

# **POLLOCKSVILLE** PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



**Sunday, December 15, 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**

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Treasurer: Ron Pound	(252-638-8397)	<a href="mailto:ronnclbs@aol.com">ronnclbs@aol.com</a>	
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Presbyterian Men's Moderator - Jerry Burkot (252-633-2348)

# Pollocksville Presbyterian Church

## 3rd Sunday of Advent

### Order of Worship

11:00 a.m.

December 15, 2024

Prelude "Veni Emmanuel" #3 Duo, #4 Drone  
(to the tune of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel)

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer of Invocation ~ Liturgist

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle ~ Joy ~ Jim & Hilda Bender

*Speaker:* We light the third candle today representing JOY. It is also often referred to as the Shepherd's Candle," embodies the timeless message of joy that permeates the Christmas narrative and resonates deeply within the hearts of believers. A pink candle signifies joy as it is lit on Gaudete Sunday—named for the entrance antiphon for that Sunday's Mass: "Rejoice (Gaudete) in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice." The light glowing from our Advent wreath is burning brighter. This radiance warms our hearts and fills us with joy! The Lord has done great things for us. Let us rejoice.

*Speaker:* "May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves" (Psalm 126:5-6).

*The first three candles are lit.*

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

*Speaker:* Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

*All pray:* **Dear God, we carry many burdens and worry over many things. Help us to hear your promise in this Advent season, that in hearing, we may receive the Spirit's gift of joy. And may our spirits be kept sound at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Advent Hymn

"Come, O Come, Emmanuel"  
The Presbyterian Hymnal

(v.3) # 9

Call to Worship *(Responsively)*

*(Inspired by Zephaniah 3: 14-20, Isaiah 12: 2-6,  
Philippians 4: 4-7)*

*Leader:* God comes! So don't let go of all the reasons to rejoice.

*People:* **We will sing a song of Advent to the One who fills our lives with joy.**

*Leader:* God comes! So don't stop lifting your prayers with thanksgiving.

*People:* **We will sing a song of Advent, to the One who hears our words and silence.**

*Leader:* God comes! So don't stop giving your hearts to God.

*People:* **We will sing a song of Advent to the One who graces us with a peace we cannot begin to understand. Praise to our God!**

\*Opening Hymn

“We Praise Thee, O God, Our Redeemer”

# 40

*Sing to the Lord Hymnal*

Call to Confession *(Responsively)*

*Pastor:* The grace of God is with you.

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

*Pastor:* Trusting in God's tender mercy, let us confess our sin to God as we confess our sins together. Let us pray.

Unison Prayer of Confession

**Eternal Lord, Giver of every good and wonderful gift, we come before you this day seeking forgiveness for neglecting you this Season. We have been caught up in the many activities and getting ready for the big day we forget that this is your Season and your birthday. But even more, O Lord, it is a time to remember that you were sent here to redeem us, to forgive us, and to restore us from sin, Accept O Lord, our petitions and requests to make some changes in our lives that can bring us closer to your Kingdom. And remind us O Lord, that this is a season for giving, for loving, and for serving, that we might become more like you, as we offer this prayer, Amen.**

*Silence is Observed*

Assurance of God's Pardon *(Responsively)*

*Pastor:* Friends, forgiveness comes from God, who does not count our sin against us. For God has reconciled us through Christ, and entrusts to us the message of reconciliation. Believe the gospel! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*People:* **Thanks be to God! Hallelujah!**

\*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 3" ~ *Pastor Yearick*

\*The Peace of Christ

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

People: **And also with you.**

Anthem "A Spanish Carol Suite, A Traditional Spanish Carol" ~ *Choir*  
by T. Fettke & T. Grassi - (Music from "The Christmas Story" Cantata)

Prayer for Illumination ~ *Pastor Yearick*

The Scripture Readings The Gospel of Luke 1:26-38 (NIV)

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." <sup>34</sup>"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup>For no word from God will ever fail." <sup>38</sup>"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

*Pastor:* This is the Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

“Where Is the Miracle of Christmas?” ~ *Pastor Ken Yearick*

\*The Apostles' Creed *(In Unison)*

**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.**

\*Hymn of Response

“There's a Song in the Air”

#196

*Sing to the Lord 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

“He Shall Feed His Flock” *by G. F. Handel*

*(from the Messiah), Arr. by Carol Kumler*

\*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

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

#174

*Sing to the Lord Hymnal*

\*Charge and Benediction

~ *Pastor Yearick*

\*Postlude

“Joy to the World” *by Stephen L. Aber*

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

*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 12/8/2024**

Michelle and Kenneth Parker's DIL, (Kelsey Parker) recently had twin babies---- JOY.....and CONCERN: cancer was discovered right after the babies were born—MOM is receiving treatment (Mary Ann LeRay and Hilda Bender); Daughter was visiting Ed's great grandson in Michigan and got stuck in the snowstorm (Ed Valentine); Hudson, a young relative of Adam's has been very sick and now diagnosed with RSV (Margaret Ross); Prayers for his classmate's mother, Ms. Cheyenne, who is awaiting the birth of her first girl, named Sheridan (Abel Ross); Shirley & Vic visited Carol Jackson Nelson who is recovering well from her surgery, but needs continued prayers (Shirley Bryan); Keep Thelma & Ed Edmondson in our prayers since they have difficulty getting out to church (Ed Valentine); Friend, Mary Linden, is battling brain cancer, and is devastated to have lost her twin sister recently - due to brain cancer (Sheron Bender);

*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:**

*Zephaniah 3:14-20 and Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4: 4-7; Luke 3:7-18*

**Daily Readings for December 15 - 21 use the following web link:**

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



**The Annual Christmas Joy Offering will be received Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> during the Morning Worship Service.***



***PPC Communion & Candle Light Service***

***Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.

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## 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**

**Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> 9 am Choir Rehearsal**

**Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> 11 am PPC Christmas Cantata  
Joy Offering**

**Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Service at PPC  
– Communion & Candlelight**

**Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> CHRISTMAS DAY  
– Church Office will be closed December 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>  
in Observance of Christmas**

**Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup> New Year’s Day – Church Office Closed**

**Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup> Ordination & Installation / Communion  
5 pm Session Meeting**

# JOY