



*“My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit
rejoices in God my savior!” Luke 1:46*

Gregory Memorial

Presbyterian Church

**P.O. Box 182 - 6300 Courthouse Road
Prince George, VA 23875**



Fourth Sunday in the Season of Advent

Sunday, December 18, 2011 11:00 am

Be still and know that I am God. (*Psalm 46:10*)

GOD GATHERS THE PEOPLE

PRELUDE

Gail Rollings & Sandra Perkins

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH CANDLE OF ADVENT David Johnson & Billy Robertson

[Congregation is invited to join the choir in singing the final refrain below.]

Words and Music by
JOEL RANEY

Congregation:

There is won - der in the hope of the birth of a
King, there is won - der in the sound of the an - gels as they
sing. O_ come, O come, Em - man - u -
el, and join us here.

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TIME FOR CHILDREN

Pat Hunter

CHOIR ANTHEM

The Light of Christmas

Adult Choir

(Children ages 3 – 1st grade are invited to leave for Junior Church; Older children may pick up a “Worship Board” in the right front pew for their use.)

BIBLE READINGS Isaiah 7:14 (Pew Bible, p. 554) *An Ancient Prophecy*
 Luke 1:26-38 (Pew Bible, p. 831) *The Angel & Mary*

CHORAL RESPONSE *To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary* (#171, Verse1)

(Choir only) *To a maid engaged to Joseph, The angel Gabriel came.
 “Fear not,” the angel told her, “I come to bring good news.
 Good news I come to tell you, Good news, I say, good news.”*

BIBLE READING Luke 1:39-46 (Pew Bible, p. 831) *Mary’s Song of Joy*

MESSAGE *Mary, You DID Know!* Rev. Mark Sprowl

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

*HYMN #171 *To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary* (Verses 2-6)
 *(Choir sings ODD-numbered verses;
 Congregation joins on EVEN-numbered verses.)*

*WE AFFIRM OUR FAITH

**We believe in God, creator and lover of the earth,
origin and destiny of us all.**

**We believe in Jesus the Christ—
God coming to us in the fragile promise of a baby yet unborn—
who emerges as the herald of hope,
God's laughter in the face of despair.
Plunged into death and hell, he broke free the captives,
and is leading the way to the land of promise
where justice and peace will flourish.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, who implants the seed of truth,
brings us to birth as the body of Christ,
and empowers us to confront and transform
all that is corrupt, degrading and deceitful. [Continued on next page]**

**We believe in the coming reign of God.
Announced by the Baptist, it has drawn near to us in Jesus,
and will be consummated in the glorious marriage
of earth and heaven,
when all who have passed through the world's deep sorrow
will be raised from the waters, robed in righteousness,
and gathered into the joyous fulfillment of God's desire.
For the coming of that day on this day, we work and pray:
Come, Lord Jesus, Come!**

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.**

*HYMN #180

O Little Town of Bethlehem

*BLESSING

Leader: Jesus comes to bring light to our darkness...

People: Direction for those who have lost their way...

Leader: Rest for the weary and over-stressed....

People: And hope to the discouraged.

Leader: In his name, may we, his followers, do the same.

**People: We respond with the ancient word of agreement
still used by people of faith... "Amen!"**

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

*Congregation please stand, if able; **bold** type read aloud.

This Week at Gregory December 18 - 25

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|-----------|----------|--|
| Today | 9:45 am | Sunday School |
| | 11:00 am | Worship Service Christmas Joy Offering |
| Monday | 2:00 pm | Line Dancing |
| Tuesday | 7:00 pm | Session Meeting |
| Wednesday | 7:00 pm | Choir |
| Saturday | 6:00 pm | Christmas Eve Communion Candlelight Service |
| Sunday | 11:00 am | Worship No Sunday School |

Sunday Servants

Today

Dec 25

| | | |
|---------------|---|--|
| USHERS | Gladys Wiseman Verne Smith Rose Scott | Sheila Fields Janet Swinton Mary Holc Doug Holc |
| ANNOUNCEMENTS | Rose Scott | Jerry Bond |
| NURSERY | Debra Bailey | Ruby Spain |
| JUNIOR SERMON | Pat Hunter | Mary Kay Schroeter |
| JUNIOR CHURCH | Jennifer Smyth Jared Smyth | Rose Scott Pam Harsh |
| COUNTING | David Johnson Ron Recher | Verne Smith Rose Scott |

Prayer Concerns

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Dick Mann | Ruby Hasky |
| Christine Belsches | Katherine Tompkins |
| Aida Faries | Tammy Pelter (<i>Gladys Vtipil's niece</i>) |
| June Hawks | Mary Chadwick (<i>Dink Armstrong's sister</i>) |
| Marian McDonald | Virginia Mika (<i>sister of Grace and Helen Cibula</i>) |
| Peggy Surfield | Matt Mauger |
| Helen Cibula | Amy Harte (<i>David Johnson's cousin</i>) |
| Harry Johns | Family of Marie Allen |
| Don Vtipil | |



- WELCOME TO GREGORY MEMORIAL! -

We hope and pray that as you worship with us today, you may experience the love of God and be encouraged for the coming week. Visitors, make sure to let us know of your presence by completing one of the registration cards in the pews and placing it in the offering plate. Both visitors and “regulars” may use the cards to let us know of prayer requests or special needs.

THE SEASON OF ADVENT – This is the last Sunday of the Season of Advent which concludes on Christmas Eve. For Christians, it marks a time of reflection on the miracle and mystery of God becoming a human being. The candlelighting ceremony at the beginning of worship reminds us that Jesus was and is always “the light that shines in the darkness.”

CONGRATULATIONS! To our Church Secretary Julie Jacobs and her husband Berry on the birth of their son Connor Jeremy Jacobs last Thursday. Julie’s home address is 97B Bastogne Road, Fort Lee, VA 23801 if you would like to send them a note. She won’t be back to Gregory until sometime in February. Until that time we’re pleased to welcome back Carolyn Gentry who will work Wednesday - Friday, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP (Dec. 24) – Join us at 6:00 pm this Saturday, December 24 for a special time of inspiration, music and fellowship. During this candlelight service, we will also celebrate the Lord’s Supper. Please bring your children and encourage them to bring bells to accompany our carols. There will also be a special story time for the young during the service.

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP (Dec. 25) – There will be no Sunday School next Sunday, but our 11:00 am worship will feature the familiar carols, a lovely anthem from our choir and a meaningful meditation on the mystery of “Emmanuel,” God with us. Children are welcome to attend the shortened service, although there will be no “Children’s Church” or nursery.

THE FIVE-CENTS-A -MEAL WAGON will be located in the Narthex next Sunday, December 25 for you to drop your coins in as you enter or leave.

INTERIM PASTOR ON VACATION – Rev. Sprowl will be on vacation December 26 – January 2. If you have an emergency pastoral need during that time, please call the church office or members of the Congregational Care Committee, Glenda Mayhew, 458-7682, or Marguerite Bishop, 541-3101.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – Today’s “Affirmation of Faith” was written by Nathan Nettleton and can be found on his website, “Laughingbird.”