

POLLOCKSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Sunday, December 8, 2024

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

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

www.PollocksvillePresbyterian.org

(252) 224-8181



The Session & Committee Chairs for 2024

Clerk of Session: Jay Bender	(252-224-6201)	jaybender@ec.rr.com	
Treasurer: Ron Pound	(252-638-8397)	ronnclbs@aol.com	
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Presbyterian Men's Moderator - Jerry Burkot (252-633-2348)

Pollocksville Presbyterian Church

2nd Sunday of Advent

Order of Worship

11:00 a.m.

December 8, 2024

Prelude

“Veni Emmanuel” Edward Landon

(1. Recitative) adapted from a 15th Century Plainsong by Thomas Helmore

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer of Invocation

~ Liturgist

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

~ Peace~

Vic & Shirley Bryan

Speaker: Fire burns. It hurts. It can destroy. Fire also gives warmth and light. The coming of Christ is both a day of judgment and a day of promise. Two candles, flickering brightly, help us remember that the coming of Christ has many meanings. Today we shall light the candle of PEACE.

Speaker: “Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky” (Psalm 85:10-11).

The first two candles are lit.

Speaker: Light two candles; see them glow
Brightly, so that all may know
How two candles show the way
Making our darkness bright as God’s Day.

Speaker: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

All: **Dear God, we have much to do and we are not sure we will be ready for the day of your coming. In Advent’s light, help us to see what is important: to be who you want us to be, and to do what you would have us do. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

Advent Hymn

“Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

(v.2) # 9

The Presbyterian Hymnal

Call to Worship (*Responsively*)

Leader: We gather today to worship the One who created us,

People: **The One who calls us,**

Leader: The One who equips us,

People: **The One who loves us without end.**

ALL: **With joyful hearts, let us worship God.**

*Opening Hymn

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

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The Presbyterian Hymnal

Call to Confession

~ *Pastor Yearick*

The world teaches us many ways to love, but all are based on selfish desires and needs. God teaches us how to love: completely, uniquely, unconditionally. Let us confess our difficulty in loving as God teaches us, as we pray together...

Unison Prayer of Confession

We are hesitant to confess, Holy God, how hard it is to love as you wish. It is easy to love you with all that we are, except when you ask us to love our neighbor with all that we have. We find it hard to love our neighbor, when it is linked to the way we love ourselves. And it is difficult to love anyone — even You — more than we love ourselves. Forgive us, Love Eternal. As you took a risk in creating us, help us to take risks to love others compassionately, to love ourselves genuinely, and to love you as completely as you love us in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, Amen

Silence is Observed

Assurance of God's Pardon *(Responsively)*

Pastor: In God's Kingdom, all are loved for who they are, not what they do;
In God's Kingdom, all are forgiven for what they do, and don't; in
God's Kingdom, all are welcomed and fed by God's grace and hope.

People: **Forgiven, loved, sent forth—we continue to seek God's Kingdom! 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 2”

~ *Pastor Yearick*

*The Peace of Christ

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

People: **And also with you.**

Anthem "We Await the Love You Bring" *Herb & Robert Lau* ~ *Choir*

Prayer for Illumination ~ *Pastor Yearick*

The Scripture Readings The Epistle Lesson Colossians 3:12-14 (NIV)

¹²Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

The Gospel Reading John 14:15-21 (NIV)

¹⁵"If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon "How Big Is Your Heart?" ~ *Pastor Ken Yearick*

* An Affirmation of Faith *(In Unison) (Inspired by Mark 1:14-20, Matthew 4:18-22)*

I believe in an innovative God, who does not wait for us to find ourselves but comes seeking the lost and calling us into a new way.

I believe in Jesus of Nazareth as God's crucial initiative, that when he calls us to follow, Christ also gives us the power to become, both in creed and deed, the children of the living God.

I believe in the Spirit by whom Jesus still comes to us, calling us to follow him into an obedience which is true liberty and to a humble service which is the fruit of holy friendship.

I believe in the church as the fellowship of Christ's people, called to respect and support one another through joys and tribulations as we travel the road towards the "promised land" of God's future.

Because Christ has called me in this I truly believe.

*Hymn of Response

"Jesus Loves Me"

See Insert

#304 - The Presbyterian Hymnal

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

~ Pastor Yearick

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..

Offering of our Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

13th Century Plainsong, arr. Cindy Berry

*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

*Closing Hymn

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

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The Presbyterian Hymnal

*Charge and Benediction

~ Pastor Yearick

*Postlude

"People, Look East" *James Mansfield*

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

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Welcome!

Welcome to everyone who is worshiping with us today.



***If anyone wishes Home Communion for the Christmas Season,
please contact the church office.***



Prayer List Additions as of 11/24/2024

Please pray for Ed and Carol Latham as they lost their home to fire. No one was injured, but they lost everything and have health issues (Carol Mattocks); Prayers for Carol Jackson Nelson as she had surgery on Wednesday and is home recovering (Shirley Bryan); Prayers for his sister as she is back in the hospital again (Pastor Ken)

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.*

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If you have an opportunity, watch the video that Carol Jackson prepared on dealing with loss of loved ones during the holiday: Go to...

<https://fillingstation1075.com/getting-through-the-holidays/>



"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:

Malachi 3:1-4 and Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

Daily Readings for December 8 - 14 use the following web link:

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



\$500 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.



**PPC Communion & Candle Light Service
Tuesday, December 24th at 6:30 pm ~ Christmas Eve Service**

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!**



If you would like an announcement or article included in the weekly PollyPress, please email the information to the secretary at fwaters@pollockvillepresbyterian.org

Articles or announcements for the PollyPress need to be to the Secretary by *first thing* Monday morning.

Announcements for the bulletin need to be given to the secretary by Wednesday of each week.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

**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**
- 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**
- Wednesday, January 1st New Year’s Day – Church Office Closed**
- Sunday, January 5th Ordination & Installation / Communion
5 pm Session Meeting**

PEACE

Jesus Loves Me

1. Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.
 - *Refrain:*
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.
2. Jesus loves me! This I know,
As He loved so long ago,
Taking children on His knee,
Saying, "Let them come to Me." (refrain)
3. Jesus loves me still today,
Walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give
Light and love to all who live. (refrain)
4. Jesus loves me! He who died
Heaven's gate to open wide;
He will wash away my sin,
Let His little child come in. (refrain)
5. Jesus loves me! He will stay
Close beside me all the way;
Thou hast bled and died for me,
I will henceforth live for Thee. (refrain)



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**