let us follow Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem.

All: **Stir up our hearts, Lord God, that we too may escape from fear to obedience. May we heed your call to meet you on our life's journey, confident that your Holy Spirit has gone before us to prepare a place, to give us a task, and to provide us the courage to be a part of your Kingdom. 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

Christmas Solo

"Mary, Did You Know?"

Lowry & Greene

Larry Ramsey, soloist

Scripture Lesson - Gospel Readings

The Annunciation

Luke 1: 26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Song of Mary

Luke 1: 46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.
You have mercy on those who fear you,
from generation to generation.
You have shown strength with your arm, and scattered the proud in their conceit,
casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.
You have filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy,
the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children for ever.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Hymn 99

"My Soul Gives Glory to My God"

Sermon

Who is Christmas for?

*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

"Sweet Little Jesus Boy"

arr. Mark Hayes

*Doxology

"Old Hundredth" (Hymn 606)

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 110

"Love Has Come"

*Charge and Benediction

*Response in Song

"Prepare the Way, O Zion" (Hymn 106)

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your savior's rule embrace,
and tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.

All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.

O best is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

Postlude

"Do You Hear What I Hear?"

arr. Jim Brickman

*Those who are able, please stand

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.

Upcoming Sermon Titles & Scriptures

Sunday, December 24
8pm Evening Service
Luke 2: 1-20

Sunday, December 31
"Hallelujah!"
Psalm 147

Sunday, January 7
Celebration of the Lord's Supper
"Nations and Camels"
Matthew 2: 1-12, Isaiah 60: 1-6

Paw Creek Presbyterian Church Staff:

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

The Session
Moderator: Elliott Hipp Clerk: Donna Hall General Treasurer: Danny McClure

Class of 2023 **Class of 2024** **Class of 2025**
Celia Gray Gene Hall Donna Hall
Sam McCord Jim Pinkston Eddie McArver
Debbie Taylor David Turner Amy McGee
Barbara Ullem Joy Tyler

Committee Chairs
Mission Team: Debbie Taylor **Resource Team:** Jim Pinkston
Christian Education: Barbara Ullem Administration: Eddie McArver
Congregational Care: Joy Tyler Finance: Gene Hall
Fellowship: Sam McCord / Donna Hall Property: Sam McCord
Outreach: Celia Gray / Amy McGee Cemetery Superintendent: Phillip McCord
Worship: David Turner / Debbie Taylor

Strategic Planning Team: Paul Bradley

Sunday School Officers: Sarah Kendrick / Jim Stogner
Children's Ministry: Jan Chapman / Celia Gray / Barbara Ullem

Presbyterian Women
Moderator: Karen Turner Treasurer: Vicki Ramsey
Secretary: Donna Hall Backpack Buddies: Teresa Painter, Belinda Springs, Jan & Carol Chapman
Historian: Dina Salvo Life Seekers Circle Moderator: Dina Salvo
Go & Grow Circle Moderator: Gerri Ann Shaw
Special Givings: Celia Gray

Church Calendar

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

Friday, December 29
6:30pm 5th Friday Fellowship

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

Tuesday, January 9
9:00am Cardio Fitness
6:30pm Cub Scouts
7:00pm Boy Scouts

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

Thursday, January 11
6:30am Men's Bible Study
9:00am Cardio Fitness
6:30pm Choir Practice

Sunday, January 14
9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Worship

Tuesday, January 16
9:00am Cardio Fitness
6:30pm Cub Scout Square Dance Fundraiser
7:00pm Boy Scouts



PAW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 24, 2023

7400 Mount Holly Road
Charlotte, NC 28214

PO Box 64
Paw Creek, NC 28130

(704) 392-0329 • pawcreekpc.org

5th Friday Festivities

We will have our next 5th Friday event on **December 29** at 6:30pm in the CFC

Menu will be Soup, Chili, Salads, Tea & Desserts.

We will also be working on a service project for Room in the Inn.

Square Dance Fundraiser

Cub Scout Pack 70 is hosting a Square-Dancing Fundraiser on Tuesday, **January 16th** from 6:30 – 8:00pm in the CFC.

Calling provided by Theresa Rutz of the Diamond Yellow Rockers. Come out and have a great time learning some beginner square dancing moves. You do not need to bring a partner and you do not need prior experience! There will be refreshments provided.

The cost is \$10 per person. We hope to see everyone there.

If there are any questions, please contact Jason Pfeffer at 812-575-7241.

Happy Hearts

Thursday, **January 18, 2024** at 11:00am
BINGO * FOOD * FELLOWSHIP

Come and join us for BINGO! Soup lunch will be provided. We will have lots of fun and door prizes too!

Cost \$1 per game card. Please RSVP to Vicki Ramsey 704-393-8697 or 704-281-2836 by Jan 14, 2024 to make sure we have enough food. Hope to see you there!

We are still in need of some great door prizes!

Prayer Garden

Honor your loved one in Paw Creek's Memorial Prayer Garden. Commemorate the life of someone special with a brick paver. You can personalize your message to honor or remember a loved one or celebrate a special anniversary, birthday or other life event. It will create a legacy that will last forever.

Each brick paver cost \$40.

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