

Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church



"4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT"

December 19, 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: My soul magnifies the Lord;

All: My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

One: The Mighty One has done great things!

All: Holy is God's name!

Candle Lighter: We light this candle as a symbol of God's love for us and our love for one another.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

***Opening Hymn #12 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" ²**

Call to Confession (Pastor) ¹

The prophet Micah tells us that the "one of peace" will come from Bethlehem. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, let us confess our sins and set ourselves on Christ's path.

Prayer of Confession (Congregation in unison) ¹

Soon we will celebrate the Prince of Peace, but we are not a people at peace. We glorify violence and dismiss the pacifist as weak. We dominate and demean in our conversations and relationships. We wage war with our enemies and invest in self-defense without careful regard of the consequences or exhausting non-violent strategies. Lord, forgive us. Help us work towards your peaceable kin-dom, where swords will be beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks. Amen.

(A Moment of Silent Confession)

Assurance of Pardon (Micah 5:4-5) (Pastor) ¹

"And he will stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord ... And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace." In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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: Psalm 80:1-7 p.470-471

New Testament: Luke 1:39-55 p.831-832

Sermon "Find A Quiet Place" 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)

Come, O Come, Emmanuel...

Come to bring peace to those at war with themselves, their families, their enemies. May those who govern do so with good will and justice, breaking down barriers, fostering understanding, and drawing our communities and our nations together in peace.

Come, O Come, Emmanuel...

Come to bring comfort to those in pain, those who grieve, those in need of healing and restoration. May those who suffer be assured of your extravagant grace and comforted by the hope that nothing shall separate them from your love.

Come, O Come, Emmanuel...

Come to bring compassion to those who are weak and weary, those who stumble through their days unable to recognize the beauty and meaning of life. May those who are unemployed, those who are struggling financially, those suffering under the crushing weight of debt, find your way out of no way. Grant them options, God. Grant them hope.

Come, O Key of David, O Radiant Dawn, O Root of Jesse, O Emmanuel...

Come to us again this Christmas. Fill the world with your grace and peace. Finally, hear us now, as we pray the prayer Christ taught us by saying together, "Our Father ..."

***Departing Recitation (Pastor & Congregation in unison, without music)**

Words of Hymn #88 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, Verses 1 & 7²

***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)

12/19 THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY

S	<p>4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT 19</p> <p>9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship <i>* Christmas Joy Offering</i></p> <p>Guest preacher: Rev. Beverly Sherrill Bullock</p> <p>12p Session meeting (Rev. Bullock, Moderator) & examination of Elders- elect in preparation of Ceremony of Ordination & Installation during worship service to be held on 12/26</p>	<p>1st SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 26</p> <p>9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship & Ordination & Installation Ceremony for New Elders</p> <p><i>* 5 Cents a Meal Offering</i></p> <p>Guest preacher: Rev. Beverly Sherrill Bullock</p>
M	Church office open 20	27
T	Church office open 21	Church office open 28
W	Church office open 2p Newsletter out 22	Church office open 29
T	23	Church office open 30
F	<p>9a Church cleaning 24</p> <p>6:30p Christmas Eve service by Gregory Memorial Laity</p>	<p>9a Church cleaning 31</p>
S	<p>25</p> <p>CHRISTMAS DAY</p>	<p>JAN. 1</p> <p>NEW YEAR'S DAY 2022</p>

ATTENDANCE	WORSHIP		SUNDAY SCHOOL	
	(M)	(V)	(M)	(V)
December 5, 2021	24	6	5	
December 12, 2021	29	4	5	
December 19, 2021				
December 26, 2021				

M=Members

V=Visitors

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome Rev. Beverly Sherrill Bullock to Gregory Memorial's pulpit today.

Guest preacher for Sunday, Dec. 26 - Rev. Beverly Sherrill Bullock.

Today's Special Offering - Please use the envelope provided in today's bulletin for the Christmas Joy Offering.

As you may notice, our Christmas Poinsettias have arrived! The dedication listing for these brilliantly beautiful plants is enclosed.

The Session will meet today after worship service in the Session Meeting Room for its Stated December meeting, including examination of 2 Elders-elect (Susan Shockley and Bill Shill) and ordination (Bill Shill). Rev. Bullock will serve as Session Moderator.

"These Days" (Jan. - Mar. ed.) – Pick up your copy from the Narthex table.

Christmas Eve Service by Laity - A service of song and readings by Gregory's laity will be held on Christmas Eve. Friday, Dec. 24 at 6:30 p.m.

Church Office Hours during upcoming Christmas & New Year Holiday:
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 – *HELP!!!* We need writers for THE HERALD newsletter's lead article. Doesn't need to be a long article---we can combine several shorts to make an interesting Front Page. If you would like to share your writing talent with us, please call Nancy at the church office (804.732.1081), or email Nancy at: office@gregorymemorial.org

"A merry heart does good like medicine." ~ Proverbs 17:22

HAVE A BLESSED & MERRY CHRISTMAS!

¹ Resource: Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott for free distribution, Presbyterian Outlook, 2021.

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

GREGORY MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

6300 Courthouse Road.

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

www.gregorymemorial.org

www.facebook.com/gmpeva

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)