

Sunday December 1, 2024  
The First Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE Janesta Williams  
PASTORAL WELCOME Rev. Carson Montgomery  
ANNOUNCEMENTS Mona Baker

THE LIGHT OF ADVENT HOPE Dennis Williford & Carol Lyon

One: In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

**All: Let us begin with the good news! Let us begin by trusting that we are a blessing, loved by a gracious God. Let us begin with music and singing! Let us begin with warmth and welcome. Let us begin with hope.**

One: Yes, let us begin with hope. Today we light the candle of hope to shine a light in a worn and weary world.

**All: May this be our foundation. May this be our fresh start. May this be our new beginning.**

One: May hope flow forth from here. Amen!

\*HYMN NO. 88 O Come, O Come Emmanuel

CALL TO CONFESSION Mona Baker

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: Affirming God, your first words to creation were words of love. You looked at this earth and said, "It is good." You spoke affirmations through the prophets. You spoke blessings over Mary. You spoke belonging through Christ. At every turn, you have reiterated that we are a blessing, made in your image, held in your love. Forgive us for forgetting this truth. Forgive us for measuring our worth by society's measuring stick instead of yours. We believe. Help our unbelief. In Christ's name we pray, amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Mona Baker  
Leader: Family of faith, I don't know the last time someone told you that you are good, just as you are. I don't know the last time you heard that you are loved and created in the image of God. I don't know the last time you trusted those words and truly believed that you are a blessing. However, in case it has been a while, hear these words from Isaiah:

**All: God says, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine."**

Leader: We are forgiven. We are loved. Let it leave you awestruck.

**All: Thanks be to God! May we believe it. Amen.**

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 581

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES Rev. Carson Montgomery

ANTHEM Christmas Is Near Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Rev. Carson Montgomery

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING (p.672) Isaiah 43: 1-7

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING (p.56) Luke 1: 26-38

SERMON **You Are A Blessing**

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Rev. Sarah Are Speed)

**We believe in a blessing God who calls us Beloved. We believe that this blessing showed up in the life of Mary, and was also bestowed upon the hemorrhaging woman, the poor in spirit, the children, the crowds, the Jews, the Gentiles, the faithful and the doubting.**

So in faith, we trust that God's blessing, like ripples on the water, forever reaches toward us. And with wild hope, we believe that because of this blessing, we are covered in love. We are more than enough. Thanks be to God! Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (Insert)

PRAISES AND PRAYER CONCERNS

THE CALL FOR THE OFFERING\*\*  
OFFERTORY

\*THE 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 OF DEDICATION (Isaiah 43:4)

**All: God of Hope, you remind us that we are precious in your sight, honored, and loved. In gratitude we give to you our hearts, time, and treasures. Bless our offerings so that your hope will be made known through us, the community, and the wider world. Amen.**

\*HYMN NO. 82 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

\*BENEDICTION Rev. Carson Montgomery

Liturgy today is written by The Rev. Sarah Are Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

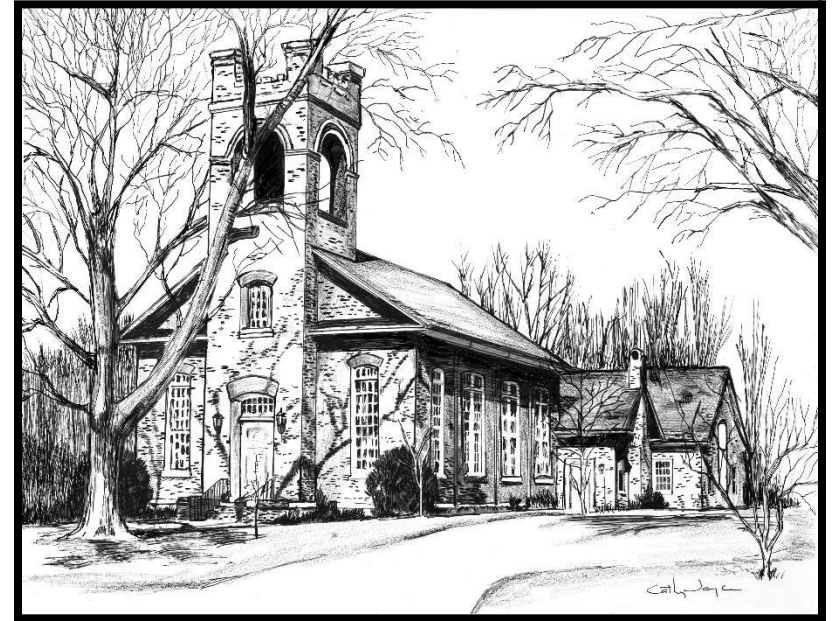
Prayer of Dedication written by Rev. Carson Montgomery

### Elder of the Day

This Week: Julie Graham      Next week: Janet Campbell

# Van Wyck Presbyterian Church

Established 1884



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**Advent Sermon Series  
Sundays @ 11:00am**

Advent is a season of endings and beginnings.  
As the calendar year comes to a close, a new church year rushes in.  
Christ's birth ushers us into new ways of living and loving.

- Dec 1 **You Are a Blessing** (Luke 1: 26-38; Isaiah 43: 1-7)  
Dec 8 **We Can't Go Alone** (Ruth 1; Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12)  
Dec 15 **Do the Good That Is Yours to Do**  
(Luke 3: 7-16; Isaiah 58: 9b-12)  
Dec 22 **Hope Is Worth the Risk** (Matthew 1: 18-25; Luke 1: 46-55)  
Dec 24 5pm Christmas Eve Candlelight service **Love Knows Your Name**  
(Luke 2: 1-20)

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord's Table  
Prayer of Great Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer  
Leader: The Lord be with you.  
**All: And also with you.**  
Leader: Lift up your hearts.  
**All: We lift them to the Lord.**  
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise...**

**...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; lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Words of Institution  
Distribution of the Elements  
Prayer

### Church Calendar

<b>Sunday Dec 1</b>	10:00am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Worship/Communion Sunday 12:00pm Congregational Meeting 12:00pm Children and Youth Christmas Party
<b>Monday Dec 2</b>	7:00pm Bible 101
<b>Tuesday Dec 3</b>	10:00am Sisters of the Heart
<b>Wednesday Dec 4</b>	6:30pm Choir Practice
<b>Sunday Dec 8</b>	10:00am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Worship/Communion Sunday *4:30pm Lighting of the Way
<b>Monday Dec 9</b>	7:00pm Bible 101
<b>Tuesday Dec 10</b>	10:00am Sisters of the Heart
<b>Wednesday Dec 11</b>	6:30pm Choir Practice
<b>Saturday Dec 14</b>	8:30am Men's Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
<b>Sunday Dec 15</b>	10:00am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Worship and Welcoming of New Church Members 12:00pm Light Welcome Reception

**There will be a children and youth Christmas party after service today. There will be lunch and cookie decorating.**

**\*Connect to the unity in the community with The Annual Lighting of the Way at 4:30pm Sunday December 8.** All will gather at the Van Wyck Post Office to light the way along Old Hickory Road and stop for a brief celebration of Christmas music and devotion at Van Wyck Presbyterian, Van Wyck United Methodist, Trinity Presbyterian, and White Oak AME Zion Churches.

**\*\*Christmas Card Post Office** - The Presbyterian Women will sponsor the church Christmas Card Post Office again this year. Each family will have a designated file with their name. The post office will be located in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall (three large plastic tubs). Cards do not require anything but the name on the outside and filed in each file. Cost per card is \$.10 (honor system) and the proceeds will be forwarded to The Thornwell Children's Home. Individuals are responsible for picking up their cards each week. If you have questions, please contact Claudia Thompson.

### Hosting Community Groups @ VWPC

<b>Monday Dec 2</b>	7:00pm Town Council Public Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
<b>Tuesday Dec 3</b>	7:00pm Integrity Group (Fellowship Hall)
<b>Wednesday Dec 4</b>	4:00pm Planning Commission Workshop (Fellowship Hall)
<b>Thursday Dec 5</b>	7:00pm Integrity Group (Fellowship Hall)
<b>Saturday Dec 7</b>	10:00am Integrity Group (Fellowship Hall)

### Happy DECEMBER Birthday to YOU!!!

3 – Charles Moss	17 – Jeremy Sinclair
4 – Julie Singh	21 – Dennis Williford
5 – Logan Helms	27 – Carol Leedy
9 – Carson Helms	30 – Linda Pelletier
16 – Rosa Sansbury	

### December Prayer Requests

**Disciples:** Dianne Moore, Shirley Cauthen, Donald Baker, Claudia Thompson

**Friends:** Kate Steinkamp (Dianne Moore's sister), the family of Janie Straight, David Adams, Daniel and Robyn Adams, the Foster family, Patti Harris, John (Mary Baker's brother) Chip Oglesby, Bernard Bagley, Charlotte (Rosa Sansbury's niece)

**Community:** Van Wyck and Lancaster communities, our teachers and students

**Providence Presbytery:** Fort Lawn Presbyterian Church (Chester, SC)  
(Vacant)

**Wider World:** Israel and Gaza, Libya, Maui, Turkey, Syria, Ukraine, Russia, our country and elected leaders

**Youth:** Cody Campbell, Harrison Cargill, Rachel Graham, Stuart Graham, Charlie Haynes, Alena Massey, Kate McCalmont

**Vocational and College Students:** Genevieve Cook, Carson Helms, Christian Moss, Ashley Overstreet, Devon Overstreet, Fritz Walker

**Homebound Disciples:** Vicky Lott

**Session:** Class of 2024: Linda Pelletier (Clerk), Laura Clark; Class of 2025: Holly Massey, Craig Denton; Class of 2026: Janet Campbell, Julie Graham

**Staff:** Donna Fox, Stuart Graham, Barbara McAfee, Janesta Williams, Rev. Carson Montgomery