

# ORDER FOR WORSHIP

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 17, 2017

CALL TO REVERENCE

PRELUDE "A Christmas Prelude" Young

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\* SUNG LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE #92

Sung Men: While we are waiting, come;

**Sung Women: *While we are waiting, come.***

Sung Men: Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,

**Sung Women: *While we are waiting, come.***

Sung Men: With power, and glory, come,

**Sung Women: *With power and glory, come.***

Sung Men: Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,

**Sung Women: *While we are waiting, come.***

Spoken One: We light this candle of joy to celebrate the transformation of the world into a place...

Sung All: Come, Savior, quickly come,  
***Come, Savior, quickly come.***  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,  
***While we are waiting, come.***

Spoken One: Hear our prayers of waiting again this morning,  
O God, and may they be music to your ears.

**Spoken All: *In Christ's name we pray. Amen.***

\* PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

***Lord of Christmas joy, we have done wrong. We have tarnished the gift you gave us freely. We have buried you so deeply in our hearts, the world doesn't see you. We have not followed Christ, we have ignored your teachings, we have lived lives of apathy against your love, we have built fences and fortresses to push people away, and we have silenced the screams of those in need. Forgive us, we pray. Free us from our sin. Free us from our captivity. Free us to a life lived in the joy we celebrate today through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

\* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: In this season of waiting, the Good News is this: mercy, new life, hope, and joy are the gifts we receive from our God.

**All: *Thanks be to the God of Advent, who came in the Child, who is with us in the Spirit, who will come again in glory! Amen.***

\* SHARING THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST

A TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

"Christmas Isn't Christmas" Owens and Owens

\* HYMN #129 "Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming"

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 61:1-11

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: *Thanks be to God.***

SECOND LESSON Luke 1:46-55

One: This too is the Word of the Lord.

**All: *Thanks be to God.***

ANTHEM "Call To Advent" Williams

SERMON "From Mary's Lips to Our Ears" Stacey Steck

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (concluding with the Lord's Prayer)

### OUR OFFERING

Offertory: "The First Noel"

Gehrke

\* Doxology:

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

\* Prayer

\* HYMN #100

"My Soul Cries Out With A Joyful Shout"

\* BENEDICTION

Congregational Response

#82, vs. 1

*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.*

\* POSTLUDE

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Lasky

\*Those who are able, please stand.

Some resources used in today's service from [lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com)  
and [umcdiscipleship.org](http://umcdiscipleship.org).

**VISITORS:** We are delighted to welcome you today and hope your time here is a blessing. If you are not active in another church, we hope you will consider making Thyatira your church home. If you would like to find out more about us, please contact Pastor Stacey Steck at 704-245-8100.

**LITURGIST:** Today – Bill Hall

Next Week – Millicent Hoffner

**CHILDREN IN WORSHIP:** All children are strongly encouraged to remain in worship following the Time with Young Disciples. The Nursery, located at the top of the stairs in the educational building, is available for infants and very young children.

This Sunday – Melissa Waller, Karen Townsend

Next Sunday – Leigh Anne Wetmore, Selena Bell

**SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS (2's & 3's and Preschool):**

Today – Karen Townsend

Next Sunday – Alice Sloop

**GENEROSITY UPDATE:** For the first two weeks in December we have reached 46% of our monthly goal.

**YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS:** Any gifts made to or through the church that you would like to have reflected on your 2017 year-end statement must be received by the church office by Sunday, December 31. If you would like to know how much remains to fulfill your 2017 Estimate of Giving, please contact Sharon in the church office at 704-636-1595.

**2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are outside the church office. Please pick them up before you leave. If anyone needs theirs mailed, please contact Sharon at 704-636-1595.

**UGLY SWEATER PARTY:** Join us in Fellowship Hall following worship today to celebrate the holiday season together. Wear your best ugly or festive Christmas sweater. Cookies and finger foods will be served.

# JOYS AND CONCERNS

## THYATIRA PRAYER CONCERNS

<u>Lutheran Home:</u>	Mullie Varner
<u>C/O George Calhoun:</u>	Mary Alice Calhoun
<u>White Oak Manor, Charlotte:</u>	Ruby Erwin
<u>At Home:</u>	JoAnn Kerr Ted Deal

- Bob Freeman, recovering from cataract surgery this week
- David Grimes, being treated for brain cancer
- Julie, a co-worker of Jada, recently diagnosed with cancer
- Chris, facing health challenges
- Monique's family, following the death of her mother
- Kitty Harris, dealing with health issues
- Thelma Walton in rehab at Liberty Commons
- Phares Sechler, recovering from surgery on her hand
- Barbara, in rehab at a nursing facility
- Carol King, receiving cancer treatment
- Tom Long, friend of Charles Newsome, receiving treatment for cancer
- Evaun Bulman, friend of Sharry Davis, undergoing cancer treatment
- Bill Hall
- The situation in Puerto Rico following the hurricane
- A friend of Keith Townsend, being treated for cancer
- Betty Morgan, sister of Ruth Albright, recovering after serious car accident
- Alice Sloop's friend, Nancy, under hospice care
- Mike Hawkins' mother, Elizabeth, now at Genesis
- Linda Gaylor's mother, Barbara
- Jay Foster, a nine-year-old with heart issues
- Ada Jo Sloop, serving in the Peace Corps
- OC Shoaf
- A friend of Phares, Cindy Pope, being treated for some serious health issues
- Bill Bergstrom is being treated for leukemia
- Sharry Davis is being treated for cancer
- Drema Clemens' mother, Bertha Warden
- Millicent Hoffner's brother, Joe Kerr
- Mike Hawkins who has RA
- Former member, Pat Hall
- Jimmy's mother and father, Ernestine & Bill Hoffner
- Paul Rogers' daughter and family in Pakistan
- The Raymer family serving in Tanzania, Africa

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & CALENDAR

**BIRTHDAYS:** December 17 - Georgia McCorkle  
19 - Paul Rogers, Tom Turner  
20 - Mandy Bates  
22 - Cari McCachren Shah, Robert Wilkie

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR:** Preschoolers will not practice until after the first of the year. The Young Disciples will continue to practice through December 24.

**TEXAS CARDS:** All cards are due today. There will be a card making station at the Ugly Sweater Party for both children and adults. A reporter from the Salisbury Post will be here to write a story about the card ministry during the party.

**RAYS ADDRESS:** If you would like to send a card or note of encouragement to Jody, Rebecca, Issac, Josiah & Caleb Ray you may send them to: Shikarpur Christian Hospital, c/o Ray Family, New Fajj Dori Road, Shikarpur Sindh, 78100, Pakistan.

**GIFT GIVING PROJECT:** Be sure to check out the trees in the sanctuary and take an ornament today! There are gifts in every price range (check out [presbyteriangifts.org](http://presbyteriangifts.org) for details). You can make purchases with a friend, with your family, or sponsor one with your Sunday School class. The possibilities are endless! When you have your money, please return the ornament and money to a member of the Lost Sheep class, return to the church office, or put in the offering plate. Help us meet this BIG goal and make a difference this holiday season!

## **HAPPENING THIS WEEK:**

Today	8:30am Christian Education Meeting
	9:00am Session Called Meeting
	9:30am Children's Choir (Big Kids) & The Happy Place
	10:00am Sunday School for All Ages
	11:00am Worship
	12:00pm Ugly Sweater Party
	6:30pm Adult Choir
Monday	8:15am Preschool
	6:30pm Boy & Cub Scouts
	6:30pm Men's Bible Study
	7:30pm C2C Meeting
Tuesday	8:15am Preschool
Wednesday	8:15am Preschool
	6:30 pm Prayer, Song and Study
Thursday	8:15am Preschool
Next Sunday	9:30am Children's Choir (Big Kids) & The Happy Place
	10:00am Sunday School for All Ages
	11:00am Worship
	5:30pm Christmas Eve Service