

# GREGORY MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



Christians Who Love and Care.

*“May integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for you.  
Psalm 25:21*

December 2, 2012

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 2, 2012 - 11:00 am

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

Liturgical Color: Purple or Blue

*“May integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for you.  
Psalm 25:21*

Let us prepare our hearts in silence to meet God’s Spirit in worship!

## GOD GATHERS THE PEOPLE

PRELUDE

Sandra Perkins & Gail Rollings

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

CHOIR “THE WONDER OF CHRISTMAS  
A Candle Lighting Ceremony For Advent”

Words & Music by Joel Raney

“FIRST SUNDAY - The Wonder of the Season”

### RESPONSIVE LITANY

Choir: Advent is a time to remember the wonders of our faith.

**Congregation: God has done wonderful things, things planned long ago.**

Choir: Advent is a time to be amazed at God’s wondrous love.

**Congregation: God has done wonderful things, things planned long ago.**

Choir: Advent is a time to retrace our past, and reclaim the hope of our future.

**Congregation: God has done wonderful things, things planned long ago.**

Choir: Advent is a time to be awed by God’s unfolding plan for creation.

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

## CANDLE LIGHTING

Reading by Mary Kay Schroeter

[*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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Advent texts by Rev. Rich Davis, Senior Pastor First Presbyterian Church, River Forest, IL

## CLOSING PRAYER (in unison)

God in Heaven, as we begin this season of Advent, re-ignite our sense of wonder. Help us move beyond what is familiar to your indescribable glory. Allow us to be still, in the midst of what our minds cannot fully grasp, and what our lips cannot fully explain. Fill our hearts this Advent with restored amazement for what you have done, the love you have shown, and the gift you have given, in Christ's name. Amen.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jerry Bond

## PASSING OF THE PEACE/SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

Rev. Beverly Bullock

## Call to Worship

One: Gracious Holy Spirit, we sit here pondering

**All: The beginning of the Christmas Season**

One: To you, Lord, we lift up our souls

**All: Clear out the dread of days to come, wash away the shame of days poorly spent.**

One: Teach us the joy of days prayerfully ordered

**All: Make our love for one another increase and overflow. To you, O Lord, we lift up our souls.**

\*Opening Hymn

"We Light the Advent Candles"

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## We Confess Our Sin (in unison)

**God of mercy and grace, hear our confession.** Our valleys are deep when we are encompassed with care. Our mountains are high when our burdens are heavy. We grope in the maze of our tangled alliances and reap the pain of bad choices and ignorant gambles. You promised that all flesh shall see your salvation. Show us the straight path and the smooth way that lead to your righteousness – through Jesus Christ, who is the way. Amen.

## A Moment of Silent Confession

### \*Promise of God's Forgiveness

One: Who is in a position to condemn?

**All: Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ, prays for us.**

One: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

**All: The old life has gone, a new life has begun.**

One: Know that we have been forgiven and be at peace!

**All: Hallelujah, Amen!**

\*Congregational Response (Hymn #734, Gloria Patri)

The Giving of Our Tithes, Gifts and Selves to God - Offertory

\*Congregational Response (#34 Doxology)

\*Prayer of Dedication

## WE ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD

Time for Children

Susan Walker

Choral Anthem

“My Lord, He Is A Comin’ Soon”

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

### **Bible Readings**

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Old Testament

Pg. 645

Luke 21:25-36

New Testament

Pg. 856-857

### **Jeremiah 33:14-16**

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’ “

### **Luke 21:25-36**

<sup>25</sup>There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’

<sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near.

<sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup>Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.’ “

### **Sermon**

“Sign, Sign, Everywhere A Sign”

Rev. Beverly Bullock

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

\*Reflective Hymn

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

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### **\*We Affirm Our Faith - The Apostle's 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.

### **Prayers of the People (in unison)**

Bringer of hope to the nations, glory be to you that through the gift of your Son, Jesus, Now we can be called heirs of your righteousness and children of the covenant.

We pray for those who have been overlooked for whatever reasons: the lonely, the sick, the maligned, and the forgotten. Give us compassion to reach out to comfort them, and bestow in them a sense of the Holy Spirit, who can make them whole. Increase humanity's vision to see clearly the causes of anger, hurt, and resentment, and where it is within our power to act, save us from hesitation.

We pray that nations may heed the word of peace that Christ proclaims. Be with all that suffer as a result of human hostility, and through Christ, break down the walls that keep us apart. Fill leaders with wisdom and bring humility to rulers. Make us all effective witnesses to the hope of Christ's salvation, and give to everyone of us a firm resolution to proclaim him – redeemer of all, as we pray:  
*"Our Father Who Art In Heaven..."*

\* Departing Hymn

"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

Pg. 191

Blessing

One: We have been blessed!

**All: We have met for divine worship, as God's people.**

One: We have been blessed!

**All: Our sins have truly been forgiven.**

One: We have been blessed!

**All: We now go out into the world as the body of Christ, witnessing to the Risen Christ. We have been blessed indeed. Hallelujah, Amen!**

\*Pastoral Benediction

\*Choral Benediction

## **-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. We invite both visitors and “regulars” to use the cards to let us know of your prayer requests or special needs.

**VISITOR INFORMATION** --- We have special informational packets for our visitors, both adults and children. Please ask an usher for assistance.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**---We offer engaging classes each Sunday for all ages beginning at 9:45 am. Children, youth and one adult class meet on the second floor of the Educational Building, and another adult class meets downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for coffee in the kitchen before and after class!

**NURSERY & JUNIOR CHURCH**---During the worship service, we provide loving child care for infants and toddlers. Children ages pre-K through 1<sup>st</sup> grade are invited to join their parents in the service through the Time with Children after which they can follow their leaders to a worship-based activity appropriate for their age. For children who remain in the worship service, there are “worship boards” in a box in the front right pew for their learning and enjoyment during the service.

### **2012 STEWARDSHIP TO DATE**

#### The Facts:

Annual budget expense	\$137,754
Pledged & projected income	\$133,804
Monthly budget needs	\$ 11,480
Weekly budget needs	\$ 2,650

#### The Figures:

Offering 11/25	\$2,354.37
Offering 12/02	\$xx
Offering 12/09	\$xx
Offering 12/16	\$ xx

## THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY: December 2-December 15, 2012

	December 2-8	December 9-15
Today	2 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00am Worship	9 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00am Worship
Monday	3 11:00 am Food Bank Quarterly Meeting & PG Churches Outreach Luncheon 2:00 pm Line Dancing 6:30 pm Missions	10 Noon Widows Group 2:00 pm Line Dancing 6:00 pm Christian Ed
Tuesday	4 12:30pm Day Circle 7:00 pm - Facilities - Worship - Congregational Care*	11 Committee reports due 6:30 pm Outreach 7:30 pm Evening Circle
Wednesday	5 7:00 pm Choir	12 7:00 pm Choir
Thursday	6 2-8:00 pm Cleaning	13 2-8:00 pm Cleaning 6:00 pm Stewardship/Finance
Friday	7	14
Saturday	8	15

## SUNDAY SERVANTS

Sunday Servants	Today, December 2	December 9
USHERS	Keith Spain Ruby Spain Jacob Spain Herb Schroeter	Bobby Allen Donna Allen Velma Allen Brenda Bond
ANNOUNCEMENTS	Jerry Bond	Dianne Overstreet
NURSERY	Susan Walker	Ann Hartsell
JUNIOR SERMON	Valerie Harsh	Rev. Beverly Bullock
JUNIOR CHURCH	Valerie Harsh Pamela Harsh	Mary Kay Schroeter Kevin Foster
COUNTING	Morgan Ingram Sandy Hunter	Donald Hunter Glenda Mayhew

DECEMBER GATEKEEPER: Josh Ingram



**ATTENDANCE: November 25**

<u>Sunday School:</u>		<u>Worship</u>
Spiritual Enrichment	6	61
Fellowship	12	
Youth	0	
One Room	6	

**OUR PRAYER IN TIMES OF JOY AND CONCERN.....**

Ruby Hasky	Kay Alloway & Family (loss of bother, Mitchell Bowen, Nov. 19)
Katherine Tompkins	All persons recovering from natural disasters
Christine Belsches	Jimmy Belsches (Son of Christine Belsches)
Marian McDonald	Mary Chadwick (Dink Armstrong's sister)
Gladys Wiseman	Dan Price (David Johnson's brother)
Audrey Turner	Jessica Griffin (Niece of Sheila Fields)
June Hawks	Ed Smiley (Friend of Doug Holc)
Aida Faries	2012-2013 School Year
Don Vtipil	Kenneth Figg
PNC	Clara Smith

**NOTE: "BLACK BOX" ITEMS INDICATE NEED FOR URGENCY!**

**TODAY is the Last Day to Order Your CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS! – If you have not yet done so, please write in your information for the live poinsettias (\$10.50 each) on the Poinsettia Order Sheet on the Narthex table. Please be sure to write in your remembrance/memorial information on the sheet also**

**A SACRAMENT OF INFANT BAPTISM** will be held on Sunday, December 9 at 11:00 am for Miss Olivia Rae Hartsell, born May 31, 2012. Olivia is the daughter of Lisa Reid Hartsell and Ronald Litchfield Hartsell, is the sister of Carter Hartsell.

**ANGEL TREE & CHRISTMAS FAMILIES!** Please be sure to stop by the Gregory Angel Tree and select a lucky boy or girl recipient of your Christmas gifts. We will be sponsoring the same two families for Christmas. All wrapped gifts and food items will need to be at the church by Sunday, December 16.

**GREGORY CHURCH'S CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS NATIVITY PROGRAM** will be presented during the Sunday, December 16 worship service.

**WE WILL OBSERVE THE ORDINATION** of Pamela Harsh as a Ruling Elder and the Installation of Pamela Harsh, H. F. Scott, Jr., Glenda Mayhew, Rose Scott and Mary Kay Schroeter on Sunday, December 16 after the Children's Christmas Program.

**GMPC's Church Office has on file a copy of the Proposed Amendments to the Constitution --Part 1 of 2 (Heidelberg Catechism) and Part 2 of 2 (Amendments to the Book of Order)** that were approved by the 220<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2012) and recommended to the presbyteries for their vote. They will be voted on at the stated 2013 meeting of the Presbytery. These same amendments may be viewed online at the Presbytery's website: [www.presbyteryofthejames.org/](http://www.presbyteryofthejames.org/).

**HOLIDAY OPERATING SCHEDULE - Church Office Hours**, as approved by Session:  
Week of Dec. 23-29 (Christmas): **Dec. 26 (Wed.), 27 (Thurs.) & 28 (Fri.)**  
Week of Dec. 30-Jan. 5 (New Year's): **Jan. 2 (Wed.), 3 (Thurs.), 4 (Fri.)**.

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## IMPORTANT WEBSITES & PHONE NUMBERS

[Clip & save this listing for future reference.]

James House <a href="http://www.thejameshouse.org">www.thejameshouse.org</a>	(804) 458-2840 ... 24-hour Hotline (804) 458-2704 ... Hopewell Office (804) 732-1711 ... Petersburg Office
YWCA <a href="http://www.ywcarichmond.org">www.ywcarichmond.org</a>	(804) 643-0888 ... 24-hour Hotline
CARES <a href="http://www.careshelterpetersburg.org">www.careshelterpetersburg.org</a>	(804) 861-0849
Nat'l. Domestic Violence Hotline <a href="http://www.thehotline.org">www.thehotline.org</a>	1 (800) 799-7233 (1-800-799-SAFE)
Nat'l. Center for Missing & Exploited Children <a href="http://www.missingkids.com">www.missingkids.com</a>	1 (800) 843-5678 (1-800-THE-LOST)
Poison Control Hotline <a href="http://www.poison.org">www.poison.org</a>	1-800-222-1212
Child Abuse Hotline	1 (800) 552-7096
Center for Elder Rights & Aging Services Information	1 (800) 552-3402 (Voice/TTY)

## **PRIMARY CHURCH CONTACTS**

Church Phone: 804-732-1081 Website: [www.gregorymemorial.org](http://www.gregorymemorial.org)  
Church Office Hours: Tuesday through Thursday 9:00 am – 2:00 pm.  
Temporary Supply Pastor: Rev. Beverly Bullock, mobile 804-892-1785,  
[bevbullock@aol.com](mailto:bevbullock@aol.com)

Secretary: Nancy Adams, [gregorymemorialoffice@verizon.net](mailto:gregorymemorialoffice@verizon.net)

Organist: Sandra Perkins, Accompanist: Gail Rollings

Clerk of Session: David Johnson

Treasurer: Kevin Foster, [kevin.foster@bsvnet.com](mailto:kevin.foster@bsvnet.com), phone 804-732-1096

Financial Secretary: Sandy Hunter, phone 804-733-8414

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