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**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**December 17, 2023 - 8:30 & 11:00 AM**

*"I probably shouldn't treat my own son like he's the Messiah.  
Imagine the pressure!"—Melissa Kuipers*

**Prelude** In dulci jubilo *Friedrich Wilhelm Zachau*

**Introit** An Advent Prayer *Allen Pote*

**Lighting of the Advent Candles** *Barbara & Ron Howard, the Ball Family*

The Word became flesh and lived among us,  
and we have seen his glory.

**Alleluia!**

**\*Hymn 93** Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

**Prayer of Confession** (*unison*)

Gracious God, long ago you sent Christ to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, and to proclaim liberty to the captives. You then asked us to go and do the same for we are the church of Jesus Christ. Forgive us, we pray, for we have not continued to share the good news. We have focused on ourselves and neglected to help others. Help us to continue to share the healing and loving words of Christ to all the world and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

**Silent Meditation and Assurance of Pardon**

**\*Congregational Response 582** Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

**Passing of the Peace**

**Old Testament Lesson** Isaiah 61: 1-4; 8-11

**Anthem** All Is Well *arr. Ronn Huff*

**A Prayer for Children**

<b>New Testament Lesson</b>	Luke 1: 39-56	
<b>Sermon</b>	“Mary’s Special Child and Mine”	<i>Mark Stanley</i>
<b>*Hymn 99</b>	My Soul Gives Glory to My God	
<b>*Affirmation of Faith</b> ( <i>unison</i> )	A Brief Statement of Faith, sects. 2 and 5; pp. 37-38	
<b>Announcements and Sharing of Joys and Concerns</b>		
<b>Special Offerings</b>	Christmas Joy	
<b>Invitation to Giving</b>		
<b>Prayers of the People &amp; the Lord’s Prayer</b>		
<b>*Hymn 100</b>	My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout	
<b>*Charge and Blessing</b>		
<b>Postlude</b>	Sleepers Wake	<i>Johann Ludwig Krebs</i>

*\*Please stand in body or spirit*

**Worship Notes:** *The article quoted in today's sermon was written by Melissa Kuipers and is used unedited with her permission. The article first appeared in The Christian Century, Dec., 2023. (Melissa Kuipers is Christian Reformed Church chaplain to Mohawk College in Hamilton, Ontario, and author of the short story collection The Whole Beautiful World.)*

*Liturgy written by Tara Bulger and provided for free distribution by Presbyterian Outlook, 2023*

<b>LITURGIST(S):</b> Charles Keefer	<b>FLOWERS:</b> Poinsettias donated by our church family
<b>PROJECTIONS:</b> Russ Russell, Bud Weeks	members to be commemorated on Christmas Eve.
<b>LIVESTREAM:</b> Duane Johnson, Jim Kisner,	Special thanks to Claire Lux for coordinating.
Conrad Shannon, Jim Smelker, Paul Soltesz	<b>LAST SUNDAY ATTENDANCE:</b> 134

**WORSHIP TEAM**

**Senior Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Mark Stanley  
**Associate Pastor:** Rev. Dwight Christenbury  
**Minister of Visitation:** Sally Beghtol, C.P.  
**Music Director:** Stephen Klein  
**Section Leaders:** Katie Cilluffo, Eric McAnallen,  
Beth Pensiero  
**Percussionist:** Don Widmayer

**TRINITY TEAM**

**Maintenance Facilitator:** Jim Kisner  
**Treasurers:** Tom Karvonen, Bev Luzadder  
**Financial Secretary:** Diane Bowers  
**Bookkeeper:** Lynne Meluch, Angela Kuykendoll  
**Tellers:** Sue Robinson, Robin Hodgson,  
Pat Harter, Betty Lockwood  
**Nursery Staff:** Mary Haskins, Sierrah Haskins

***This congregation welcomes you without regard to race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, education, economic circumstance, your place of origin or any other issue that divides God's family. We are Christ's people, and this is Christ's place with its doors wide open. If you are passing through, Godspeed. If you are looking for a worship home, stay with us. We invite visitors to join us, but most of all, to return often.***



PC(USA)  
June 10, 1983



Presbytery of Western  
North Carolina



More Light  
Presbyterians



a Matthew 25  
Church



Fuente de Vida  
Guatemala



an Earth Care  
Congregation

## **SUNDAY - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS**

### **JOY SPECIAL OFFERING**

#### **8:30 SUNDAY WORSHIP**

9:45 Learning Hour:

- *Lectionary Class (Trinity Room)*
- *Issues & Concerns Class (Classroom 207)*
- *Hashing It Out (Lounge)*
- *Youth Learning Hour*

9:45 Officer Training

10:30 Choir Rehearsal

#### **11:00 SUNDAY WORSHIP**

12:15 80th Birthday Celebration for Duane & Judi Johnson (Atrium)

12:15 Matthew 25 Ministry Mtg.

5:00 ManKind Project Open Men's Circle

## **MONDAY**

9:00 Finance Team

10:00 New Member Subcommittee

3:00 Death Café

3:30 Tai chi - Beginners

4:00 Tai chi - Intermediate

## **TUESDAY**

9:00 Staff Meeting

10:00 Coffee Group

10:30 Naomi Circle

1:00 Christmas Play Tech Rehearsal

6:30 Zoom: Worship Ministry Meeting

## **WEDNESDAY - TIDINGS DEADLINE**

10:30 Friends in Christ

3:00 Zoom: Earth Caring Ministry Mtg.

4:30 Circles - Affordable Housing Team Mtg.

7:30 Choir Rehearsal

## **THURSDAY**

3:30 Tai chi - Beginners

4:00 Tai chi - Intermediate

## **FRIDAY**

## **SATURDAY**

## **SUNDAY - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVE**

9:30 Choir Rehearsal

**10:00 SUNDAY WORSHIP - CHRISTMAS PAGEANT,  
"THE WEARY WORLD GETS ITS ACT TOGETHER"**

**7:00 CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF  
LESSONS & CAROLS**

**DON'T FORGET! ONE SINGLE SERVICE ON SUNDAY  
MORNING OF DEC 24 AT 10 A.M.,  
FOLLOWED BY CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE  
THAT NIGHT AT 7 P.M.**

## **Contacts (office/pastoral business) during the week**

- Mark Stanley: 828-553-6425, jmstanley1@msn.com
- Dwight Christenbury: 828-545-2590, dc.trinity@mac.com
- Sally Beghtol: 828-280-2045, rsbeghtol@bellsouth.net
- Katie Cilluffo: 828-692-6114, trinitypresbyterianpcusa@gmail.com

**Weekly Calendar:  
Dec 17 - 24**

**PRAYER CONCERNS In Sympathy:** Leah Epps upon the loss of her mother Dorothy **Hospice:** Cathy O'Neal **Hospital:** Robert Walker **Rehab/Nursing:** Don Steele (Carole Steele's father); Neena Haskins (Carolina Reserve); Jane Sugawara (Tore's Home); Jack Caylor (HHR); Ruth Mills (CV Care Center); Kaye Papazian (Arbor Terrace); Nell Payne (Brookdale); Nancy Underwood (Florida); Julia Sellers (Durham); Jerry Miller (Indiana); **Home:** Benny Elliot (Landen Gailey's partner); Bill Payne; Linda Walker; Bob Daley (Cynthia Moser's brother); Anne Wright; Brian Dillon; Evans Thibodeau; Paul Hugger; Bob McLean (Judy Groff's brother); Diane Purnell; Ken Sugawara; Jay, Lorrie, & Robert Pelc (Carole Ball's family); Nancy Twitchen; Dan Green; Katie Hankla; Gillian Vaughan (Edie Clark's granddaughter); Sandra Dwork; Helen Dearborn; Kim & Jason Ball; Julee Gray (Kuykendoll's friend); Lauren McBride (Kuykendoll's daughter); Barbara Nichols; Bud Weeks; Jim Emme; Jim Luzadder; Irene Lunsford, T.K. Owens (family of Dolly Owens & Nancy Twitchen); Barbara Pickwood; Alice McCullough; Dave Morrison; **Others:** our mission coworkers and the people of Madagascar and Guatemala, our sister church Fuente de Vida, the people of Israel and Palestine, Sudan, Ukraine and Russia, and those harmed by new anti-LGBTQIA+ legislation and by gun violence.

**HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAYS, DUANE & JUDI!** You're invited to celebrate with the Johnsons and their daughters in the Atrium after today's 11:00 a.m. service.

### **DID YOU MISS THE BLACK MOUNTAIN GIFT TREE?**

Well, you have another chance. Little Xyiona Benjamin tragically lost her mother about 2 weeks ago (memorial service was yesterday). Members of the community, including city councilmember Debbie Roundtree, are rallying support to give her a happier Christmas during this difficult time. If you are still interested in providing gifts for kids in need, but found all the Black Mountain gift tags were taken, Xiona and her grandma would really appreciate the love this Christmas. Please see the list of ideas on the ushers table in the Narthex if you'd like to help.

**ADVENT IS HERE.** Mark your calendar for these seasonal events:

- **Christmas Eve Morning Worship:**  
Sun., Dec. 24, 10:00 a.m. (*single service*)
- **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service:**  
Sun., Dec. 24, 7:00 p.m.

More details in the December Tidings issue.

### **POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS!**

**Deadline Wed, Dec 20.** Visit the "Sign-ups" on our website or talk to Katie in the office.

**LEAD WORSHIP DURING ADVENT.** We have ONE more opening to light the Advent wreath this season. If interested, please signup on the bulletin board in the narthex; see Dwight Christenbury if you have questions. Thank you!

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR NEXT SUNDAY'S CHRISTMAS PLAY.**

Next Sunday's 10:00 a.m. worship service will feature the world premier of "The Weary World Gets Its Act Together," Trinity's all-ages Christmas Pageant, and we could use a little volunteer help in advance: **two stagehands** (capable of moving a sofa), **two costumers**, and **two narrators**. If you're interested and can participate in a tech rehearsal on Tuesday, Dec. 19, 1:00 p.m., please see Dwight Christenbury for more info and to sign up.

### **MANY THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS**

for the Habitat for Humanity Drive-Thru Dinner fundraiser! Approx. 80% of the purchase price of all meals goes directly toward supporting the mission of safe and affordable homes right here in Henderson County. To our carol-e-oke singers, our decorators, our promoters, our traffic directors, and our meal purchasers, we are so grateful. And to the good people of Habitat, we are honored to be a part of your mission - both the meaning and the FUN!

### **2024 FLOWER RESERVATIONS ARE HERE:**

Head to "Sign-Ups" on our website to reserve Sunday sanctuary flowers in honor or memory of your special events or loved ones.

### **DEATH CAFÉ** Mon, Dec 18 at 3pm in the lounge.

We practice gentle listening, sharing stories of loss, fear, and grief from deep within our hearts. Light refreshments are served.