

SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY

November 30, 2025

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE GATHERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader:

People:

Leader:

People:

Leader:

People:

Leader:

People:

All:

On Sundays and Mondays,

On good days and bad days,

Early in the morning and very late at night,

Here in this room, and out in the world, God, we long for you to break in.

Meet us in this space

Surprise us with your presence.

Fill this room with good news.

With hope, we sing, we worship, we pray.

Let us worship God!

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLEMerle & LaCetta Carroll

*HYMN 83Come, Thou Long-Expeted Jesus

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Ever-present God, we long to feel you close. We long to feel your presence in our lives. We long for you to break through the chaos and suffering of this world. However, if we’re honest, we rarely stand still long enough to feel you in our midst. Forgive our rushing and distractions. Forgive our wandering hearts, and center us in this space. Remind us that even in the time of Herod, even on the longest nights, you are always there. Amen.

Silent Prayer

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader:

People:

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

*GLORIA 113 (chorus)

Glo- - -ria in excelsis Deo!
Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo!

THE WORD

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL

FIRST SCRIPTURE READINGLamentations 3:55-57

Leader:

People:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*HYMN 93Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

SECOND SCRIPTURE READINGLuke 1:5-13

Leader:

People:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMONIn the Time of HerodRev. Beth Newman

OUR THANKFUL RESPONSE

CHORAL ANTHEM

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We have seen the valley. We have seen a sky without stars. We have seen the longest night, and still we believe. We believe in a with-us God. We believe in the hope of tomorrow. We believe that good news is louder than fear. We believe this good news is for all people. So even when our knees shake, even when our voice trembles, even when fear is all around us, we will hold onto that good news. We will reach for each other. We will look for God in our midst. We will sing songs of joy. We will proclaim: Unto us, love is born. We have seen the longest night, and we have seen unimaginable love. So still, we believe. Amen.

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 609

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God in Jesus, fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia alleluia!

*PRAYER AFTER THE OFFERING

*HYMN 377I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

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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The Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, and Affirmation of Faith are from A Sanctified Art

Leading in worship today:
Pastor: Rev. Beth Newman
Music Director: Kathy Wiggins
Guest Musician: Katherine Whitehouse
Elder of the Month: Martha Rich

Announcements

WELCOME VISITORS! If you are worshiping 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 MORNING CLASS: Pastor Beth leads a class on Sunday mornings in the Hut from 9:45 - 10:30 a.m. This class is discussion-based and open to any adult or teen who would like to come.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY: Wednesday Bible Study will be at 11:00 a.m. in the Parlor.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN MEETING: The Presbyterian Women will meet Tuesday, December 9th 1:00 p.m. at Diana Ranson's home. This will be their annual Cookie Swap. There is a need to carpool. For questions Contact June Van Hassel at 770-377-4690.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTAS: If you would like to order a Poinsetta in memory or honor of someone please complete and return the order form before Sunday, December 14th.

FLOWER CHART: There is a Flower Chart in the narthex, on the left as you enter the main door. If you would like to bring flowers for our Sanctuary, write your name and telephone number under the month and date. If you would like to donate them in honor or memory of someone, please drop a note in the offering plate.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES:

Communion - Every first Sunday of the month.

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

Christmas Cantata Practice: Sunday, 9:00 am

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 - The next Session meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 16th at 5:30 p.m.

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 at 5:30 p.m., Thursday at noon, Friday at 6:30 p.m., and Saturday at 7:00 p.m. Also, in the Fellowship Hall, the last Tuesday of each month from 4:30 to 7:00 pm.

“Feed My Sheep” - Food and Worship in the Fellowship Hall every Thursday from 3:00 to 6:30 pm.



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.

Advent Banner

In our Advent banner design, people bow in prayer poses along the Earth (see the abstract figures in the bottom right portion of the composition). Light shines down from the heavens in rays of light. On either side are stars, doves, and hands. The hands represent people overcoming fear and making room for the steadfast love of God in their midst. The doves represent the Holy Spirit showing us the way and journeying alongside us. The stars represent the visionaries in the scriptures of the Advent season paving the way for the coming of the Messiah. The angels are glowing in the open spaces of the heavens. Arriving with power and a fearful strength, they use the imperative mood, “Do not fear!” to direct those listening in every time and place. God requires us to overcome our fears.

BCPC Elders: Patty Ambrosino (Church Grounds), Sammi Birchfield (Discipleship & Community Outreach), Randy Bumgarner (Building & Grounds), Bill Helwig (Worship Committee), Bob Jordan (Building & Grounds), Dan Manley (Clerk), 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; Website-www.bcpcusa.org

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

[Paypal.me/lovebcpc](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.bcpcusa.org%2Fdonate)

Bryson City Presbyterian Church November 30, 2025



**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.