

# **Gregory Memorial presbyterian Church**



**"3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT"**

**December 15, 2019 – 11:00 a.m.**

*We welcome you to worship with us this morning, as we gather in community to draw closer to God, made known in Christ. We pray you will know the presence of the Lord, through our worship, and through the work of the Spirit. We invite you to take these moments before worship to calm your hearts and minds and open yourself to the quiet stillness of the presence of God!*

## **GOD GATHERS THE PEOPLE**

**Choral Prelude**

Sandra Perkins & Gail Rollings

**Chiming of the Hour**

**Welcome & Announcements**

Larry Johnson

**Passing of the Peace**

Rev. Dr. Jason N. Cashing

**Sharing of Joys/Concerns**

## **Call to Worship**

One: In the busyness of this world, we wait, still, with bated breath.

**All: We know that our Savior draws closer, and our hearts begin to leap with joy!**

One: When Christ returns in power and glory, people will faint with fear.

**All: But when you see these things, lift up your heads: our redemption is drawing near!**

*Candle Lighter: We light this candle as a symbol of the joy to be found in your kingdom on earth.*

**All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

**\*Opening Hymn #93 – "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"**

## **Prayer of Confession (in unison)**

The Lord is near. In your presence, Holy God, we confess that we need repentance. We have broken your commands against idolatry. We do not live in peace with your creation or your people. We have not trusted your word, and we are afraid. Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame into praise, for the sake of the One who proclaims the good news, and for the sake of all the world. Amen.

*(A Moment of Silent Confession)*

## **Promise of God's Forgiveness**

One: Hear the good news of the gospel:

**All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, healed, and made whole.**

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

**All: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. Amen!**

\*Congregational Response (Hymn #581)

**The Giving of our Tithes, Gifts & Selves to God - Offertory**

Congregational Response (Hymn #606)

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

## **WE ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD**

**Choral Anthem – "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"**

## **Prayer for Illumination**

Holy One, through your Holy Spirit instruct us by the light of your prophets. Illumine our hearts, that we may hear your call to become your path into the world. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

## **Scriptural Readings**

1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13	p366-368
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Luke 2:25-32	p833

**Sermon**                    "Cause For Celebration"                    Dr. Jason N. Cashing

**Reflective Hymn** #87 – "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

### **Affirmation of Faith**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

*[John 1:1-5]*

### **Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer**

One: Lord, in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayers.**

**Departing Hymn** #88, vs.1, 5-7 – "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

### **\*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 go out into the world as the body of Christ, bearing the good news of the gospel. We are blessed, indeed. Amen!**

### **\*Pastoral Benediction**

### **\*Choral Benediction & Postlude**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Parents of Little Ones:** We want worship to be a nurturing experience for your whole family. As such, Nursery services are available for your benefit and the enjoyment of your child. Let one of our greeters know and they'll help you get set up!

**The Sanctuary flowers** are given to the glory of God in honor of/in memory of persons as indicated on the enclosed Poinsettia Dedication.

**Angel Tree** – Gregory Memorial is "adopting" a Christmas family from the Dept. of Social Services for our Angel Tree in the Narthex. Angel Tree gift deadline is Fri., Dec. 20.

**Christmas Cantata** – Today at 3:00 p.m. *YOU'RE INVITED!*

**Congregation's Christmas Card Box** - Today's the last day for the congregation's Christmas card box in the Narthex.

**Christmas Joy Offering** – Flyer with details on next Sunday's (Dec. 22) Christmas Joy Offering is enclosed.

**"Darkest Night"** service – Sat., Dec. 21, 7:00 p.m.

**Christmas Eve services** – Tues., Dec. 24: 6:30 p.m. & 11 p.m. (communion)

**Church office Hours, during upcoming holidays:**

Christmas Week: Mon., Thurs., Fri., 9 a.m.-2 p.m. (no Tues & Wed.)

New Year's Week: Tues. - Thurs., 9 a.m.-2 p.m. (regular schedule)

**Winter Camp at Camp Hanover (Dec. 28-30)** is for current 5th – 12th graders & filled with fun, faith, and fellowship. To register, visit [www.camphanover.org/winter-camp](http://www.camphanover.org/winter-camp)

## GMPC Information

[www.gregorymemorial.org](http://www.gregorymemorial.org) [www.facebook.com/gmpcva](https://www.facebook.com/gmpcva)  
804.732.1081 Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
Pastor: Rev. Jason Cashing (Jason@gregorymemorial.org)  
Secretary: Nancy Adams (office@gregorymemorial.org)  
Organist: Sandra Perkins Pianist: Gail Rollings  
Treasurer: Kevin Foster Financial Sec.: Sandy Hunter

## Session Members

Sandy Hunter (2019); Patsy Johnson (2019); Charles Smyth (2019)  
Pat Hunter (2020); Susan Shockley (2020); \_\_\_\_\_ (2020)  
Blake Bishop (2021); \_\_\_\_\_ (2021); \_\_\_\_\_ (2021)  
Donald Hunter (Clerk of Session)

## Trustees

Morgan Ingram (2019); Donald Hunter (2020); John Carl Allen (2021)

**12/15 THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY**

S	<b>9:45a</b> Sunday School <b>11a</b> Worship  <b>3p</b> Christmas Cantata  <i>Poinsettia display</i>	15	<b>9:45a</b> Sunday School <b>11a</b> Worship  <i>5 Cents A Meal Offering</i> <i>Christmas Joy Offering</i>  <i>Poinsettia display</i>	22
M		16	<b>9a-2p</b> Church office open	23
T	<b>6p</b> GS Tr5000	17	<i>Church office closed</i>  <b>6:30p</b> Christmas Eve family service <b>11p</b> Christmas Eve communion service	24
W	<b>5:30p</b> BS Tr900 Honor Ct. & Christmas party, Fellowship Hall (set-up 1p) <b>7p</b> Choir practice	18	<i>Christmas Day</i>  <i>Church office closed</i>	25
T	<b>2p</b> Church cleaning <b>2p</b> News articles due <b>7p</b> Stewardship & Fin. Com.	19	<b>9a-2p</b> Church office open <b>2p</b> Newsletter out	26
F		20	<b>9a-2p</b> Church office open	27
S	<b>7:00p</b> "Darkest Night" service	21		28

**SUNDAY SERVANTS**

 GATEKEEPER: Bobby Allen

	<b>Dec. 15</b>	<b>Dec. 22</b>
USHERS	Bobby Allen Donna Allen Velma Allen Larry Johnson	Wayne Powers Brenda Bond Glenda Mayhew Les Mayhew
ANNOUNCEMENTS	Larry Johnson	Rose Scott
NURSERY		
COUNTING	Morgan Ingram Ron Recher	Donald Hunter Susan Shockley

\* 5 Cents a Meal Offering

**FACTS & FIGURES**

		<b>YTD</b>	<b>Thru 10/31/19</b>	<b>Offrg.</b>	<b>Rec'd.</b>
Pledged/proj. incr.	\$137,530	Inc.	\$110,661.63	12/1	\$1,674.00
Ann. Budget exp.	\$145,537	Exp.	(\$116,229.40)	12/8	\$2,680.60
Mo. Budget needs	\$ 12,128	Diff.	( \$ 5,567.77)	12/15	\$
				12/22	\$
				12/29	

**ATTENDANCE**

	Worship	Sun. School	Children	Youth
Dec. 8, 2019	37	10		

## OUR PRAYERS & CONCERNS

Amy Townson, Josh Ingram's sister  
Mary Chadwick & Adelaide "Shorty" Smith, "Dink" Armstrong's sisters  
(health issues)  
Evelyn Lichvar, her brother, Martin, & her son, Rick (health issues)  
Becky Scott Smith  
Russell Heiser, Ingrid Phoenix's grandson (health issues)  
Kenneth Andrews, Childress family's friend  
Butch Meade, Glenda Mayhew's brother  
Gladys Wiseman  
Steve "Dee" Shortt, Kim Helmer Shortt's husband (health issue)  
Verne & Clara Smith  
Sharon Entwistle, Barbara Taliaferro's friend  
Peggy Allen  
Eddie Frankenstein  
Grace Cibula  
Jerry Hasky (health issue)  
Doris Harmison (The Crossings at Ironbridge, Chester, Va.)  
Mark Cheriton, Janet Swinton's son-in-law (returned health issues)  
Randy & Kay Recher, son & daughter-in-law of Ron & Judy Recher  
(head-on crash in Oklahoma)  
Corey Whelan, Pat Hunter's grandson (health issues)  
Melvin Huff, Marguerite Bishop's friend (health issues)  
Pam Henry, Mary Holc's family member (health issue)  
Sandra Elder, Kelly Knupp's mother (health issues)  
Velma Allen (severe arthritis)  
Etta Holc (broken foot; home)  
Buck Nunnally (health issues)  
Adele Linkenhoker, Barbara Taliaferro's friend (health concerns)  
Jackie Woodruff (health issues)  
Shirley MacNeill (heart attack; recovering at home)  
Jane & Bob Jones (health issues)  
Junie ("Bug") Treaster (recovering from brain surgery)  
Family/friends of Jim Linkenhoker, Barbara Taliaferro's friend (d. 12/7)