

POLLOCKSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



December 20, 2020

Pastor: The Reverend Thomas Wesley Moore, IV

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

www.PollocksvillePresbyterian.org

(252) 224-8181



The Session & Committee Chairs for 2020

Moderator: Rev. Thomas Wesley Moore, IV	(931-334-1264)	<u>twes.moore@pollocksvillepresbyterian.org</u>	
Clerk of Session: Jay Bender	(252-224-6201)	<u>jaybender@ec.rr.com</u>	
Treasurer: Ron Pound	(252-638-8397)	<u>ronnclbs@aol.com</u>	
Rebecca Long, <i>Evangelism/Memorial</i>	(252-626-3521)	<u>rebecca.long4702@gmail.com</u>	[Class of 2022]
Diane McCaffity, <i>Child Care</i>	(252-229-7164)	<u>dfmccaffity@gmail.com</u>	[Class of 2022]
Lyle Swanger, <i>Missions</i>	(252-617-0697)	<u>lyle.swanger@gmail.com</u>	[Class of 2022]
Thelma Edmondson, <i>Stewardship</i>	(252-671-0171)	<u>thelmaedmondson1120@yahoo.com</u>	[Class of 2021]
Bob Howe, <i>Worship</i>	(252-675-5889)	<u>rchow1244@gmail.com</u>	[Class of 2021]
Jeremy LeRay, <i>Christian Education</i>	(252-474-7678)	<u>jdleray@gmail.com</u>	[Class of 2021]
Frank T. Bender, <i>Personnel</i>	(252-670-0451)	<u>frank.bender51@gmail.com</u>	[Class of 2020]
Sheron Bender, <i>Fellowship/Cong.Care</i>	(252-670-9967)	<u>sbww@ec.rr.com</u>	[Class of 2020]
Vic Bryan, <i>Facilities</i>	(910-388-6015)	<u>vsb218@embarqmail.com</u>	[Class of 2020]
Presbyterian Women Moderator - Carol Foy	(252-671-7725)	<u>carolfoy@earthlink.net</u>	
Presbyterian Men Moderator - Jeremy LeRay	(252-474-7678)	<u>jdleray@gmail.com</u>	

Pollocksville Presbyterian Church

4th Sunday of Advent

Order of Worship

11:00 a.m.

December 20, 2020

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (*Responsive*) (Source- *Isaiah 1:14*)

The LORD will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child.
She shall bear a son, and name him Emmanuel: "God is with us."

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

"Once in Royal David's City"

See Insert

Lighting of the Advent Candles (Source- *Rev. Will Ryan*) – *Robert Bender & Hailey Long*

Last Sunday we lit the candle of Hope, remembering the hope which comes in Christ, the candle of Peace, remembering God's dream of a peaceful world, and the candle of Joy, remembering the Spirit within us who brings joy. Today we light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of Love.

1 John 4:18 tells us "There is no fear in love, for perfect love casts out fear." God created this world in love and this world will end in the love of God. God's love pervades all aspects of this life. From birth to death, pain to delight, strangers to lovers, God's love is there.

We light this candle in Love.

On this day, we remember God is Love.

Response

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

*"O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave.*

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel."

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession (Source- *Book of Common Worship*)

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.

Silence is observed

Assurance of Pardon: (*Responsive*) (Source- *Isaiah 12:3-4*)

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.

Thanks be to God!

Genesis 3:8-19 (Common English Bible)

8 During that day's cool evening breeze, they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden; and the man and his wife hid themselves from the Lord God in the middle of the garden's trees. 9 The Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 The man replied, "I heard your sound in the garden; I was afraid because I was naked, and I hid myself." 11 He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree, which I commanded you not to eat?" 12 The man said, "The woman you gave me, she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate." 13 The Lord God said to the woman, "What have you done?!" And the woman said, "The snake tricked me, and I ate." 14 The Lord God said to the snake, "Because you did this, you are the one cursed out of all the farm animals, out of all the wild animals. On your belly you will crawl, and dust you will eat every day of your life. 15 I will put contempt between you and the woman, between your offspring and hers. They will strike your head, but you will strike at their heels." 16 To the woman he said, "I will make your pregnancy very painful; in pain you will bear children. You will desire your husband, but he will rule over you." 17 To the man he said, "Because you listened to your wife's voice and you ate from the tree that I commanded, 'Don't eat from it,' cursed is the fertile land because of you; in pain you will eat from it every day of your life. 18 Weeds and thistles will grow for you, even as you eat the field's plants; 19 by the sweat of your face you will eat bread— until you return to the fertile land, since from it you were taken; you are soil, to the soil you will return."

Carol "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

*"O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight."*

Anthem "I Wonder As I Wander" *Appalachian Carol, arr. Niles/Horton*
~ *Rev. Thomas Wesley Moore, IV, tenor*

Genesis 22:15-18

15 The Lord's messenger called out to Abraham from heaven a second time **16** and said, "I give my word as the Lord that because you did this and didn't hold back your son, your only son, **17** I will bless you richly and I will give you countless descendants, as many as the stars in the sky and as the grains of sand on the seashore. They will conquer their enemies' cities. **18** All the nations of the earth will be blessed because of your descendants, because you obeyed me."

Anthem

"Waiting for a King"

Williams & Martin

~ *Choir*

~ *Jennifer Miller, violin*

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned. **6** A child is born to us, a son is given to us, and authority will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. **7** There will be vast authority and endless peace for David's throne and for his kingdom, establishing and sustaining it with justice and righteousness now and forever.

Anthem

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

arr. Lee Dengler

~ *Mary Ann Jones & Jennifer Miller*

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

1 A shoot will grow up from the stump of Jesse; a branch will sprout from his roots. **2** The Lord's spirit will rest upon him, a spirit of wisdom and understanding, a spirit of planning and strength, a spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord. **3** He will delight in fearing the Lord. He won't judge by appearances, nor decide by hearsay. **4** He will judge the needy with righteousness, and decide with equity for those who suffer in the land. **6** The wolf will live with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat; the calf and the young lion will feed together, and a little child will lead them. **7** The cow and the bear will graze. Their young will lie down together, and a lion will eat straw like an ox. **8** A nursing child will play over the snake's hole; toddlers will reach right over the serpent's den. **9** They won't harm or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain. The earth will surely be filled with the knowledge of the Lord, just as the water covers the sea.

Carol

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

*It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:*

*"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gracious King":
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.*

Luke 1:26-35, 38

26 When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, **27** to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David's house. The virgin's name was Mary. **28** When the angel came to her, he said, "Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!" **29** She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

30 The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you. **31** Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. **32** He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. **33** He will rule over Jacob's house forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom." **34** Then Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen since I haven't had sexual relations with a man?" **35** The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God's Son. **38** Then Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be with me just as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Anthem "Canticle of the Turning" arr. Cooney ~ Choir

Luke 2:1-7

1 In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. **2** This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. **3** Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. **4** Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. **5** He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. **6** While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. **7** She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

Carol "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"

*Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn king!"*

Luke 2:8-16

8 Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. **9** The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. **11** Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. **12** This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger." **13** Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, **14** "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors." **15** When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us." **16** They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger.

Anthem "Angels We Have Heard on High" arr. Fred Bock
~ Gera Howe, piano

Anthem "Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow" arr. Schrader ~ Men's Chorus
~ Gera Howe, accompanist

Matthew 2:1-11

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. **2** They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him." **3** When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. **4** He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. **5** They said, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote: **6** *You, Bethlehem, land of Judah, by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah, because from you will come one who governs, who will shepherd my people Israel.*" **7** Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. **8** He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you've found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him." **9** When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. **10** When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. **11** They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Carol "We Three Kings of Orient Are"

*We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

John 1:1-14

1 In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. **2** The Word was with God in the beginning. **3** Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word nothing came into being. What came into being **4** through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light. **6** A man named John was sent from God. **7** He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light. **8** He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify concerning the light. **9** The true light that shines on all people was coming into the world. **10** The light was in the world, and the world came into being through the light, but the world didn't recognize the light. **11** The light came to his own people, and his own people didn't welcome him. **12** But those who did welcome him, those who believed in his name, he authorized to become God's children, **13** born not from blood nor from human desire or passion, but born from God. **14** The Word became flesh and made his home among us. We have seen his glory, glory like that of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Anthem "Beautiful Star of Bethlehem" *Pace/Boice*
~ Shirley Bryan, dulcimer & Jennifer Miller, violin

Chorus *Oh beautiful star (beautiful, beautiful star) of Bethlehem (star of Bethlehem)
Shine upon us until the glory dawns give us a lamp to light the way
Unto the land of perfect day Oh beautiful star of Bethlehem shine on*

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.

*Closing Hymn:

"Joy to the World" Verses 1 & 4

See Insert

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

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

For Congregational Use: Lectionary Readings:

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalms 89:1-4, 19-26; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Daily Readings for December 20 – 26 use the following web link:

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

* * * * *

Prayer List Additions as of 12/13/2020

300,000 COVID deaths, Cheryl & Mike Coeyman, The Family of Mac Hoffman (Dana Meadows Bender's Great-Uncle), Gera & Bob Howe, Jack Knechtges (requested by Samantha Jekel), April, Sydney & Madison McKeel & Justin Woolard (requested by Jean Bender), Deanie Moore (COVID -requested by Pastor T. Wes), Tom Moore (Pastor T. Wes' Dad – COVID), Sobotors as they care for Walter, The Family of Anita Tweed (Laura Smith Burton's husband's Aunt)

Please keep in your prayers those struggling to cope due to this pandemic. Continue to pray for the schools – Remember the administration, teachers, students, and parents during this difficult time.

Once in Royal David's City 140

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and
 3 Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day like
 4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re -

cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a
 Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his
 us he grew; he was lit - tle, weak and help - less; tears and
 deem - ing love; for that child so dear and gen - tle is our

man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er
 cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and meek and
 smiles like us he knew; and he feels for all our
 Lord in heaven a - bove; and he leads his chil - dren

mild; Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
 low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 on to the place where he is gone.

Like "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (see no. 20), this popular Christmas hymn was written by an Irish poet to illustrate for children the various articles of the Apostles' Creed. It is not known which of several English villages the composer had in mind when naming this tune.

134

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.