

ORDER FOR WORSHIP

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 24, 2017

CALL TO REVERENCE

PRELUDE "I Wonder As I Wander" Niles

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* SUNG LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE #121

Sung Women: O, little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie

**Sung Men: Above they deep and dreamless sleep,
the silent stars go by.**

Sung Women: Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light,

**Sung Men: The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**

Spoken One: We light this candle of love to announce to the
world that...

**Sung All: O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell
O come to us; abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!**

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

***Approaching God, we watch for packages to arrive and
Christmas cards to be delivered, but we do not keep our eyes
open for your coming. We expect our Christmas 'wish list' to be
filled, and for the pile under the tree to grow and grow, but we
hope you do not expect to transform our lives. We notice where
to find the best bargains, and what decorations our neighbors
have put on their houses, but we do not notice the little, the
least, the lost, the last walking down our streets. Forgive us,
Saving God, for our misplaced priorities. May we watch for your
coming, may we reach out to those in need, may we wait for
hope to come, even as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior,
arrives to live in our hearts. In his name we pray. 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

* HYMN #124 "Still, Still, Still"

FIRST LESSON 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

One: This too is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

“Puer Natus Est”

arr. Ramsey

SERMON

“Where Angels Fear to Tread”

Stacey Steck

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

OUR OFFERING

Offertory: “Angels We Have Heard On High”

Wyton

* 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 #133

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

* 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

“In The Bleak Midwinter”

Young

*Those who are able, please stand.

Some resources used in today’s service from lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com

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 – Millicent Hoffner
Next Week – Phares Sechler

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 – Leigh Anne Wetmore, Selena Bell

Next Sunday – Flora Calderón-Steck, Abby Covington

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

Today – Alice Sloop

Next Sunday – Aaron Richmond

GENEROSITY UPDATE: For the first three weeks in December we have reached 62% of our monthly goal. Let’s finish 2017 strong!

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.

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE TONIGHT!: Join us again this evening at 5:30 as we celebrate the nativity of Jesus Christ at our Candlelight Service. All are welcome. Please practice servant parking by leaving near-in spaces for visitors and late arrivals.

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 recent cataract surgery
- 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
- 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
- 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 24 - Carol Gram
26 - Christi Reber
29 - Drema Clemens

RAYS ADDRESS: If you would like to send a card or note of encouragement to Jody, Rebecca, Isaac, Josiah & Caleb Ray serving in Pakistan, 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 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 9:30am The Happy Place
 9:45am Children's Choir (Big Kids)
 10:00am Sunday School for All Ages
 11:00am Worship
 5:30pm Christmas Eve Service

Monday MERRY CHRISTMAS! (Church office is closed)

Next Sunday 9:30am The Happy Place
 10:00am Sunday School for All Ages
 11:00am Worship