

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 3, 2023
First Sunday of Advent

THE GATHERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Frela Beck & Barbara Sherwood

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

POEM OF THE DAY

YES/NO

MARY OLIVER

How necessary is it to have opinions! I think the spotted trout lilies are satisfied, standing a few inches above the earth. I think serenity is not something you just find in the world, like a plum tree, holding up its white petals.

The violets along the river, are opening their blue faces, like small dark lanterns. The green mosses, being so many, are as good as brawny. How important it is to walk along, not in haste but slowly, looking at everything and calling out Yes! No!

The swan for all his pomp, his robes of grass and petals, wants only to be allowed to live on the nameless pond. The catbrier is without fault. The water thrushes, down among the sloppy rocks, are going crazy with happiness. Imagination is better than a sharp instrument. To pay attention, this is our endless and proper work.

*HYMN 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

WESLEY

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You invite us to your feast, O God, and we do not come. You beg us to give thanks for life, and we fail in our thanksgiving. You have made for us a wonderful earth, and we neglect the gift. Forgive us for what we have done and for abandoning the pathway you desire for us. Be our guide and conscience. Turn our feet and hands to your will, that all we might do gives glory to you. 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 21: 25-36
People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Pay Attention

Rev. Margie Stansell

OUR THANKFUL RESPONSE

CHORAL ANTHEM

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Iona Community

That we worship on God, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, in whose image we are made to whose service we are summoned, by whose energy we are renewed; this we believe.

That through the power of the Holy Spirit the persecuted shall be lifted up and the wicked shall stumble, the hesitant prayers and hidden actions of God's people shall change the course of human history, the ancient words of scripture shall startle us with fresh insight; this we believe.

That God has called the church into being to be the servant of the kingdom, to be a sign of God's new order, to offer a foretaste on earth of the magnificence of heaven; this we believe. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We have participated in the bread of life and the cup of salvation. We have shared the tangible evidence of your love with each other. Now we will offer ourselves to you for service. We will not offer you offerings that cost us nothing. We are committed Lord, and we ask you to use us as you will in the church, and in the world.

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 529

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

DEARMER

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.*

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.

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
- Wednesday, December 13th - Pageant 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

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[Paypal.me/lovebcpc](https://www.paypal.me/lovebcpc)

Bryson City
Presbyterian Church
December 3, 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.