

POLLOCKSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Sunday, December 24, 2023

Leader in Worship: Pastor Ken Yearick

Music Accompanist: Jennifer Miller

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

www.PollocksvillePresbyterian.org

(252) 224-8181



The Session & Committee Chairs for 2023

| | | | |
|---|----------------|--|-----------------|
| Clerk of Session: Jay Bender | (252-224-6201) | jaybender@ec.rr.com | |
| Treasurer: Ron Pound | (252-638-8397) | ronnclbs@gmail.com | |
| Sheron Bender, <i>Child Care</i> | (252-270-9967) | sbww@ec.rr.com | [Class of 2025] |
| Shirley Bryan, <i>Evangelism/Memorial</i> | (910-581-6141) | vsb218@icloud.com | [Class of 2025] |
| Amber Swanger, <i>Personnel</i> | (252-515-2385) | akkocher91@gmail.com | [Class of 2025] |
| Jean Bender, <i>Christian Ed</i> | (252-229-6545) | jbbender2@embarqmail.com | [Class of 2024] |
| John Bender, <i>Worship</i> | (252-675-8431) | jmbender1991@gmail.com | [Class of 2024] |
| Eileen Griswold, <i>Stewardship</i> | (252-671-0391) | eegriswold@aol.com | [Class of 2024] |
| Ed Jekel, <i>Facilities</i> | (315-723-4422) | edjekel@quadlink.net | [Class of 2023] |
| Margaret Ross, <i>Fellowship/Cong. Care</i> | (252-670-8254) | adamandmargaretross@gmail.com | [Class of 2023] |
| Ed Valentine, <i>Missions</i> | (252-617-8278) | W2YPM@earthlink.net | [Class of 2023] |
| Presbyterian Men Moderator - Jeremy LeRay | (252-474-7678) | jdleray@gmail.com | |

Pollocksville Presbyterian Church

4th Sunday of Advent

Order of Worship

11:00 a.m.

December 24, 2023

Hymn Sing

~ Pastor Ken Yearick

Welcome and Announcements

In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light. The church has Christianized that practice in the lighting of the Advent wreath. To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world. Until the dawning of that Great Day, we watch and wait in Holy Spirit for Christ's coming into the darkness of our world, lighting candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, and remembering the promises of God with prayer.

Lighting of the Advent Candle (page 7) ~ Love ~ ~ Jeremy, Mary Ann & Joshua LeRay

Response (*remain seated*)

"He Came Down"

See Back Cover

Call to Worship (*Responsive*)

Leader: God of love, we yearn for your presence.

People: **Our hearts ache for your light.**

Leader: Christ, bearer of miracles, we look to your coming, for the dawning of your new day.

People: **We look for the light that leads us to life.**

Leader: Spirit of light, arise in us and guide us,

People: **Our hearts are open manglers, ready for the birth of the holy child in our love and hope and gentleness.**

Leader: Come, O light, and dawn upon us.

People: **Come, O Light, and unfold your beauty within us.**

Prayer of Invocation

~ Liturgist

*Passing of the Peace

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

People: **And also with you.**

Call to Confession

~ Pastor Ken Yearick

This is the Day when we are celebrating the birth of Christ; so let us restore our souls and refresh our spirits as we confess our sins before the Lord. Let us pray together...

Unison Prayer of Confession

Advent God, forgive us when we pay more attention to satisfying our own needs, than seeking you and your will for our lives—for being more interested in possessing the material things of life, rather than your spiritual gifts. Turn our lives around so that we are looking in the right direction - towards you. Only then can we hope to recognize the signs of your presence in the world. This we pray in Jesus' name.

Silence is Kept

Assurance of God's Pardon

~ Pastor Ken Yearick

Hear the good news: In Jesus Christ we have been enriched in every way—in everything we say and in everything we know. In addition, through God's grace we do not lack any spiritual gift as we wait with anticipation for Jesus to be revealed. He is the one who will keep us strong to the end, so that we shall be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 1:5-8)

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

“Waiting for a King” Williams/Martin

~ Choir

Prayer for Illumination

~ Pastor Ken Yearick

Scripture

The Gospel Lesson Luke 2:1-7 (NIV)

¹In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Leader: This is the Word of God.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

The Message

“The Inconvenience of Christmas”

~ *Pastor Ken Yearick*

*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.

*Hymn of Response

*“Away in a Manger”
The Presbyterian Hymnal*

25

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The 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.

*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

~ Pastor Ken Yearick

*Closing Hymn

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”
The Presbyterian Hymnal

29

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

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

* * * * *



The poinsettias in the sanctuary today and throughout the Advent Season are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Penny Bender by her Family.

Welcome!

Welcome to everyone who is worshipping with us today.

* * * * *



December: Ron Pound

January: Rebecca Diane McCaffity

If you would be willing to serve as an usher, please contact John Bender at 252-675-8431 or email: jmbender1991@gmail.com.



Christmas Eve Service



Communion & Candlelight Service

TONIGHT at 6:30 pm here at PPC



For Congregational Use: Lectionary Readings:

Isaiah 9:2-7 and Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

Daily Readings for December 24 – 30 use the following web link:

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



Prayer List Additions as of 12/17/2023

Kensley Napier from SC – Bone cancer (Margaret Ross); Neighbor, Barbara, had heart attack (Ed Valentine); Friends have 3yr old twins and one has been diagnosed with cerebral palsy (Amber Swanger); Acquaintance, Brandy, age 35, who is a mother to some little girls, shared that she has stage 4 rectal cancer which has spread to her lungs (Janet Purvis)

Prayers for Our Nation; Our Military; Our Church; PPC Childcare

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



\$205 has been received to date for The Annual Christmas Joy Offering.

It is not too late if you wish to contribute. Just mark on your check or pew envelope Joy Offering and drop in offering plate or give to Ron Pound.



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 24th Building Fund Sunday

Sunday, December 24th 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Service at PPC

– Communion & Candlelight Service

Monday, December 25th & Tuesday, December 26th – Church Office Closed - HOLIDAY

Monday, December 25th Through January 1st

– Childcare Closed – Reopen Tuesday, January 2nd

Monday, January 1st Church Office Closed - HOLIDAY

Sunday, January 7th Ordination & Installation of 2026 Elders

5 pm Session Meeting

Monday, January 15th Church Office & Childcare Closed – MLK HOLIDAY

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH – 2023

WEEK FOUR: LOVE

(Reader 1): In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth; and set lights in the sky – sun and moon and stars. By these stars, our ancestors chartered their journeys. By these stars, they knew God was with them.

(Reader 2): This morning we light four candles to bring the fire of the stars down from heaven to earth, to nestle among the greens.

(Reader 1): This morning we light the Candle of Hope, *(Light last week's purple candle)* the Candle of Peace, *(Light last week's second purple candle)*, the Candle of Joy *(light the pink candle)*, and the Candle of Love – also called the Angel Candle. *(Light a purple candle)*

(Reader 2): We too are on a journey, and we do not always know the way. But we chart our path by the star of love. Even when sharp words rattle in our ears, and our hearts sit cold and numb, we set our face steadily towards the light.

(Reader 1): Listen now to the wisdom of the early Christians as recorded in 1 John:

“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.”

(Reader 2): Let us pray:

God of hope, God of peace, God of joy, God of love. As we search for signs of love this week, help us to become the signs of love that others are seeking. Teach us how to love one another as reflections of your light in the world. As these candles are but a glimpse of the light of the heavens, help us to be a glimpse of heaven’s love. AMEN.

(Reader 1): Let us sing verses 1-4 of “He Came Down” from the insert.

He Came Down

137

He came down that we may have hope; he

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

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

Leader: Why did he come?

Additional stanzas:

... that we may have peace
 ... that we may have joy
 ... that we may have love

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.