

Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church



"1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT"

November 28, 2021 – 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, Organist
Gail Rollings, Pianist

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome & Announcements

Valerie Harsh

Passing of the Peace

Rev. Beverly Sherrill Bullock

Sharing of Joys/Concerns

Call to Worship

One: Stand up and raise your head!

All: Our redemption is drawing near!

One: Let us fill our hearts;

All: We lift them up to the Lord!

The days are surely coming when all things shall be made new.

Candle Lighter: We light this candle as a symbol of the hope we have in the promise of the Lord's coming.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

***Opening Hymn #82 – "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"**

Call to Worship (Pastor)

The psalmist pleads, "Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love." Trusting that the mercy of God is everlasting to everlasting, let us confess the wrong we have done and the good we have left undone.

Prayer of Confession (Congregation in unison)

Lord, have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming. We live in sin, as though there were no justice. We live in fear, as though there were no grace. Forgive us, Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love. Lead us in your truth, and teach us your paths, for you are the God of our salvation. Amen.

(A Moment of Silent Confession)

Assurance of Pardon (Pastor)

"All who put their trust in Christ face divine judgment without fear, for the judge is their redeemer." Therefore, be at peace; in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

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 "Glory Be to the Father"

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

*Congregational Response Hymn #606 "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

***Prayer of Dedication**

WE ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD

Scriptural Readings

1st Reading: Jeremiah 33: 1-3, 14-16 p644
2nd Reading: Luke 21:25-36 p856-857

Sermon "Let Us Begin!" Rev. Beverly Sherrill Bullock

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Affirmation of Faith (Congregation in unison)

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.

(Congregation in unison)

We give thanks and praise to you, Great God, for the wondrous things in the world and in our lives: for the shelter of home and fellowship, for the nourishment of food and faith, for love to share, and for being loved.

We thank you for the dawn of a new day and for the soil that holds the old light. We praise you for the night of rest and the darkness that does its work of rejuvenation. We thank you for creation and re-creation, for this life and our hope for life to come. For nothing can separate us from your love.

As we enter the season of Advent, we look to the coming of your beloved Son to make all things right in a world where the "wrong seems oft so strong. Let the fires of your justice burn. By your Holy Comforter, lead the grieving and heartbroken to the still waters of peace.

Ignite in us a holy desire for compassionate peacemaking. May the world know that there is a grace in us that is not our doing, but by the power of the One with resurrection light in his eyes, the same Jesus who taught us to pray: *"Our father..."*

***Hymn of Thanksgiving #353 "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"**

***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**

OUR PRAYERS & CONCERNS

Amy Townson, Josh Ingram's sister

Becky Scott Smith

Russell Heiser, Ingrid Phoenix's grandson (health issues)

Butch Meade, Glenda Mayhew's brother

Verne & Clara Smith

Peggy Allen

Eddie Frankenstein

Grace Cibula

Etta Holc

Jerry Hasky (health issue)

Pam Henry, Mary Holc's family member

Sandra Elder, Kelly Knupp's mother (health issues)

Lee Harsh, Valerie Harsh's brother-in-law (health issue)

Sharon Reed & family, Susan Shockley's co-worker (health issue)

Jennifer Caldwell, friend of Grace Cibula (health issue)

Reese Etheridge, Wayne Powers' uncle (health issue)

Dana Etheridge, Wayne Powers' cousin (health issue)

Randy Warthan (health issue)

Inez Paul, Mary Holc's mother (health issue, rehab)

Floyd M. Brown, Sr. (health issues)

Trevor Fine, Susan Shockley's neighbor's son (health issue)

Traci Wells, Glenda Mayhew's friend (health issue)

The Rolley Family, Marguerite Bishop's friends (health issues)

Junie "Bug" Treaster (recovering from surgery)

Larry Brown of Chesterfield, Larry Johnson's friend (health issue)

11/28 THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY

S	1st SUNDAY IN ADVENT 28 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship * 5-Cents a Meal Offering Guest preacher: Rev. Beverly Sherrill Bullock 12p Called Congregational Meeting after worship (Election of new Elders & 1 Trustee) <u>Order Xmas Poinsettias</u>	2nd SUNDAY IN ADVENT 5 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship & Holy Communion Guest preacher: Rev. Dr, James Taneti <u>Last day to order Xmas Poinsettias</u>		
M	29	11a Deadline to place Poinsettia order with florist 1p Worship Com.	6	
T	2p Committee reports due	30	1p Circle 7p Congregational Care Com.	7
W	DEC.	1		8
T		2		9
F	9a Church cleaning	3	9a Church cleaning	10
S	3p "Cookies & Cocoa" Outside hosted by GMPC after PG Xmas Parade	4		11

ATTENDANCE WORSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL

	(M)	(V)	(M)	(V)
November 7, 2021	23	7	5	1
November 14, 2021	18	4	4	1
November 21, 2021	24	8	5	1
November 28, 2021				

M=Members

V=Visitors

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's worship service will be led by the Reverend Beverly Sherrill Bullock. We welcome Reverend Bullock to Gregory's pulpit this morning.

The Reverend Beverly Sherrill Bullock is a minister-member of the Presbytery of the James. Married to the Reverend Sylvester H. Bullock, Rev. Bev's ministries have encompassed congregational ministry, interim ministry, campus ministry, hospital chaplaincy, hospice chaplaincy, Presbytery-Synod-General Assembly ministries, ecumenical, interfaith, and multi-cultural worship/dialogues;, as well as pastoral care in the midst of child and elder abuse, sexual assault domestic violence, ecclesiastical sexual misconduct, suicide prevention advocacy and HIV/AIDS advocacy.

The Reverends Bullock are the parents of two (2) daughters and the grandparents of four (4) grandchildren. To date, they have been married 46-plus years and bear witness to 73-plus years of combined ordained ministry. They thank God for the blessed reality of their partnership in marriage and ministry.

Called Congregational meeting today after worship service for election of church Elders and a Trustee.

"Cookies and Cocoa"!!! - GMPC will host "Cookies and Cocoa" outside on Dec. 4 at 3 PM after PG Christmas Parade with hot cocoa and packaged cookies that Outreach Committee will purchase. If you would like to make a donation, contact Lisa Brown (804.926.0991) or the Gregory church office (804.732.1081).

Next Sunday, Dec. 5 – Guest preacher will be Rev. Dr. James Taneti, who teaches Church History at Union Presbyterian Seminary.

Next Sunday, Dec. 5 – Last day to order your Christmas poinsettias. Cost is \$14 each. Order forms are in bulletins and on Narthex table. Make check payable to Gregory Memorial Church and place completed form with payment in collection plate.

Tri-Cities Workcamp 2022 – If you know of any young adults who may be interested in attending July's Workcamp, have them contact Valerie Harsh at t 804.586.1388 ASAP. We need a tentative headcount.

Church Newsletter – We need writers for THE HERALD newsletter's lead article. If you are interested, please call church office (804.732.1081), or email the church at: office@gregorymemorial.org

GREGORY MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

6300 Courthouse Road.

P. O. Box 182, Prince George, VA 23875

www.gregorymemorial.org

www.facebook.com/gmpcva

Telephone: 804.732.1081

Office Hours: Tues.-Thurs., 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Pastor: As announced

Secretary: Nancy Adams (office@gregorymemorial.org)

Organist: Sandra Perkins Pianist: Gail Rollings

Treasurer: Kevin Foster Financial Sec.: Sandy Hunter

Session Members

Rose Scott (2021); David L. Johnson (2021); Barbara Taliaferro (2021)

Mary Holc (2022); Sandy Hunter (2022); Charles Smyth (2022)

Lisa Brown (2023); Donald Hunter (2023)

Clerk of Session

Donald Hunter (2021)

Board of Trustees

John Carl Allen (2021); Ron Recher (2022); Gail Rollings (2023)

Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church
Scriptures for Worship Service - November 28, 2021

1st Reading: Jeremiah 33: 1-3, 14-16

33 The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah a second time, while he was still confined in the court of the guard: ² Thus says the LORD who made the earth, the LORD who formed it to establish it—the LORD is his name: ³ Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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.’

2nd Reading: Luke 21: 25-36

²⁵ ‘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. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and **foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.** ²⁷ Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ ‘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, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ 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.’

Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church
Hymns for Worship Service - November 28, 2021

Hymn #82 - "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

1) Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

2) Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1744; public domain.
MUSIC: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1830; harm.
Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906; public domain.

Hymn #353 - "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

1) My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name. *On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.*

2) When darkness seems to hide his face, I rest on his unchanging grace; in every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. *On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.*

3) His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the whelming flood; when all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay. *On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.*

4) When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found, dressed in his righteousness along, faultless to stand before the throne. *On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.*

TEXT: Edward Mote, c. 1834, alt.; public domain.
MUSIC: William Batchelder Bradbury, 1863, alt.; public domain.