

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent
THE GATHERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Ann Bullock & Carole Schulz

HYMN # 137 *He Came Down* CAMEROON

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

POEM OF THE DAY THE CHAT MARY OLIVER

*I wish I were the yellow chat down in the thickets
who sings all night, throwing into the air praises
and pandhandles, plains, in curly phrases, half-rhymes,
free verse too, with head dipping and wing-wringing, with soft breast
raising into the air - meek and sleek, broadcasting, with no time out
for pillow-rest, everything - pathos, thanks -
Oh Lord, what a lesson you send me as I stand
listening to your rattling, swamp-loving chat singing
of his simple leafy life -
how I would like to sing to you all night in the dark just like that.*

*HYMN 87 *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* GENEVAN

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, you are always true to us in love and we are left wanting to say sorry for our faithlessness to you and to one another, for our forgetting of the poor and the broken, for our failure to cherish creation. Give us life, O God, to change and enable us to change, that we may live. 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

SCRIPTURE READING

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. Luke 1:39-55
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Mary's Song* Rev. Margie Stansell

OUR THANKFUL RESPONSE

CHORAL ANTHEM

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Iona Abbey Worship Book

We believe that God is present in the darkness before dawn; in the waiting and uncertainty where fear and courage hold hands. We believe in a with-us God who sits down in our mist to share our humanity. We affirm a faith that takes us beyond the safe place; into action, into vulnerability and into the streets. We commit ourselves to work for change and put ourselves on the line; to stand with those on the edge; to choose life and be used by the Spirit for God's new community of hope.

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 # 100 *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout* COONEY

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
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.

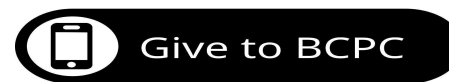
SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR YOUTH AND TEENS: Middle and High School youth are invited to a conversation about scripture beginning in the youth room at 10:00.

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.

MORAVIAN LOVEFEAST: The Moravian Lovefeast will be at 5:00 p.m. today in the Sanctuary.

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.



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: 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

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Bryson City
Presbyterian Church
December 24, 2023



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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.