

POLLOCKSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Sunday, December 1, 2024

Leader in Worship: Pastor Kenneth Yearick
Organist/Choir Director: Debbie L. Fitzgerald

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

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The Session & Committee Chairs for 2024

Clerk of Session: Jay Bender	(252-224-6201)	jaybender@ec.rr.com	
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Presbyterian Men's Moderator - Jerry Burkot (252-633-2348)

Pollocksville Presbyterian Church

1st Sunday of Advent

Order of Worship

11:00 a.m.

December 1, 2024

Prelude "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" by Robert Lau

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Hymn "Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (v.1) # 9
The Presbyterian Hymnal

Lighting of the First Advent Candle ~ Hope ~ Steve & Rebecca Long; Hayes

Speaker: We light the First candle representing HOPE. Lighting a candle in the darkness helps us find our way. In darkness we lose direction. We cannot see where we have been or where we are going. A single candle, flickering brightly, helps us find our way again.

Speaker: "Stir up your might, and come to save us. Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved" (Psalm 80:2b-3).

The first candle is lit.

Speaker: Light one candle; see it glow brightly, so that all may know how one candle shows the way making our darkness bright as God's Day.

Speaker: Let us pray: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

All: **Dear God, on this first Sunday in Advent, let this light shine brightly as the days grow shorter, so that we will be ready for your face to shine upon us at Christmas. In the Savior's name we pray. Amen.**

Call to Worship (*Responsive*)

Leader: A righteous branch will spring up from David, a ruler who will bring justice and peace to God's people.

People: **We await the Lord's peace, according to the promise of His prophets. May the peace of Christ transform our hearts, as we prepare for his coming.**

Leader: May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

People: **May the Lord kindle in us the spirit of peace. As we prepare for his coming in simplicity and joy, in peace and reconciliation with all.**

Prayer of Invocation

~ Liturgist

*Opening Hymn

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”
The Presbyterian Hymnal

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Call to Confession

~ Pastor Yearick

We have all sinned, not one of us is clean; but there is mercy for those who call on the name of the Lord. Trusting in God’s grace, let us confess our sin. Let us pray...

Unison Prayer of Forgiveness

O Holy God of Promise, we often place our trust in the things we can see, and touch, and easily believe. But you did not ask us to believe what is easy, you have asked us to believe what is true! Forgive us, Holy One, when we doubt the ways you work. Forgive us when we find it hard to believe an ancient story. Forgive us when we question how you chose to enter the world, born as one of us. Forgive our lack of faith and belief in ways which seem so impossible to believe. Help us to look in faith, open our belief, and set aside our doubts that you sent your Son, born of a virgin – the one who has come to set us all free. We offer these prayers in the name of your Son, Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.

Silence is Observed

Assurance of God’s Pardon (*Unison*)

At the beginning, at the end, and in every time between, the good news speaks to us of God's tender mercy and love for us. God comes! Not to punish, but to gift us with peace, not to judge, but to save us. Thanks be to God. 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.

A Time For Children

“The Jesse Tree Part 1”

~ Pastor Yearick

*The Peace of Christ

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

People: **And also with you.**

Anthem

“Jesu, Blessed Jesu” *by Gordon Young*

~ *Choir*

Prayer for Illumination

~ *Pastor Yearick*

The Scripture Readings Old Testament Jeramiah 33:15-18 (NIV)

¹⁵ “In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Savior.’ ¹⁷ For this is what the Lord says: ‘David will never fail to have a man to sit on the throne of Israel, ¹⁸ nor will the Levitical priests ever fail to have a man to stand before me continually to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings and to present sacrifices.’”

The Gospel Reading John 1:1-14 (NIV)

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

“Do You Know the Promise?”

~ *Pastor Ken Yearick*

*Affirmation of Faith (20th Century South African Creed)

Pastor: Jesus taught us to speak of hope as the coming of God's kingdom.

All: **We believe that God is at work in our world turning hopeless and evil situations into good. We believe that goodness and justice will triumph in the end and that tyranny and oppression cannot last forever. One day all tears will be wiped away; the lamb will lie down with the lion, and justice will roll down like a mighty stream. True peace and true reconciliation are not only desired, they are assured and guaranteed in Christ. This is our faith. This is our hope!**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Offering of our Tithes and Gifts

Offertory "The Gift of a Son" *by Paul Edwards*

*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 Yearick*

*Communion Hymn "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" (v.1) #379
The Presbyterian Hymnal

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also, with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**



"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."



For Congregational Use: Lectionary Readings:

Jeremiah 33:14-16 and Psalm 25:1-10; 1Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-26

Daily Readings for December 1 – 7 use the following web link:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/daily/>



\$475 has been received to date for The Annual Thanksgiving Offering for Children's Hope Alliance, formally known as Barium Springs. It is not too late if you wish to contribute. Just mark on your check or pew envelope Thanksgiving Offering and drop in offering plate or give to Ron Pound. ~ Their mission is to provide a safe, healing journey for hurting children and families - creating hope now and in the future.



The Annual Christmas Joy Offering will be received Sunday, December 22nd during the Morning Worship Service.

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.



"Christmas Cantata" ~ Sunday, December 22nd during the Morning Worship Service.



The Women of the Church White Elephant Dinner December 9th @ 6:30pm
Invitations are on Narthex Table. Pick up a copy of the Invitation with RSVP and Entrée Selection – Fill out the form and return to Hilda Bender TODAY!



Hanging of the Greens – Begins TODAY!

Ushers & Greeters



December: Vic Bryan & Kay Bender

Ushers are needed for the upcoming year! See sign-up sheet in the narthex.



There will be a nursery provided during the 11 am Worship Service.

See Jean Bender if you can be a nursery volunteer.

A sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Nursery Volunteers are needed!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday Mornings 11:00 am – Worship in the Church Sanctuary &

Streaming Live on Facebook, YouTube & on PPC Website

Sundays at 9:45 am Adult Sunday School – *Remember your Bibles!*

Children's Sunday School at 9:45 am

Thursdays

6 pm Choir Practice

Sunday, December 1st

Begin Hanging of the Greens

5 pm Session Meeting

Monday, December 9th

6:30 pm Women of the Church Annual Christmas White

Elephant Dinner & Party

Wednesday, December 11th

5 pm Annual Community Dinner sponsored & prepared

by PPC Men

Saturday, December 21st

9 am Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, December 22nd

11 am PPC Christmas Cantata

Joy Offering

Tuesday, December 24th

6:30 pm Christmas Eve Service at PPC

– Communion & Candlelight

Wednesday, December 25th

CHRISTMAS DAY – Church Office will be closed

December 25th and 26th in Observance of Christmas



Adam Ross will be hauling a toy load up to WNC if anyone would like to donate. A box has been placed in the back of the sanctuary for donations. New or gently used are both great! Donations need to be placed in the box by December 3rd. If you have any questions, please reach out to Margaret at 252-670-8254.



THE JESSE TREE

The Jesse Tree is a way of preparing for Advent by journeying through the stories of Jesus' family tree. The Jesse Tree tradition is rooted in Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." Jesse was the father of David, Israel's greatest king. And Jesus is descended from the line of David. He is the branch God promised would grow from Jesse's family tree, symbolizing the people, prophecies, and events leading up to Jesus.

Each symbol (ornament) represents a story from within this family tree and a step toward the birth of Jesus. Each Sunday during Advent, we will decorate the Jesse Tree with these ornaments. You will notice that the Jesse Tree is a simple branched tree quite unlike the Christmas trees we decorate. The Jesse Tree is essential to the Christmas story, pointing toward the Messiah, Jesus as the main emphasis to our story. As the tree is gradually decorated, it helps to build anticipation for the celebration of Christmas, marking the arrival of Jesus and the fulfillment of God's promises. Normally, the best scenario is for daily devotions adding an ornament each day until Christmas. There are 25 days in this time span, so 25 ornaments is the common number. However, since we are only utilizing the Tree each Sunday, we will add a number of ornaments to the Tree each week. Take time during these days of Advent to contemplate how the story, people and events touch you this Season. Below is the focus on these ornaments and on each day.

Creation - [Genesis 1](#) - **The earth**

1. Adam & Eve / Garden of Eden - [Genesis 2-3](#) - **A fruit tree or an apple**
2. Noah & the Flood - [Genesis 6-9](#) - **A rainbow**
3. God's promise to Abraham - [Genesis 12:1-7](#) & [Gen. 15:1-6](#) - **A tent**
4. Isaac - [Genesis 22:1-18](#) - **A ram**
5. Jacob's Ladder - [Genesis 28:10-19](#) - **A ladder**
6. Joseph's Coat - [Genesis 37](#) & [Gen. 50](#) - **A multicolored coat or robe**
7. Moses - [Exodus 2-4](#) - **A burning bush**
8. Israelites and the Passover - [Exodus 12:1-42](#) - **A lamb**
9. The 10 Commandments - [Exodus 19-20](#) - **Two stone tablets**
10. Joshua / Fall of Jericho - [Joshua 6:1-20](#) - **A ram's horn trumpet or wall**
11. Ruth - [Book of Ruth](#) - **A sheaf of corn**
12. King David - [1 Samuel 16:1-3](#) - **A six-pointed 'Star of David'**
13. Solomon's Temple - [1 Kings 6](#) - **The temple**
14. Elijah and Baal's Priests - [1 Kings 18:16-39](#) - **A bonfire**
15. Isaiah's 'Jesse' Prophecy - [Isaiah 11:1-11](#) - **A tree stump**
16. Jonah and the Whale - [Book of Jonah](#) - **A whale**
17. John the Baptist - [Matthew 3:13-17](#) - **A scallop shell**
18. Mary - [Luke 1:26-38](#) - **A white lily**
19. Elizabeth - [Luke 1:39-56](#) - **A mother and child**
20. Zechariah - [Luke 1:57-80](#) - **A pencil and tablet**
21. Joseph - [Matthew 1:19-25](#) - **A carpenter's hammer**
22. The Shepherds - [Luke 2:8-20](#) - **A sheep**
23. The Wisemen - [Matthew 2:1-12](#) - **A gold star, three gifts or crown**
24. Jesus - [Luke 2:1-8](#) - **A baby in a manger**