

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



*"By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."*  
~Luke 1:78-79

*"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God And saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those whom God favors!'"*  
~Luke 2:13-14

"Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being: You have made us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless until they rest in you..." (Church of Scotland, *Book of Common Order*, inspired by St. Augustine's *Confessions 1.1*).

2020 draws to close, and even as the transition from one year to another approaches, we mindfully finish our preparations for the arrival of Immanuel, both recalling and celebrating the birth of such a world-transforming child. We are reminded that, out of a fullness of love which is sometimes incomprehensible, God chose to reach out to humanity, to creation, to us in such a way that there would truly no longer be any hindrance or barrier between us (us and each other, or us and God). And as this year approaches its close, even on a day of Christmas celebration, we are aware of how restless our spirits have been.

Certainly the world as we know it has generated restlessness in these past 12 months (the last 10, in particular). And we have sought to ease our restless spirits in any number of ways accessible to us. But the truth of the matter is this: we will always be restless, and we shall not find our rest until we find it in the Divine Presence. And we can thank God that God chose to come and meet us where we are in life, bringing to us even a measure of this otherwise unattainable peace.

I know that I am still new to this whole parenting gig (even as I write this, it was not a very peaceful morning with our Beloved Toddler), but I appreciate and realize

how – even in the space of a lack of rest or looking around at the chaos of the house – even a brief moment of unexpected love from her can balance out all the rest. I remember, in those early weeks, the stress of keeping her comfortable and fed when awake, and then the bliss of holding her and watching her while she slept, and I knew peace in a way that was previously unknown to me.

And it is this peace, this comfort, this moment of being filled-full that we realize as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, and read again of his coming into the world, being laid in a manger, watched over by parents, shepherds, sheep, and heavenly host alike. In this moment, in this day of celebration (and the 12 other days of the Christmas season!), we recognize that the gift we receive is the realization, even in part, of the One in whom we find our rest, our peace, our fulfillment. This is the first of many gifts that come from this incarnation, and may we indeed celebrate it today, tomorrow, and into the New Year!

With you on the journey,  
Pastor Jason



**WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR JANUARY, 2021**

**Sunday, 3 January 2021**

“2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas” - Liturgical Color: White  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: John 1:10-18  
 Sermon: "Praise Incarnate"

**Sunday, 10 January 2021**

“Baptism of the Lord” - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Genesis 1:1-5 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Mark 1:4-11  
 Sermon: "A New Day"

**Sunday, 17 January 2021**

“2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany” - Liturgical Color: White  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: John 1:43-51  
 Sermon: "Suspend Your Disbelief"

**Sunday, 24 January 2021**

“3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany ” - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Mark 1:14-20  
 Sermon: "Believe"

**Sunday, 31 January 2021**

“4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany ” - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Mark 1:21-28  
 Sermon: "God's Word"



**OUR PRAYER IN TIMES OF JOY AND CONCERN...**One of our great joys and responsibilities to each other and to God here at Gregory Memorial is the regular practice of praying for each other and our community.

<p>Amy Townson, Josh Ingram’s sister                  Mary Chadwick &amp; Adelaide "Shorty" Smith, "Dink" Armstrong’s sisters (health issues)                  Evelyn Lichvar, her brother, Martin, &amp; her son, Rick (health issues)                  Becky Scott Smith                  Russell Heiser, Ingrid Phoenix’s grandson (health issues)                  Butch Meade, Glenda Mayhew’s brother                  Steve “Dee” Shortt, Kim Helmer Shortt’s husband (health issue)                  Verne &amp; Clara Smith                  Peggy Allen                  Eddie Frankenstein                  Grace Cibula                  Etta Holc                  Jerry Hasky (health issue)                  Kay Recher, daughter-in-law of Ron &amp; Judy Recher (head-on crash in Oklahoma)                  Melvin Huff, Marguerite Bishop's friend (health issues)                  Pam Henry, Mary Holc’s family member                  Sandra Elder, Kelly Knupp's mother (health issues)                  Adele Linkenhoker, Barbara Taliaferro's friend (health concerns)</p>	<p>Jane &amp; Bob Jones (health issues)                  Junie "Bug" Treaster (recovering from surgery)                  Lee Harsh, Valerie Harsh's brother-in-law (health issue)                  Rev. Paul Luthman, previously our pastor (recovering from surgery)                  Sharon Reed &amp; family, Susan Shockley's co-worker (health issue)                  Jennifer Caldwell, friend of Grace Cibula (health issue)                  Reese Etheridge, Wayne Powers' uncle (health issue)                  Randy Warthan (health issue)                  Inez Paul, Mary Holc's mother (health issue, rehab)                  Floyd M. Brown, Sr. (health issues)                  Pam Landrum, Doris Harmison's daughter (orthopedic issue)                  Trevor Fine, Susan Shockley's neighbor's son (health issue)                  Traci Wells, Glenda Mayhew's friend (health issue)                  Morgan Ingram                  The Rolley Family, Marguerite Bishop's friends (health issues)                  Larry Johnson (recovering from surgery)                  Jeanette Shady, Linda Brown's aunt (health issues)                  Judy Recher (recovering from surgery)                  Family/friends of Velma Allen (d. 12/14)</p>
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## AS WE MOVE FORWARD IN WORSHIP...

Although we are still in the midst of the global pandemic, we have begun to "re-gather" in worship, with some specific considerations in mind and practice.

### **Please note the following:**

- ~ Worship continues each Sunday at 11:00 a.m.
- ~ On-line worship offerings will continue via Zoom (Meeting ID: 756-330-772, Passcode 6300) and Facebook Live From the church's Facebook page; or those without reliable internet may dial 1-253-215-8782 and enter Meeting ID# 756-330-772, Passcode 6300.
- ~ If you are experiencing fever or other symptoms/illness, please stay home and worship with us virtually.
- ~ If you feel comfortable doing so, you may join us in person with the following considerations:
  - Cloth masks are still in effect for public spaces. If you plan to join us in person, please join us as well in wearing a mask for the health of us all.
  - Please make liberal use of the hand sanitizer placed at each entrance to the Sanctuary.
  - Family units are asked to keep physical distance of 6 feet. Pews are marked off for this.
  - Worship information will be available on the weekly "bulletin" handout. This will also be available digitally on the church website for those who wish to worship from home.

Above all and through all, remember this: Jesus loves you and loves us; we are not abandoned; this will last some time, but is still temporary in the grand scheme of life; the more we do our part the quicker we will be on the other side of it.

Love and Peace to You All!

### **A Few Tips To Enhance Your Virtual Worship Experience**

- Turn off all other electronics and devices;
- Have your Bible ready to read along with the morning's scripture;
- Light a candle to represent Christ's Light during the service.

### **Celebrating Communion**

We will continue to celebrate communion on the first Sunday of the month. If you are worshipping in-person, the elements will be prepared ahead of time and made available to you as an individual serving. If you are worshipping with us at home/on-line, I invite you to have ready during these services a bit of bread and juice, so that you may commune with us in Spirit, as well!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (for 2020) – Jan. 24, following worship  
SESSION WORKSHOP & SESSION MEETING – Jan. 31, following worship

**THOSE WHO SERVE – JANUARY, 2021**

<b>GATEKEEPER:</b> 🔑 TBA	JAN. 3+	JAN. 10	JAN. 17	JAN. 23**	JAN. 31 ***
<b>Ushers</b>	John Carl Allen Rose Scott Wayne Powers	Charles Smyth Austin Smyth Morgan Ingram Josh Ingram	Bobby Allen Donna Allen Larry Johnson	Wayne Powers Brenda Bond Glenda Mayhew Les Mayhew	Sheila Fields Marguerite Bishop Valerie Harsh
<b>Announcements</b>	Valerie Harsh	Mary Kay Schroeter	Larry Johnson	Rose Scott	Larry Johnson
<b>Nursery</b>	Brenda Bond Donald Hunter*	Pat Hunter Mary Lykins*	Donna Allen Mary Holc*	Rose Scott Susan Shockley*	Marguerite Bishop Blake Bishop*
<b>Counting</b>					

+ Communion    \* Choir member goes to Nursery (if needed) after anthem    \*\*5 Cents-a-Meal Offering    \*\*\*Local Emerg. Aid Offering

**TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY: "GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING AT GREGORY!"**

**Outreach Committee:** A big shout out to Lisa Brown and her daughter, Nadia, for baking cookies and delivering them to our members that we haven't seen in a while. In this time, many of our members long to see a smiling face and that is just what they got from this awesome mother and daughter duo. We miss so many of our long-time members, and it was the goal of the Outreach Committee to let them know that they are missed and loved. Job well done!

**Congregational Care:** Every December, the Congregational Care committee remembers our members who are Shut-Ins and our college students. This year was no exception. The committee assembled "Blessing Bags" filled with goodies and a beautiful card for the Shut-Ins. However, the bags and cards were so inspiring that the committee decided that you can never have enough love, so they made a few more bags and delivered them to our Shut-Ins, plus others that have been reluctant to get out during these unsettled times.

As always, December is exam time for our college students. So once again this year, Congregational Care put together Survival Packages for our two college students Madison Foster and Jared Smyth. That extra piece of chocolate and other goodies really helped them get through some long days

and nights. And provided them with the knowledge that our church was thinking of them and that God was with them too. Way to go, Congregational Care! All of us thank you for sharing God's love.

**Missions:** Have you ever wondered where your 5-Cents-A-Meal money went? In August, the Missions Committee sent \$500 to Social Services with specific instructions that the money be spent on food for any family here in Prince George that was struggling during the Pandemic. We trust that people in our community benefitted from this gift.

In October, Missions met and decided on several projects that would not only help our community but spread the love of God. It was decided that our local Police Department could use a reminder that the citizens support them and that God's love is with them at all times. The congregation was asked to donate items that could be sent to our "heroes in blue." Overwhelming support was given for this project, thanks to our wonderful congregation. Bags were assembled with a greeting that expressed our support, as well as offering them an opportunity to worship with us if they so desire. The police officers were very appreciative and we hope to see some of them in worship.

Every Thanksgiving, a meal is provided to the needy in some way. This year Social Services was contacted and

they provided us with a family to help. The complete Thanksgiving meal was bought and delivered to Social Services who, in turn, saw that the family received our gift. It is our prayer that our Lord brought peace to this family through our efforts.

The final project planned at that meeting was our Angel Tree Project. Two years ago, we helped the Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands. Their staff was so appreciative of all the gifts that we sent that year. Because we had not helped this organization in two years and it certainly seemed that they really appreciated our support, we decided to sponsor them again this year. This time the Children's Home asked for some unusual things but Gregory came through again. The floor around the Christmas tree was filled with all of the items they asked for.

We may be small in number but we are mighty in the Love of God, and Gregory Memorial is doing great things for our community.

~Patsy Johnson



## JANUARY, 2021

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 New Year's Day	2
<b>3</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas</b>  <b>9:45a</b> Sunday School  <b>11a</b> Worship service  <b>11a</b> Holy Communion	<b>4</b> <b>1p</b> Worship Com.	<b>5</b> <b>1p</b> Circle  <b>7p</b> Cong. Care Com.  <b>7p</b> Christian Ed Com.  <b>7p</b> Facilities Com.	<b>6</b> <b>Epiphany</b>	<b>7</b> <b>2p</b> Church Cleaning	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <b>Baptism of The Lord</b>  <b>9:45a</b> Sunday School  <b>11a</b> Worship service	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <b>7p</b> Missions Com.  <b>7p</b> Outreach Com.	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>2p</b> Church Cleaning	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <b>9:45a</b> Sunday School  <b>11a</b> Worship service	<b>18</b> <b>ML King Birthday</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>2p</b> News articles due  <b>2p</b> Church Cleaning  <b>7p</b> Stewardship & Finance Com	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <b>9:45a</b> Sunday School  <b>11a</b> Worship service  <b>11a</b> 5 Cents-a-Meal Offering  <b>12p</b> Ann. Cong. Meeting (2020)	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>2p</b> Newsletter out  <b>2p</b> Church Cleaning	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> <b>9:45a</b> Sunday School  <b>11a</b> Worship service  <b>11a</b> Local Emer. Aid Offering  <b>12p</b> Session Officer Training, Followed by Session Meeting  <b>2p</b> Committee reports due						

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Wesley Wiseman  
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## ***JANUARY NEWSLETTER***



**COME AND JOIN US!**  
Sunday School 9:45 A.M.  
[WWW.GREGORYMEMORIAL.ORG](http://WWW.GREGORYMEMORIAL.ORG)

We're on: [Facebook.com/gmpcva](https://www.facebook.com/gmpcva)  
Worship 11:00 A.M.