

Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church



"1st SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS"

December 29, 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

Passing of the Peace

Pat Hunter
Sandy Hunter

Sharing of Joys/Concerns

Call to Worship

One: We recount the gracious deeds of God, all that the Lord has done for us:

All: Praise God for coming to dwell among us, Immanuel.

One: Praise God for the good news of Jesus, pioneer of our salvation.

All: Praise God for making us brothers and sisters in Christ.

One: Praise God who is present with us still, lifting us up and carrying us.

All: God's glory shines in heaven and on earth. Praise the Lord!

***Opening Hymn #143 – "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"**

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Merciful God, in great love you have claimed us as your children. We confess that we have not loved you as we should. We have not participated fully in your purposes and plans; we grow weary and give up when the way is hard. We have not loved our brothers and sisters as you intend. Complacent in the presence of injustice and violence, we fail to recognize our own complicity. Help us to praise you by living in harmony and peace. Set us free from fear that we may wholly trust in you. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who shared our flesh and blood. 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 – "A New Star"

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

1st Reading Psalm 91:9-12 p477

2nd Reading Mark 1:1-20 p812

Sermon

"Follow Him"

Pat Hunter
Sandy Hunter

Reflective Hymn #128 – "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Affirmation of Faith

I believe that Jesus is the Word of God, that he was with God at the beginning of Creation and, in fact, was God.

I believe that Jesus is the Light of God *that came into a darkened world* so that, through his light, all people might experience the gift of new life.

I believe that Jesus is Emmanuel, God who lived with us, as one of us, and that, as we trust our lives to him, we become children of God.

In him, we discover divine grace for a fresh start; we find the truth that sets us free from all that holds us back. Until the first Christmas, no one had ever seen God, but, in Jesus, we now know who God is and how much we are loved. Amen.

[from "The Gospel of John", Chapter 1]

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

One: Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayers.

Departing Hymn #119 – "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

***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!

12/29 THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY

S	9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship 11a Local Emergency Aid Offering	29	9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship 6:30p Workcamp plan meeting	5
M		30	<i>Epiphany</i> 1p Worship Com.	6
T	9a-2p Church office open	31	1p Circle (Host: TBA) 6p Congregational Care Com. 6p GS Tr5000 6p Facilities Com.	7
W	JAN <i>New Year's Day</i> 9a-2p Church office open	1	7p Choir practice	8
T	9a-2p Church office open	2		9
F		3		10
S		4		11

SUNDAY SERVANTS

🗝️ GATEKEEPER: Bobby Allen (Dec.)
Donald Hunter (Jan.)

	Dec. 29	Jan. 5
USHERS	Sheila Fields Marguerite Bishop Valerie Harsh	John Carl Allen Rose Scott Wayne Powers
ANNOUNCEMENTS		Valerie Harsh
NURSERY		
COUNTING	David Johnson Blake Bishop	Sandy Hunter Megan Cashing

FACTS & FIGURES

		YTD	Thru 10/31/19	Offrg.	Rec'd.
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	\$1,725.00
				12/22	\$2,865.00
				12/29	

ATTENDANCE

	Worship	Sun. School	Children	Youth
Dec. 22, 2019	55	11		

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.)
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)
Adele Linkenhoker, Barbara Taliaferro's friend (health concerns)
Jackie Woodruff (health issues)
Jane & Bob Jones (health issues)
Junie "Bug" Treaster (recovering from brain surgery)
Mark Cheriton, Janet Swinton Shill's son-in-law (hospice care; home)
Lee Harsh, Valerie Harsh's brother-in-law (triple bypass)
Betty Arthur, Mary Lykins' son-in-law's mother
Rev. Paul Luthman, previously our pastor (recovering from back
surgery)