

# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

## THE GATHERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In this weary world,

**People: We sing of joy.**

Leader: In this fragile world,

**People: We lift each other up.**

Leader: In this beautiful world,

**People: We look for God.**

Leader: In this tender world,

**People: We hold onto hope.**

Leader: This is the invitation of faith. So in this time of worship, may we sing, lift up, look for, and hold onto our with-us God.

**People: With hope in our hearts. Amen!**

**All: Let us worship God!**

\*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

\*HYMN 113 *Angels We Have Heard On High*

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, You paint pictures of what could be, but we declare those visions impossible. You speak of the lion lying down with the lamb, but we spout skepticism and uncertainty. You dream of a more just day, but we poke holes in the plan, unable to fathom that horizon. Forgive us for losing sight of hope. Forgive us for assuming that what we see is all there is. Open up our hearts to see the world as you see it. Open up our hearts to risk hope, to dream dreams, and to not be afraid of either. With gratitude we pray. Amen.

*Silent Prayer*

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

\*GLORIA 113 (chorus)

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

## THE WORD

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1: 46-55

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

\*HYMN 123 *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1: 18-25

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *Hope Is Worth the Risk* Rev. Beth Newman

## OUR THANKFUL RESPONSE

CHORAL ANTHEM

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in a God who gives us reason to hope, a God who fills our nights with stars, who follows winter with spring, who dwells with and among us. We believe that this God has dreams for creation, dreams of justice like a mighty stream and swords that will be beaten into plowshares. Therefore, we push cynicism aside. We risk vulnerability. We hold onto hope, And we declare: "My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."**

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.*

*Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

\*PRAYER AFTER THE OFFERING

\*HYMN 100 *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

## 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.*

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*Liturgy from Sanctified Art*

Cover Art: "Magnify" by Hannab Garrity from Sanctified Art

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Leading in worship today:

**Pastor:** Rev. Beth Newman

**Music Director:** Kathy Wiggins

**Guest Musician:** Katherine Whitehouse

**Elder of the Month:** Dan Manley

# 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.

**NEW SUNDAY MORNING CLASS:** Starting Sunday, January 12th Pastor Beth will be leading a class on Sunday mornings in the Hut from 9:45 - 10:30 a.m. called "The Practice of Joy". This class will be discussion based and open to any adult or teen who would like to come. If you haven't been to church school in a while, please think about joining us.

**LOVE GIFT:** One of our Christmas traditions is a Love Gift for our church staff. If you would like to make a donation please make a note either in the memo line on your check or on the offering envelope "Love Gift".

**CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING:** When you donate you share our love of the leaders of our church- past, present, and future. 50% of the offering assists current and retired church workers with critical financial needs and 50% makes it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian related schools and colleges.

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED:** The Church office will be closed December 23rd through December 27th for the Christmas Holiday.

## ADVENT SCHEDULE



- Sunday, December 22nd - Christmas Caroling 2:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 24th - 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Moravian Love Feast
  - Wednesday, December 25th Christmas Day
- Sunday, December 29th at 11:00 a.m. - Casual Lessons and Carols
- Sunday, January 5th - Celebration of Epiphany and Sharing of Star Words

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES:

**Communion** - Every first Sunday of the month.

**Choir Practice** - Every Sunday at 9:45 am. Anyone is welcome, Please join us!

**Back Porch Bible Study** - Sundays from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. at the home of Martha Rich. For more information call Martha at 770-851-6852.

**Bible Study:** Every Wednesday at 11:00 am in the Parlor.

**Session Meeting** - August 18th after worship service.

**Women's Breakfast** - Every Thursday at 8:00 a.m. at Mountain Perks except for the second Thursday of each month when the location will be decided on.

**Men's Breakfast** - Every Thursday at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

**Daily Change Offering** - Every second Sunday of each month.

**Presbyterian Women** - The second Tuesday of every month at 1:00 p.m. You can come early, bring your lunch, and have fellowship.

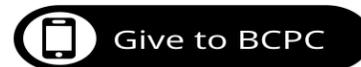
**Coffee & Fellowship** - Every first Sunday after worship service.

**Food Pantry** - Every Monday 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. and every Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.

**Welcome Wednesdays** - Manna distributes every other Wednesday at the Church Food Pantry for anyone who wishes to pick up food.

**AA Meetings** - Monday at noon, Tuesday 5:30 p.m., Thursday at noon, Friday at 6:30 p.m., and Saturday at 7:00 p.m.

**AI-Anon Meeting**- Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.



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.

**BCPC Elders:** Patty Ambrosino (Church Grounds), Sammi Birchfield (Discipleship & Community Outreach), Mark Brannon (Chair), Bill Helwig (Worship Committee), Bob Jordan (Building & Grounds), Dan Manley (Building & Grounds), Lisa Monnat (Personnel), Martha Rich (Congregational Life), Carol Sussman (Finance)

## BCPC Staff:

Pastor: Rev. Beth Newman

Music Director: Kathy Wiggins

Office Administrator: Elise Bryson

Custodians: Michael & Daniel Cochran

Email-[BCPC@bcpcusa.org](mailto:BCPC@bcpcusa.org); Website-[www.bcpcusa.org](http://www.bcpcusa.org)

Facebook-[www.facebook.com/BrysonCityPresbyterianChurch](https://www.facebook.com/BrysonCityPresbyterianChurch)

Paypal.me/lovebcpc

# Bryson City Presbyterian Church December 22, 2024



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.*