

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

THE GATHERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Caldwelles

*He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace;
Hallelujah forevermore.*

POEM OF THE DAY

FIRST SNOW

MARY OLIVER

The snow began here this morning and all day continued, its white rhetoric everywhere calling us back to *why, how, whence* such beauty and *what* the meaning; such an oracular fever! flowing past windows, an energy it seemed would never ebb, never settle less than lovely! and only now, deep into night, it has finally ended.

The silence is immense, and the heavens still hold a million candles; nowhere the familiar things: stars, the moon, the darkness we expect and nightly turn from.

Trees flitter like castles of ribbons, the broad fields smolder with light, a passing creekbed lies heaped with shining hills; and though the questions that have assailed us all day remain - not a single answer has been found - walking out now into the silence and the light under the trees, and though the fields, feels like one.

*HYMN 137

He Came Down

CAMEROON

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, set your blessing on us as we begin this day together. Confirm in us the truth by which we rightly live; confront us with the truth from which we wrongly turn. We ask not for what we want but for what you know we need, as we offer ourselves to you for your mercy. Amen.

Silent Prayer

*HYMN 59

The Steadfast Love of the Lord

McNEILL

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
God's mercies never come to an end;
They are new every morning, new every morning, great is Thy faithfulness,
O Lord. Great is Thy faithfulness.*

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you all.
People: And also with you.

*GLORIA PATRI 582

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen. (Sing 3 times)
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

THE WORD

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL

Daily Change Offering

SCRIPTURE READING

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. Luke 3: 1-6
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Path Toward Peace

Rev. Margie Stansell

OUR THANKFUL RESPONSE

CHORAL ANTHEM

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Iona Abbey Worship Book

With the whole church we affirm that we are made in God's image, befriended by Christ, empowered by the Spirit.

With people everywhere, we affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity, planted more deeply than all that is wrong.

With all creation, we celebrate the miracle and wonder of life; the unfolding purpose of God, forever at work in ourselves and in the world.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*THE DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts.
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*PRAYER AFTER THE OFFERING

*HYMN 543

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

COLLIGAN

THE SENDING

*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

*May the love of God go with you from this place.
May your hours and days show forth His praise.*

**Rise in body or spirit.*

Music and streaming copyright through CCLI

Leading in worship today:

Interim Pastor: Rev. Margie Boyd Stansell

Interim Musicians: Marna Dodson and Katherine Whitehouse

Handchime Choir

Elder of the Month: Martha Rich

Announcements

WELCOME VISITORS! If you are worshipping here for the first time today, Welcome! We are glad to have you join in our worship service.

SUNDAY SERVICE: Sunday service is at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary. It is also on Facebook Live Stream.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR YOUTH AND TEENS: Middle and High School youth are invited to a conversation about scripture beginning in the youth room at 10:00.

NURSERY: Young children are invited to go to the nursery after the children's sermon. Activity bags are available in the narthex.

ADVENT BOOKLETS: Advent Booklets "The Poetry of Advent" are available in a basket in the narthex or you can call the church to have a copy mailed to you.

ADDRESS FOR PASTOR BETH: The address for Pastor Beth is 3904 Ashford Trail NE, Brookhaven, GA 30319-1897 or % Ann Council, 3956 Granger Drive, Atlanta, GA 30341. She will give health updates on the Caring Bridge site.

ADVENT SCHEDULE



- Sunday, December 3rd - First Sunday of Advent
- Friday, December 8th - Bad Santa Gift Exchange
- Presbyterian Women's Christmas Gathering and Cookie Exchange
Tuesday, December 12th -1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 13th - Christmas Pageant at 6:00 p.m.
followed by Spaghetti Dinner
 - Sunday, December 17th at 11:00 a.m. - Christmas Cantata
 - Sunday, December 24th - Fourth Sunday of Advent
- Sunday, December 24th - 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Moravian Love Feast
 - Monday, December 25th Christmas Day



This is a QR Code and can be scanned by your phone's camera. If your phone does not have this capacity, you can download an app. This code is linked to the church's Paypal account.

YTD Financials	
Unrestricted Giving	\$156,292
Operating Expenses	\$136,695
Operating Excess/Deficit	\$ 19,597

BCPC Elders: Mark Brannon, Drew Campbell, Kyle Colley, Cathy Evans, Martha Rich, Carol Sussman, Dan Manley, Bob Jordan, Sammi Birchfield

BCPC Staff:

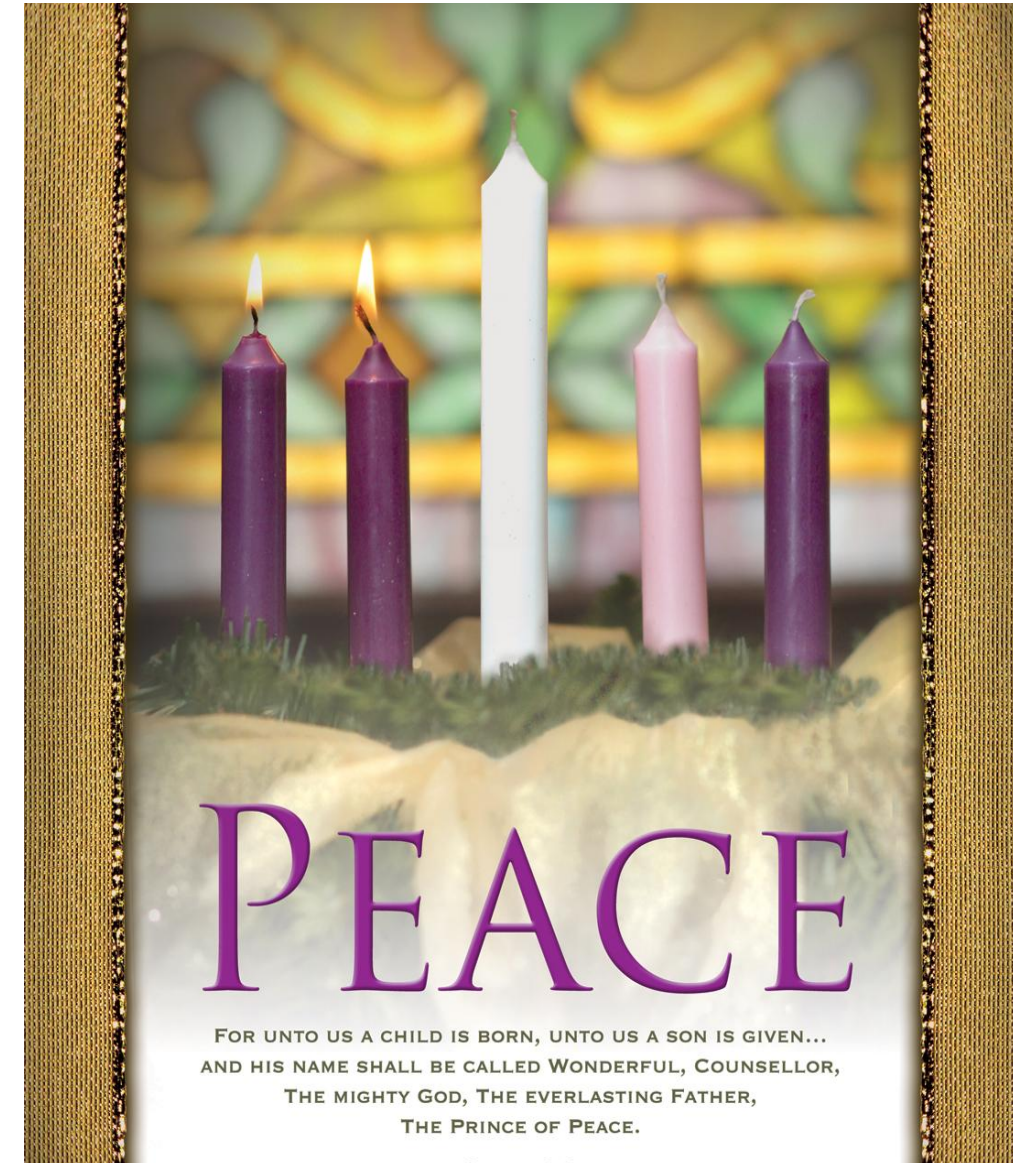
Pastor: Rev. Beth Newman
 Interim Pastor: Margie Stansell
 Interim Musicians: Marna Dodson & Katherine Whitehouse
 Office Administrator: Elise Bryson
 Nursery: Josie Parker
 Custodian: Renee Mercer

Email-BCPC@bcpcusa.org; Website-www.bcpcusa.org

Facebook-www.facebook.com/BrysonCityPresbyterianChurch

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Bryson City Presbyterian Church December 10, 2023



311 Everett Street, PO Box 549, Bryson City, NC 28713
828-488-2480

Mission Statement of Bryson City Presbyterian Church

We seek to follow Jesus Christ as we . . .

Engage and encourage one another in worship and fellowship

Learn together as we grow in discipleship and

Reach out in love.