

POLLOCKSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



December 18, 2022

Leader in Worship: Jeff Mizell
Choir Director/Pianist: Gera Howe

311 Main Street / P O Box 205 / Pollocksville, NC 28573

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Pollocksville Presbyterian Church

4th Sunday of Advent

Order of Worship

11:00 a.m.

December 18, 2022

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle (see page 7) ~ LOVE ~ John & Dana Bender

Response (*remain seated*) "He Came Down" See Back Cover

Call to Worship (*Responsive*)

Leader: Look! The young woman is with child;

People: **she will call him Emmanuel, for God is with us.**

Leader: The mystery of the ages is now revealed.

People: **To God be the glory forever! Amen.**

Leader: A ruler will come from Bethlehem,

People: **and he will be the shepherd of peace.**

Prayer of Invocation

*The Peace of Christ

Leader: ...The peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

*Opening Hymn

"What Child Is This"

#53

Presbyterian Hymnal

Call to Reconciliation

Unison Prayer of Forgiveness

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.

A Moment of Silent Confession

Assurance of God's Pardon

~ Jeff Mizell

The wilderness will rejoice; the dry land will blossom. The people of God will return with joy and singing. Every valley is lifted up; every mountain, made low. Now the glory of the Lord is revealed, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. With joy, let us draw water from the springs of salvation. Give thanks to the Lord! Call on God's name. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Anthem

"Canticle of the Turning" Cooney

~ Choir

Prayer for Illumination

~ Jeff Mizell

Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture

Luke 1:39-55 (NRSVUE)

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Mary's Song of Praise

⁴⁶ And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; ⁵⁰ indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. ⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Sermon

"A Leap of Faith"

~ Jeff Mizell

*Hymn of Response

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

38

The Presbyterian Hymnal

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Morning Prayer and Lord's Prayer

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

*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.

*Gloria Patri

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.

Offering of our Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

*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 *(Unison)*

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to give, which we do with joyful, grateful hearts. We look at the needs of the world, and our offerings are small. May they be like yeast, gifts that grow in your kingdom, bringing a rich harvest of righteousness. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

*Closing Hymn

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

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The Presbyterian Hymnal

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

***Please rise in body or spirit **Bold:** Congregation Speaks**



"The poinsettias in the sanctuary this morning were given to the glory of God and in loving memory of John D. and Virginia Jenkins by Carol and Bob Mattocks."

Welcome!

Welcome to everyone who is worshiping with us today.

Today we welcome Jeff Mizell back to PPC

~ Next Sunday, Christmas Morning, December 25th ~

Remember NO Sunday School and Morning Worship to begin at 10 am

Jay Bender will be filling the pulpit during the morning worship service

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Communion & Candle Light Service

Saturday, December 24th at 6:30 pm ~ Christmas Eve Service

Jay Bender to officiate



**The Annual Christmas Joy Offering will be received today
during the Morning Worship Service.**

Use the enclosed envelope and place in the offering plate.

God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need



Prayer List Additions as of 12/11/2022

Grandnephew Barrett needs prayers- born prematurely (Gera Howe); Ruth Little's upcoming knee replacement (Hilda Bender); Prayers for students during exams (Paul Miller); Prayers for sister Marilyn as she deals with cancer (Noreen Jekel); Kevin Aycock's grandmother, Agnes Toler, passed away (Margaret Ross); The Family of Timmy Pike (Barbara Smith); Sue Phelps (Barbara Smith).

Our complete prayer list is available in the PollyPress. These names will remain on this list for 3 weeks.



December: Bob & Carol Mattocks
January: Rebecca Long & Diane McCaffity



Reminders & Announcements

**Sunday Mornings: 11:00 am – Worship in the Church Sanctuary &
Streaming Live on Facebook & on PPC Website**

Sundays at 9:45 am

Adult Sunday School – *Remember your Bibles!*

Children's Sunday School at 11 am

Wednesdays



6 pm Choir Practice

Sunday, December 18th

Christmas Joy Offering

7 pm PPC Christmas Cantata

Saturday, December 24th

6:30 pm Christmas Eve Service at PPC

Sunday, December 25th

***Christmas Sunday* - No Sunday School**

10 am Worship Service

Building Fund Sunday

Friday, December 23rd & Monday, December 26th – Church Office Closed - HOLIDAY

Monday, January 2nd 2023 – Church Office Closed - HOLIDAY

Friday, December 23rd Through January 2nd – Childcare Closed – Reopen Tuesday, January 3rd



For Congregational Use: Lectionary Readings:

Isaiah 7:10-16 and Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

Daily Readings for December 18 – 24 use the following web link:

<http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/devotions/month-month-lectionary-reading-list/>



Christmas Cantata

"I Hear the Prophet Calling"

Sunday Evening, December 18th at 7:00 pm

in the Pollocksville Presbyterian Church Sanctuary

Refreshments to follow



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT – LOVE

#1- Watch and wait for Christ's coming! Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer

#2- We light this candle in hope. (*Light the first purple candle*)

We light this candle for peace. (*Light the second purple candle*)

We light this candle in joy. (*Light the third pink candle*)

We light this candle with love. (*Light the fourth purple candle*)

#1- Out of love for the people of God, the Lord speaks through these words from scripture:

From Psalm 89: 1-2: "I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Your faithfulness to all generations. I will declare that Your steadfast love stands firm forever, that Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens."

From Jeremiah 31:3: "The Lord to us as in the past saying: 'I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.'"

And from John 3:16: "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life."

#2- Let us pray:

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. God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come. AMEN

#1- Please remain seated as we sing the hymn from the insert in your bulletin "He Came Down"

He Came Down

He came down that we may have love; he

came down that we may have love; he came down that we may

have love; hal-le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.

Leader: Why did he come?

Because this traditional Cameroon piece begins with the refrain, it does not initially reveal that it is cast as a call-and-response song. Assigning the answers to the congregation rather than to the leader is a notable affirmation of the corporate wisdom of God's people.