

# **Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church**



**"2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT"**

**December 5, 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**

Larry Johnson

**Passing of the Peace**

Rev. Dr. James Taneti

**Sharing of Joys/Concerns**

**Call to Worship**

One: The season of Advent continues, as we continue to watch for our Lord.

**All: We continue to guard our hearts and minds against idleness and distraction.**

One: The Lord is coming to his temple.

**All: We watch and wait for his coming.**

*Candle Lighter: We light this candle as a symbol of the peace of heart only God can bring.*

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

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

**Call to Confession (Pastor)**

Let's face it. We are sinners and we sin. We desecrate the holy with our ignorance, arrogance, and greed, but we are not too far from grace if we truly confess our shortcomings. God is eager to enter into our lives and cleanse us. Let us return and confess our sins.

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

Holy and righteous God, we are not what we are called to be. We try but we fail whenever we depend on our efforts. In seeking to please you with our efforts, we corrupt your holy and righteous ways. Come and join us. Refine us with your righteous refiner's fire. Remove all our sinful impulses and impurities. Cleanse us with the fullers' soap to make us pure and holy once again. Help us to live in a way that would be pleasing to you, our Lord. Amen.

*(A Moment of Silent Confession)*

**Assurance of Pardon (Pastor)**

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and freed! May your ears hear this good news, and your eyes see the salvation of God!

**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**

**Scripture Readings**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Malachi 3:1-4 p. 778

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Luke 1:68-79 p. 832

**Sermon** "Like Fire and Soap" Rev. Dr. James Taneti

## **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.**

**\*Departing Hymn #313 "Lord, Make Us More Holy"**

### **\*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)  
Family/friends of the Late Mr. John & Mrs. Frances (Waymack) Kohout

**12/5 THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY**

	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	<b>12</b>
S	<b>9:30a</b> Sunday School <b>11a</b> Worship  Guest preacher: Rev. Dr. James Taneti  <i>Last day to                      order Xmas Poinsettias</i>		<b>9:30a</b> Sunday School <b>11a</b> Worship  Guest preacher: Rev. Beverly Sherrill Bullock	
M	<b>11a</b> <u>Deadline to place                      Poinsettia order                      with florist</u>  <b>1p</b> Worship Com.	6	<b>6p</b> BSA Order of Arrow, Nawakwa Lodge 3, Karakona Chapter (Crater District 19) dinner meeting; Fellowship Hall	13
T	<b>1p</b> Circle  <b>6p</b> GSA Troop 5000; Fellowship Hall  <b>7p</b> Congregational Care Com.	7	<b>1p</b> Presbyterian Women meeting at home of Grace Cibula.	14
W		8	Poinsettias delivered today Delivery time: TBA	15
T		9	<b>2p</b> News articles due in office  <b>7p</b> Stewardship & Finance Com.	16
F	<b>9a</b> Church cleaning	10	<b>9a</b> Church cleaning	18
S	<b>12p</b> Memorial service in Sanctuary for Mr. John & Mrs. Frances (Waymack) Kohout; beginning with Masonic Rite for Mr. Kohout, followed by family visitation, then a Celebration of Life" service for the couple.	11		18

**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	30	7	4	1

M=Members

V=Visitors

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Today's worship service** will be led by the Rev. Dr. James Taneti. Dr. Taneti is the Director of the Syngman Rhee Global Mission Center For Christian Education. He is also Assistant Professor of World Christianity at Union Presbyterian Seminary.

An ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church in the United States, Dr. Taneti earlier ministered in church, classroom, clinical and correctional settings. After completing theological education at the United Theological College in India, he received a master's degree at Princeton Theological Seminary and a doctoral degree from Union Presbyterian Seminary. His area of expertise is Christianity outside the western hemisphere.

In addition to numerous essays and book reviews, Dr. Taneti has authored two books about Christianity in South Asia. He and his wife, Mary, have two high school children, Vismai and Vismitha.

**A memorial service** will be held in Gregory's Sanctuary on Saturday, Dec. 11 by the Waymack and Kohout families for Mr. and Mrs. John Kohout. You may recall that Mrs. Frances Waymack Kohout was a member of Gregory Memorial from a very young age until the couple relocated to Florida in 2014. The service will begin at 12:00 p.m. with Masonic Rite for Mr. Kohout, then a short visitation with the family, before proceeding with a "Celebration of Life" service for the couple.

**The Presbyterian Women** will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 14 at 1 p.m. at the home of Grace Cibula.

**Guest preacher** for Sunday, Dec. 12 - Rev. Beverly Sherrill Bullock.

**Stated Session Meeting** – Sunday, Dec. 19 at 12 p.m. in Session Meeting Room, after worship service.

### REMINDERS:

**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 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](mailto: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)

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Malachi 3:1-4**

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Luke 1:68-79**

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. 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.'



Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church  
Hymns for Worship Service - December 5, 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.

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TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1744; public domain.

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

**Hymn #313 "Lord, Make Us More Holy"**

1) Lord, make us more holy; Lord, make us more holy; Lord, make us more holy, until we meet again: holy, holy, holy, until we meet again.

2) Lord, make us more loving; Lord, make us more loving; Lord make us more loving, until we meet again: loving, loving, loving, until we meet again.

3) Lord, make us more patient; Lord, make us more patient; Lord, make us more patient, until we meet again: patient, patient, patient, until we meet again.

4) Lord, make us more faithful; Lord, make us more faithful; Lord, make us more faithful, until we meet again: faithful, faithful, faithful, until we meet again.

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*TEXT and MUSIC: African American spiritual; public domain.*