



A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

November 28, 2021
First 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!

PRELUDE

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

J. Schop, arr J.S. Bach

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

Paul and Pam Gares, liturgists

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, and the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord." (Isaiah 11: 1-2)

**All: 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.**

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

*HYMN #82

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. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king, born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

God calls us to prepare a way for God's Spirit to enter into our lives by confessing all that separates us from the love of God and of our brothers and sisters. Let us come into God's presence confessing the truth of who we are.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God-with-us, even during Advent we confess that you seem far away. You seem hidden when we are impatient for you to draw near. In our hurt, our doubt, and our fear, we do not try to draw near to you. Instead we lash out against you, our neighbors, even those we love. We fail to take responsibility for our own actions or lack of actions to nurture our relationship with you and other people. Forgive us, we pray, and turn us around! May your face shine upon us, drying our tears, fading our guilt, and restoring our hope. We belong to you and in your hands we can be made new. Hear us now as we confess our individual sins in the silence of this moment.

(Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, to set us free from our fears and sins. Help us find our rest in you. You are the joy and hope of every longing heart.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE TO GOD'S FORGIVENESS **Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming**

(The origins of this Christmas carol are shrouded in mystery; we don't know who wrote the lyrics nor who composed the melody. It first appeared in print in 1599 in Germany and has since been published in varying translations.)

**Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung, of Jesse's lineage coming,
by faithful prophets sung. It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.**

**Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore for us a Savior, when half spent was the night.**

We Share God's Word

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 40 and Luke 3: 1-20

SERMON

"Preparing a Way for the Lord "

Reverend Debbie Osterhoudt

We Respond to God's Word

SPECIAL MUSIC

Still, Still, Still

TRADITIONAL GERMAN CAROL

(This Carol will be sung first in German, and again in English.)

Peggy O. Vaughan, Soprano

*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

Intermezzo in A major, Op 118, No 2

Johannes Brahms

*Hymn of Dedication #606

“Doxology”

*Prayer of Dedication

SPECIAL MUSIC

Of the Father’s Love Begotten

Latin Plainchant

Plainchant originated in the large cathedrals of Europe in the Medieval Period. Music was sung unaccompanied, and the sound would ring through the cathedral as a continuous sound. Music would echo in the large, cavernous cathedrals, and in some, it could take as long as seven seconds for the sound to clear. Our musical offerings during this Advent season have been prepared to evoke this time in history.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE 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 #88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night and earth’s dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O 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

Ode to Joy

Ludwig van Beethoven

***You are invited to stand.**

Worship Leadership Reverend Debbie Osterhoudt, Preacher Pam and Paul Gares, Liturgists
Peggy Vaughan, Music Director John Holter, piano Chancel Choir Ushers: Ruth Hines, Carla Smith
Ron Skinner, audio and video Worship Ministry Team Chair, Joanne Lang

The worship committee wants to thank all those who came out to help with the “Hanging of the Greens” last Sunday. With everyone’s hands, both small and large, we’ve made our sanctuary festive for the Advent season.

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.