



A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

December 12, 2021
Third Sunday of Advent

PEACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

301 Guinness Drive ▪ Winterville, North Carolina 28590-9943 ▪ (252) 355-2273

www.peacepresbyterian.org

Grow in Grace, Live in Peace, Serve the Lord

We Gather as God's People

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

This is the day the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Pam Strickland, Founder, NC Stop Human Trafficking

PRELUDE

Lotus Land, Op 47, No 1

Cyril Scott

*CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE PROPHET'S CANDLE

Amy Hearon, liturgist

Lighting the Advent Candles, The Hearon-Isler Family

One: "There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;

All: But with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them." (Isaiah 11: 1-6, selected verses)

One: The Advent Wreath reminds us of God's eternal love; without beginning and without end. The candles of the wreath remind us of the biblical story of God's unconditional love.

All: We light the first candle of the Advent Wreath, the Prophets' candle, to remind us of the hope the prophets declared for the coming of the Messiah.

One: We light the second candle of the Advent Wreath, the Candle of Bethlehem, to remind us that Mary and Joseph journeyed to Bethlehem and it was there that their son Jesus was born in a stable.

All: We light the third candle of the Advent Wreath, the Shepherds' Candle, to remind us that the good news of great joy was first shared with ordinary shepherds while they cared for their sheep.

***HYMN #117**

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

**While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around.**

“Fear not,” said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind:

“Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and humankind.

**“To you, in David’s town this day, is born of David’s line the Savior,
who is Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign:**

**“The heavenly babe you there shall find to human view displayed,
all humbly wrapped in swathing bands, and in a manger laid.”**

CALL TO CONFESSION

As John the Baptist called the people to repent and as Jesus calls us now to confess, we turn to the one who is both judge and savior. We pray, trusting that repentance opens the door to new life, and that peace beyond all measure has been promised to us. Let us confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

We confess, Surprising God, that our sense of anticipation has been dulled. We have ceased to expect wonders from your hand. We do not see your miracles of new life around us in the people and events we deem as commonplace and ordinary. We are not alert to your presence interrupting our routines. Wake us up. Forgive our apathy and complacency. Send your light to shine on the people and places to which you would have us to go. Hear now our silent individual confessions.

(Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

In the name of the one God who lives and moves among us, we are forgiven. The Lord takes away judgment and offers us new life. Do not worry. Live in peace as a forgiven and forgiving people. Amen.

RESPONSE TO GOD’S FORGIVENESS Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

**Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.**

**Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king, born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

We Share God’s Word

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-20

SERMON

“Star Gazing ”

Reverend Debbie Osterhoudt

We Respond to God’s Word

SPECIAL MUSIC

Midnight Stars Make Bright the Skies

Qi-fang Liang (Mark Sedio)

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Apostles' Creed

Let us confess the faith of our baptism.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;**

**who was conceived of the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the
dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING

Offertory

Offertory Music

Children's Corner 5. The Little Shepherd

Claude Debussy

***Hymn of Dedication**

What Child Is This

**What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels
sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!**

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him. The King of kings salvation
brings; let loving hearts enthrone him. Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!**

***Prayer of Dedication**

SPECIAL MUSIC

Of the Father's Love Begotten Divinum Mysterium (arr. Larry Sue)
Peace Handbell Quartet

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND OUR 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.**

***HYMN #147**

The First Nowell

**The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay, in fields where they
lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.**

**They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.**

**Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord, that hath made heaven and earth of
nought, and with his blood our life hath bought. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.**

We Go Forth As God's People

***BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

May the Love of the Lord

SOON TI

**May the love of the Lord rest upon your soul.
May God's love dwell in you, throughout every day.
May God's countenance shine upon you and be gracious to you.
May God's Spirit be upon you as you leave this place.**

POSTLUDE

Mouvements Perpétuels 1. Assez modéré

Francis Poulenc

***You are invited to stand.**

Worship Leadership Reverend Debbie Osterhoudt, Preacher Amy Hearon, Liturgist
Lighting the Advent Candles: The Hearon-Isler Family Peggy Vaughan, Music Director John Holter, piano
Chancel Choir Ushers: Janet Johnson, Joanne Lang Ron Skinner, audio and video
Worship Ministry Team Chair, Joanne Lang

WORSHIP NOTES Based on CDC data and the COVID 19 infection rate in our county and state,
we are **requiring** that all people wear masks during worship. Masks are available at the welcome table.

TODAY: 12 noon Fair Trade Market in narthex

3-5 pm Children and Knit Wits gather to make knot blankets for local non-profits

3 pm Children participating in the Christmas Eve worship meet with Pastor Debbie

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP 5:00 PM

Lessons and Carols with the children participating

Lord's Supper

Candlelighting

Bring your gifts of warmth to share with local communities.