

HEARING AND PROCLAIMING GOOD NEWS

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2019

CALL TO REVERENCE

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Zachau/Bish

“From Heaven to Earth I Come”

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Watch and wait for Christ’s coming! Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.

All: We light this candle in hope.

We light this candle for peace.

We light this candle in joy!

We light this candle with love.

(The First, Second, Third, and Fourth Advent Candles are lit.)

One: Out of love for the people of God, the Lord speaks through the prophet Isaiah, as found in the seventh chapter, verses 10-14:

(The Scripture is read.)

One: God of hope, Prince of peace, Jubilee judge, and Lord of love, your goodness is beyond our wildest imaginings. You give us more than we can think to ask, coming to us with impossible possibility in the union of flesh and spirit. Teach us to love this world and all people as you love us in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come.

*HYMN #105

“People Look East”

*PRAYERS OF CONFESSION *(Silently and personally, and then in unison)*

Come now, Reconciler of the nations, for our world, our lives, need your peace more than ever before. Come, Caller to discipleship, for we long to let go of our self-interest and narcissism. Come, Divine voice, for we hunger to hear your words once again, ever always. Come, Servant of the poor, so we notice you in all those we push past in this hectic season. Come, Silence of our nights and Holiness of our hearts, and forgive us for turning your compassion into commercials, your joy into jingles, your hope into hollow words, your love into lust for the short-lasting offerings of the world. May we find our way to the One born simply, born gracefully, born for us – Jesus, the Child of wonder and life. In his name we pray. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: We may not notice them there, at the back of the pile of presents, but God’s hope, God’s life, and God’s mercy, are the true gifts we receive through Jesus Christ, each and every moment.

All: We give thanks to our gracious God, who has forgiven us and blessed us. Amen.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST

A TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

*HYMN #104

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK

ANTHEM “Christmas Selections” Thyatira’s Young Disciples

FIRST LESSON Romans 1:1-7

One: This is the Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 11:2-11

One: This too is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON “The Blessings of Unrecognizable Reality” Stacey Steck

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

OUR OFFERING

Offertory “He Is Born, the Holy Child”

Paxton

* Doxology

Hymnal, #606

* Prayer

*HYMN #110 “Love Has Come”

*BENEDICTION

Advent Response, #647

“Come, Come Emmanuel”

Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel. (Repeat)

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY Zachau/Bish

“Good Christian Men, Rejoice”

*Those who are able, please stand.

Some resources used in today’s service are adapted from
lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com and pcusa.org

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WELCOME 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.

USHERS: **December Team** – Jada Ware-Guy (captain), Ben Watts, Ted Fuller, Paul Rogers, Mike Corriher

LITURGIST: **This Sunday** – Millicent Hoffner
Next Sunday – Phares Sechler

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

This Sunday – Melissa Kluttz, Ben Watts

Next Sunday – Carly Moore, Alice Sloop

GENEROSITY UPDATE: After the first three weeks in December, we have reached 54% of our monthly anticipated contributions. Your generous gifts do so much toward making us be the Good News Capital of Rowan County! You can now also give conveniently online using the GivePlus+ app.

THYATIRA PRAYER CONCERNS

Please keep in your prayers the Session, Deacons, and Staff of the Church, as well as all who faithfully serve one another and our community through the ministries of the church.

Mocksville Senior Living: Mary Moon

At Home: JoAnn Kerr

- Kaye Hawkins' family member, Mitchell
- Ernestine Hoffner, hospitalized
- Tony Albright
- Jewell Shoaf, under hospice care
- Bill and Carolyn Haggerty, as Bill is being treated for cancer
- The family of Fred Stamper
- Joyce Caldwell, recovering from hip surgery
- Eric Scarborough, Candace McKnight's uncle, recovering from colon cancer surgery
- Cindy, Kaye Hawkins' cousin, diagnosed with cancer
- Communities affected by Hurricane Dorian
- Kitty Harris, recovering from hip injury
- Families affected by gun violence
- Barbara Karriker, Joyce Caldwell's cousin, diagnosed with cancer
- Whitaker Raymer, being treated for leukemia
- Mike Hawkins, ongoing health issues
- Drema Clemens' brother, Arthur Warden
- Edna Stamper
- Julie, a co-worker of Jada, diagnosed with cancer
- Mike Hawkins' mother, Elizabeth, at Genesis
- Linda Gaylor's mother, Barbara
- Bill Bergstrom is being treated for leukemia
- Millicent Hoffner's brother, Joe Kerr

PHONE PRAYER CHAIN: If you, a family member, or friend would like to be added to our Phone Prayer Chain, please call Jim Albright at 704-279-3317. Thyatira's Phone Prayer Chain is different from being added to our electronic newsletter, mailed newsletter, and bulletin. We have three people that spread the word by calling approximately 25 prayer list members, who add your request to their daily prayers. Whatever your prayer need may be, finding peace of mind provides a foundation of strength to face any situation. Your request is a sacred trust and is kept confidential among our prayer list members.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:

Dec 22 Cari McCachren Shah, Robert Wilkie

Dec 24 Steve Daniel

Dec 26 Christi Reber

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CALENDAR

2020 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available for pickup on the table in the hallway across from the office. If you haven't already picked yours up, please stop by before leaving today.

PASTORAL NEEDS: Pastor Stacey will be away from December 25 – January 4. If you have a need of any kind, please contact one of Thyatira's Elders or the church office. The Rev. Don McCann will be available for pastoral needs.

ROWAN HELPING MINISTRIES – WEST CURRENT NEEDS: Canned vegetables (not green beans or corn), peanut butter, jelly, cold cereal, and spaghetti sauce. If you would like to give cash donations through the church, please write the check out to Thyatira with RHM-W in the memo. These donations are used to purchase groceries as needed throughout the year and let you skip the shopping trip. Thank you for all the support!

HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

Today	9:30am	Happy Place
	9:55am	Children's Choir (Big Kids)
	10:00am	Sunday School for all ages
	11:00am	Worship
	4:00pm	New Officer Training
	6:30pm	Adult Choir Practice
Tuesday	5:30pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Wednesday		MERRY CHRISTMAS! – Office Closed
Thursday	11:00am	Meals on Wheels
Friday	11:00am	Meals on Wheels
Next Sunday	8:30am	Men of the Church Breakfast
	9:30am	Happy Place
	10:00am	Sunday School for all ages
	11:00am	Worship
	6:30pm	Adult Choir Practice

THYATIRA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

220 White Road
Salisbury, NC 28147
704-636-1595
PASTOR STECK: 704-245-8100

Office Hours Monday – Friday 8:30am – 1:30pm
EMAIL ADDRESS: office@thyatirapresbyterian.org
WEB SITE: thyatirapresbyterian.org

STAFF AND OFFICERS

STAFF

Pastor The Rev. Stacey Steck
Faith Community Nurse Nora Patterson, RN, FCN
Faith Community Health Promoter. Georgia McCorkle
Office Manager Sharon Gantkowski
Treasurer. Doug Patterson
Assistant Treasurer. Keith Vaughan
Director of Music Angela Moore
Organist Charles Chandler

THE SESSION

Moderator The Rev. Stacey Steck
Clerk of Session. Glenn McCorkle

Class of 2019

David Hall
Norma Lauder
Eric Rouse
Juanita Turner

Class of 2020

Robin Luther
Doug Patterson
Phares Sechler
Brian Waller

Class of 2021

Beth Bates
Abby Covington
Ed Hall
Glenn McCorkle

Elder Emeriti. Jim Albright, Charles Newsome

THE DIACONATE

Chairman of the Diaconate. Paul Gaylor

Class of 2019

Jeremy Deal
Jada Ware-Guy
Daniel Milam
Aaron Richmond
Steven Wetmore

Class of 2020

Mike Hawkins
Randall Patterson
Paul Rogers
A.J. Waller
Ben Watts

Class of 2021

Bill Bergstrom
Mike Corriher
Ted Fuller
Paul Gaylor
Melissa Waller

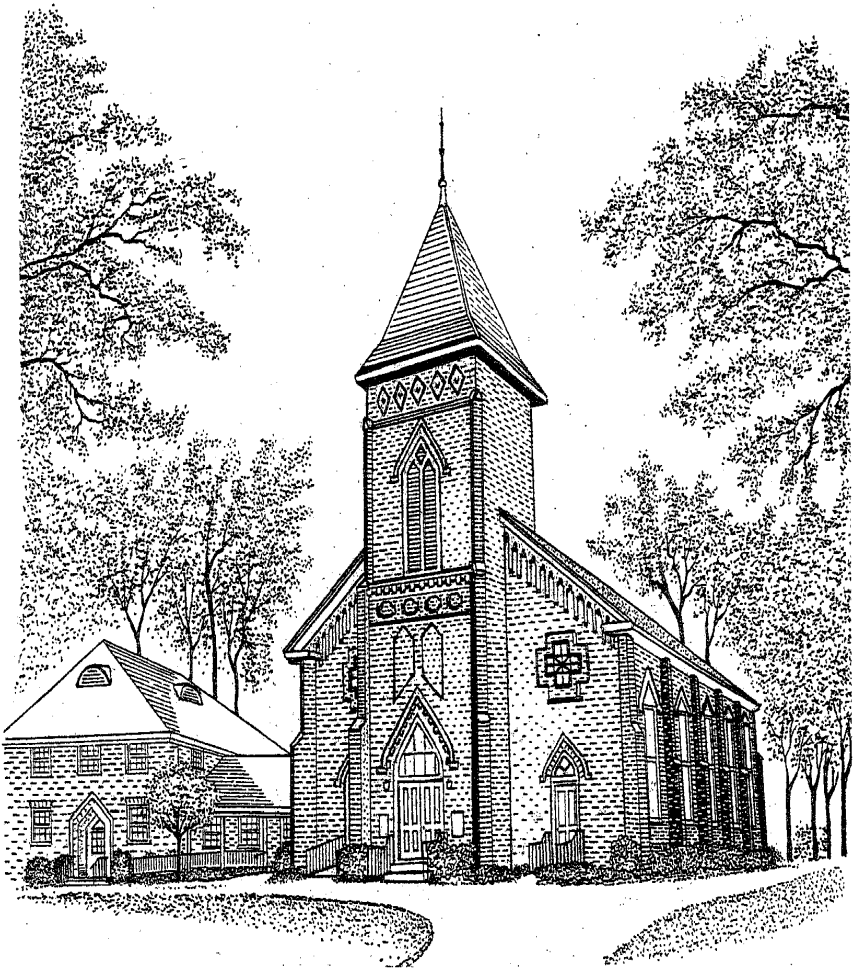
CONTACT PERSONS

Thyatira Memorial Association President. Ed Hall
Church School Superintendent Jimmy Hoffner
Men of the Church President. Greg Hager
Presbyterian Women Moderator. Jada Ware-Guy
Boy Scouts. Greg Hager
Cub Scouts. Norma Lauder
Girl Scouts. Jada Ware-Guy

WELCOME

THYATIRA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT MILL BRIDGE

*The Good News Capital
of Western Rowan County*



Organized by 1750

A Living Legacy of Love, Faith, Service,
and Patient Endurance