

Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church



"3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT"

December 12, 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

Rose Scott

Passing of the Peace

Rev. Beverly Sherrill Bullock

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 #630 "Fairest Lord Jesus" ²**

Call to Confession (Pastor) ¹

God promises forgiveness through Jesus Christ. On this Third Sunday of Advent, let us approach God in humility and faith.

Prayer of Confession (Congregation in unison) ¹

Eternal God, John the Baptist prepares the way by calling upon us to repent. We have failed to share as we should. We have failed to honor the poor and the oppressed. We have failed to bear fruit worthy of your salvation. Have mercy upon us, God. Heal and forgive us so we can welcome Christ with pure and genuine hearts. Amen.

(A Moment of Silent Confession)

Assurance of Pardon (Pastor) ¹

With joy, let us draw water from the springs of salvation Give thanks to the Lord! Call on God's name.

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" ²**

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

***Congregational Response Hymn #606 "Praise God From
Whom All Blessings Flow" ²**

***Prayer of Dedication**

WE ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD

Scripture Readings

Old Testament: Zephaniah 3:14-20 p. 767

New Testament: Luke 3:7-18 p. 834

Sermon: "Are You Ready For What's Coming?" 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 People¹ & Lord's Prayer (Pastor & Congregation in unison)

During this season of Advent, we prepare the way of Christ with our prayers of thanksgiving and intercession. *God of our salvation, hear our prayers.*

As the days grow short and the nights loom long, we praise you for these seasonal reminders that there is time for work and time for rest. For those of us who know warm homes and soft places to sleep, we thank you for these precious gifts. We pray for those who are homeless, or whose home is unsafe. May all your children get the rest they need to thrive. *God of our salvation, hear our prayers.*

As divisiveness and conflict continue to plague us, Holy God, we thank you for the generosity, kindness and care this season encourages within us. As we contemplate the vulnerability of Christ, born a fragile infant in a violent world; let us drop our facades and the masks of strength we hide behind. May this season prepare us to celebrate the strength that can be found in weakness and the power held in humility and love. *God of our salvation, hear our prayers.*

As your people gather in homes and churches to celebrate this season, let us be reminded of all the reason we have to rejoice in you. As people of faith, we lift these prayers to you, trusting you to hear us and receive us. Hear us now as we pray the prayer Christ taught us by saying together, "Our Father..."

***Departing Hymn #196 "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"²**

***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)

¹ Resource: Teri McDowell Ott, Presbyterian Outlook.

² Resource: Hymns from Glory To God, The Presbyterian Hymnal,
2013 Westminster John Knox Press; public domain.

12/12 THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY

S	3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship Guest preacher: Rev. Beverly Sherrill Bullock	4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT 19 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship * <i>Christmas Joy Offering</i> Guest preacher: Rev. Beverly Sherrill Bullock 12p Session meeting (Rev. Bullock, Moderator) & examination of Elders- elect in preparation of Ceremony of Ordination & Installation during worship service on 12/26
M	6p BSA Order of Arrow Nawakwa Lodge 3, Karakona Chapter (Crater District 19) dinner meeting; Fellowship Hall kitchen, reception & dining rooms 13	9a-2p Church office open 20
T	1p Presbyterian Women meeting at home of Grace Cibula. 14	9a-2p Church office open 21
W	11a Poinsettias delivered today 15	9a-2p Church office open 22 2p Newsletter out
T	2p News articles due in office 16 7p Stewardship & Finance Com.	23
F	9a Church cleaning 17	CHRISTMAS EVE 24 9a Church cleaning 7p Christmas Eve service (by Laity)
S	18	CHRISTMAS DAY 25

	ATTENDANCE		WORSHIP		SUNDAY SCHOOL	
	(M)	(V)	(M)	(V)	(M)	(V)
December 5, 2021	24	6			5	
December 12, 2021						
December 19, 2021						
December 26, 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 Memorial's pulpit this morning.

The Presbyterian Women will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 14 at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Grace Cibula.

Guest preacher for Dec. 19 and 26: Rev. Beverly Sherrill Bullock.

Stated Session Meeting for December will be held after worship service on Sunday, Dec. 19 at 12:00 p.m. in the Session Meeting Room. Rev. Bullock will serve as Moderator. Included in Session business, Session will examine Elders-elect William ("Bill") Shill and Susan Shockley in preparation of the Ceremony of Ordination of Bill Shill as Elder and Installation of Class of 2024 Elders Rose Scott, Susan Shockley, David L. ("Larry") Johnson and Bill Shill that will be held during worship service on Sunday, Dec. 26 with Rev. Bullock officiating.

Church Office Hours during upcoming Christmas/New Year Holidays:
Week of Dec. 19: Mon., Tues., Wed. (Dec. 20, 21, 22) from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Week of Dec. 26: Tues., Wed., Thurs. (Dec. 28, 29, 30) from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m

REMINDER:

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

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 – December 12 2021

Old Testament Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to
Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior
who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew youⁱⁿ in his love; he will exult over you with
loud singing
as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.
I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.

And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the
earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before
your eyes, says the LORD.

New Testament Reading: Luke 3:7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from
the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as
our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is
lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the
fire.'

And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must
share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be
baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount
prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money
from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he
might be the Messiah,ⁱⁿ John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more
powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you withⁱⁿ the Holy
Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his
granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church

Hymns for Worship Service – December 12, 2021

#630 – "Fairest Lord Jesus"

1) Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature, O thou of God to earth come down, thee will I cherish, thee will I honor, thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

2) Fairest are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands, robed in the blooming garb of spring. Jesus is fairer; Jesus is purer, who makes the woeful heart to sing.

3) Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, and all the twinkling, starry host. Jesus shines brighter; Jesus shines purer, than all the angels heaven can boast.

4) Beautiful Savior, Ruler of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!

TEXT: Munster *Gesangbuch*, 1677; stanzas 1-3, trans. *Church Chorals and Choir Studies*, 1850, alt.; stanza 4, trans. Joseph August Seiss, 1873, alt.; public domain.

MUSIC: Silesian folk melody; *Schlesische Volkslieder*, 1842; public domain.

#196 "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

1) Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son, who in the Lord's name comest, the King and blessed One. *All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King, to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!*

2) The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went; our praise and prayers and anthems before thee we present. *All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King, to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!*

3) To thee, before thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise; to thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise. *All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King, to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!*

4) Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring, who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King! *All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King, to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!*

TEXT: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 820; trans. John Mason Neale, 1851, alt.; public domain.

MUSIC: Melchior Teschner, 1614; arr. William Henry Monk, 1861; public domain.