

Sunday December 22, 2024
The Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

THE LIGHT OF ADVENT LOVE: Ryan and Gabby Rape
One: In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

All: Let us begin with tenderness. Let us begin with our hearts on our sleeve. Let us begin from a place of vulnerability and hope. Let us begin with love.

One: Yes, let us start with love. Today we light the candles of love, joy, peace, and hope.

All: May the warmth of these lights be our cornerstone. May the truth in these lights help us begin again.

One: May it be so! Amen.

*HYMN NO. 147 The First Nowell, (Verses 1,2,3 & 5)

CALL TO CONFESSION Mona Baker

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Gracious God, you paint pictures of what could be,

All: but we declare those visions impossible.

Leader: You speak of the lion lying down with the lamb,

All: but we spout skepticism and uncertainty.

Leader: You dream of a more just day,

All: but we poke holes in the plan, unable to fathom that horizon.

Leader: Forgive us for losing sight of hope.

All: Forgive us for assuming that what we see is all there is.

Leader: Open up our hearts to see the world as you see it.

All: Open up our hearts to risk hope, to dream dreams, and to not be afraid of either. With gratitude we pray, Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS:

Leader: Friends, no matter what you hold onto, and no matter what you let slip through your hands, God is holding onto you. That good news will never change. So, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel: Today is a new day. Today, we have reason to hope. Today, we are forgiven. And the same will be true tomorrow.

All: Thanks be to God for a love like that. 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

Carol Lyon

ANTHEM

My Christmas Carol

Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Carson Montgomery

GOSPEL READINGS

Matthew 1: 18-25 (p. 1)

Luke 1: 46-55 (p. 57)

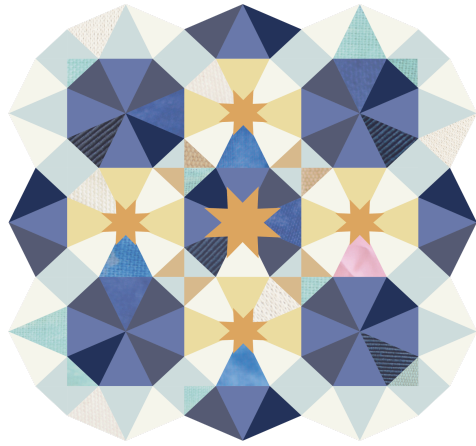
SERMON

Hope Is Worth the Risk

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(The Apostles' Creed)

I believe in God the Father Almighty maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.



WORDS FOR THE BEGINNING

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 5:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight service

Church Calendar

Sunday Dec 22	10:00am Children's Sunday School
Advent Week 4	11:00am Worship
Monday Dec 23	7:00pm Bible 101
Tuesday Dec 24	5:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Wednesday Dec 25	MERRY CHRISTMAS!
Saturday Dec 28	1:00pm Choir Practice
Sunday Dec 29	10:00am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Worship with Rev. Dr. Sam McGregor

Please remember to pick up your Christmas cards at the Christmas Card Post Office in the bins in the Vaughan Room. All the proceeds will be forwarded to The Thornwell Children's Home. Thank you for supporting the Presbyterian Women with this wonderful ministry.

Rev. Carson will be taking time off to be with her family Wednesday December 25 through Sunday December 29. She will return to the church office on Monday December 30.

Sunday December 29 we will welcome The Rev. Dr. Sam McGregor as guest preacher in the 11:00am worship service.

Hosting Community Groups @ VWPC

Tuesday Dec 24	7:00pm Integrity Group (Fellowship Hall)
Thursday Dec 26	7:00pm Integrity Group (Fellowship Hall)
Saturday Dec 28	10:00am Integrity Group (Fellowship Hall)
Monday Dec 30	6:00pm Town Council Workshop Session (Fellowship Hall)
Tuesday Dec 31	7:00pm 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: Pat Oglesby, Tony Flanagan, Nancy Garrison, William Sims, Gail Stogner, Carol Johns, Dianne Moore, Shirley Cauthen, Donald Baker, Claudia Thompson

Friends: Laura Wade, Gail Stogner, Sydney Patience (Vivian Calcote's brother-in-law), Donna Murphy, Martee Patton, Mimi Harkrider's son, Chip Oglesby, Susan (Mother of Teri Currie), April Young (sister of Laura Clark), Daniel and Robyn Adams, David Adams, Nancy Quick, Daniel Quick, Ann Hurley, Katy Steinkamp (Dianne Moore's sister), David Adams, Daniel and Robyn Adams, the Foster family, Patti Harris, John (Mary Baker's brother), Bernard Bagley, Charlotte (Rosa Sansbury's niece)

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

Providence Presbytery: Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church (York, 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