

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent THE GATHERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Lord is coming to his temple.
People: We watch and wait for his coming.
All: Prepare the way of the Lord!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Jim & Ruthie McGowan

* HYMN 137 He Came Down CAMEROON
*He came down that we may have Joy;
He came down that we may have Joy;
He came down that we may have Joy;
Hallelujah forevermore.*

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of good news of great joy to all people, we pray for our hearts, our homes, our world so full of sorrows. We ask forgiveness for the things we have done that have not made for peace. Give us the wisdom and courage to follow the call of your prophets, to bear fruit, to be generous and just in all we do. Come, Jesus, come. 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.*

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

CAROLS : A CANTATA FOR CONGREGATION AND CHOIR

by Heather Sorenson

Litany No. 1
*HYMN # 134 *Joy to the World* WATTS

Litany No. 2 Luke 2: 1-7
Away in a Manager
(choir verse 1,2, 3)

*Be near me, Lord Jesus I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.*

Litany No. 3
Hymn # 133 *O, Come All Ye Faithful* WADE
(Verses 1,3,4)

Litany No.4
God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen NARES
(verse 1, men only)

*God rest ye merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay.
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy.
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

(verse 2, women only)

*From God our heav'nly Father a blessed angel come;
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same;
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.
O tidings of comfort and joy.
O tidings of Comfort and joy.*

*"Fear not, then," said the angel, "Let nothing you affright.
This day is born a Savior of Virgin and bright
To free all those who trust in Him from Satan's pow'r and might";
O tidings of comfort and joy. Comfort and Joy.
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

*Now to the Lord sing praises, all you with-in this place,
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace.
This holy tide of Christmas, all others may embrace.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy. O tidings of comfort and joy.*

Litany No. 5 Micah 5:2, 4-5a
O Little Town of Bethlehem BROOKS
(choir verse 1)
verse 2

*For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.*

*O morning stars, together, proclaim the holy birth.
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.*

*O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray.
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.*

*We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell.
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel.
(Choir, outro)*

Scripture Reading Luke 2: 8-18
Hymn # 147 *The First Noewell* STANDYS
(verses 1,2,6)

Litany No. 6 Isaiah 9:2
Hymn # 122 *Silent Night, Holy Night!* MOHR
(verses 1,2,3)

Litany No. 7
**Joy to the World (Reprise)* WATTS
*He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness,
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.
And wonders of his love, wonders of his love.*

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

Musicians

Marna Leigh Dodson
Katherine Whitehouse
and Judy Dodson

Sanctuary Choir

Frela Beck
Ann Bullock
Mark Brannon
Drew Campbell
George Evans
Ben Harrison
Sue Jordan
Linda Mitchell
Joan, Parks
Ann Steel
Carol Sussman
Ann Yaun

Narrators

Bill Helwig
Lauren Monnat
Lisa Monnat
Madeline Monnat
Martha Rich

Sound

Tony Monnat

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.

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.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: In the bulletin there are envelopes to give to the Christmas Joy Offering. by donating you share our love of the leaders of our church - past and 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.



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: Rev. Margie Stansell, Interim Musicians: Marna Dodson & Katherine Whitehouse, Office Administrator: Elise Bryson, Custodian: Renee Mercer

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**Bryson City
Presbyterian Church
December 17, 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.