

**GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST,  
AND ON EARTH PEACE,  
GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN**

# Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church



## "1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS"

December 26, 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. Beverly Sherrill Bullock

**Sharing of Joys/Concerns**

**Call to Worship**

One: On this day earth shall ring –

**All: Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

One: For Christ our Lord has been born for us, the Son given to us –

**All: Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

One: Love has come down at Christmas,

**All: And perfect love has absolved all fear.**

One: Friends, let us rejoice this day!

**All: For Christ is born, and the angels sing: Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

\*Opening Hymn #119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing<sup>2</sup>

### **Call to Confession (Pastor)**

When Jesus was born, he came to world filled with poverty, and violence, and fear. He lived among people who did not always walk their walk perfectly, which is to say, Jesus was no stranger to sin. Our sin comes as no surprise to him. His love and mercy should come as no surprise to us. Therefore, let us make our confession before God and one another.

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

Holy God, Lord of love:

For not singing when we are joyful;

For not shouting to the world the good that you do;

For not trusting the love that surrounds us;

For not enacting the justice you call us to;

For not believing the Good News is meant for all:

Forgive us. Encourage us and change us, help us and inspire us,

that we, like Mary, will magnify you, and rejoice in God our Savior. Amen.

*(A Moment of Silent Confession)*

### **Assurance of Pardon (Pastor)**

Friends, this Good News is for all the world: Christ was born, lived and died, and rose again that we would be freed from sin and death. Know that indeed you are forgiven, and be at peace. **Alleluia! 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"<sup>2</sup>

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

\***Congregational Response** Hymn #606 "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"<sup>2</sup>

\***Prayer of Dedication**

## **WE ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD**

### **Scripture Readings**

Old Testament: Psalm 148 p. 508

New Testament: Luke 2:41-52 p. 833-834

**Sermon** "The First Nowell" 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: If we had a fraction of the faith in you that you have in us

**All: then this world would be transformed, Lord.**

One: If we showed a fraction of the love that you show to us

**All: then this world would be transformed, Lord**

One: If we possessed a fraction of the patience that you display with us

**All: then this world would be transformed, Lord.**

One: If we shared just a portion of the blessings that we have received from you

**All: then this world would be transformed, Lord.**

One: If we showed as much trust in others as you have shown in us

**All: then this world would be transformed, Lord.**

One: If we claimed just a fraction of the power you promised to your Church

**All: then this world would be transformed, Lord.**

One: Transform us first, Lord, that we might transform this world through your love and your power – as we pray together,

**“Our Father...”**

### **Ordination & Installation of Elders**

**\*Departing Hymn #147 "The First Nowell"<sup>2</sup>**

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

**12/26 THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY**

S	<b>1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS</b>  <b>9:30a</b> Sunday School <b>11a</b> Worship * 5 Cents a Meal Offering  Guest preacher: Rev. Beverly Sherrill Bullock	26	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS</b>  <b>9:30a</b> Sunday School <b>11a</b> Worship & Holy Communion  Guest preacher: Rev/ Dr. Erroll G. Rohr	2
M		27	<b>1p</b> Worship Com., & removal of Xmas decorations	3
T	Church office open	28	<b>1p</b> Circle  <b>6p-9p</b> GSA Tr. 5000 (Fellowship Hall dining room, Kitchen & reception area)  <b>7p</b> Congregational Care Com  <b>7p</b> Christian Ed. Com.  <b>7p</b> Facilities Com.	4
W	Church office open	29		5
T	Church office open	30	<b>EPIPHANY</b>	6
F	<b>9a</b> Church cleaning	31	<b>9a</b> Church cleaning	7
S	JAN. 1  <b>NEW YEAR'S DAY 2022</b>			<b>8</b>

ATTENDANCE	WORSHIP		SUNDAY SCHOOL	
	(M)	(V)	(M)	(V)
December 5, 2021	24	6	5	
December 12, 2021	29	4	5	
December 19, 2021	28	7	4	
December 26, 2021				

M=Members

V=Visitors

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**This morning's worship service** will include the Ordination and Installation of the newly-elected Elders for the Class of 2024. Elder Bill Shill will be ordained and installed. Previously ordained, Rose Scott, Susan Shockley, and Larry Johnson, will also be installed.

**Guest preacher: Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022** - Rev. Dr. Erroll G. Rohr.

**Holy Communion: Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022;** Officiant: Dr. Erroll G. Rohr.

**Church Office Hours during upcoming week:**

Tues., Wed., Thurs. (Dec. 28, 29, 30) from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Session Meeting Schedule for 2022:** Session will meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month in 2022 as follows, unless otherwise announced:

January 16, 2022	July 17, 2022
February 20, 2022	August 21, 2022
March 20, 2022	September 18, 2022
April 17, 2022	October 16, 2022
May 15, 2022	November 20, 2022
June 19, 2022	December 18, 2022

**Holy Communion Schedule for 2022:** In accordance with recommendation of the Worship Committee, the Gregory Session established the following dates for Holy Communion on the first Sunday in the odd-numbered months as follows:

January 2, 2022	July 3, 2022
March 6, 2022	September 4, 2022
May 1, 2022	November 6, 2022

**REMINDER:**

**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](mailto:office@gregorymemorial.org)

---

<sup>1</sup> Resource: Rev. Beth Merrill Neel, <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com>

<sup>2</sup> 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](http://www.gregorymemorial.org)  
[www.facebook.com/gmpcva](https://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](mailto: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)



**Old Testament Reading: Psalm 148**

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host! Praise him, sun and moon;  
praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the  
heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.  
He established them for ever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost,  
stormy wind fulfilling his command! Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!  
Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds! Kings of the earth and all  
peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! Young men and women alike, old and young  
together!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth  
and heaven. He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people  
of Israel who are close to him. Praise the Lord!

**New Testament Reading: Luke 2:41-52**

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents<sup>[a]</sup> saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house? But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

**Hymn #119 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"**

- 1) Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King. Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies; with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
- 2) Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate deity, pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.
- 3) Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

---

*TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.; public domain.*

*MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. William Hayman Cummings, 1855; public domain.*

**Hymn #147 "The First Nowell"**

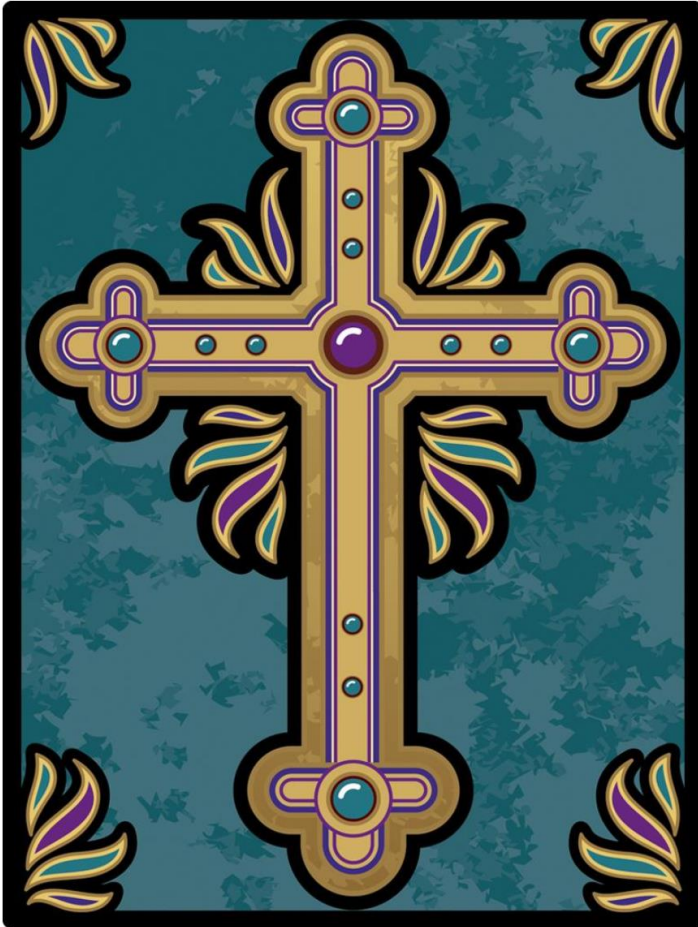
- 1) The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. *Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Is-ra-el.*
- 2) They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. *Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Is-ra-el.*
- 3) And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far; to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. *Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Is-ra-el.*
- 4) This star drew nigh to the northwest; o'er Bethlehem it took its rest, and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay. *Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Is-ra-el.*
- 5) Then entered in those wise men three, full reverently upon their knee, and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the king of Is-ra-el.*
- 6) Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord, that hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our life hath bought. *Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the king of Is-ra-el.*

---

*TEXT: English carol; Some Ancient Christmas Carols, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1823, alt.; public domain.*

*MUSIC: English carol; Sandy's Christmas Carols, 1833; public domain.*

The Ordination and Installation  
Of Ruling Elders  
Gregory Memorial PC(USA)



Sunday, December 26, 2021  
Rev. Beverly Bullock, Officiating

## RULING ELDERS

"As there were in Old Testament times **elders** for the government of the people, so the New Testament Church provided persons with particular gifts to share in discernment of God's Spirit and governance of God's people. Accordingly, congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit. Ruling elders are so named not because they 'lord it over' the congregation (Matt. 20:25) but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life...When elected by the congregation, they shall serve faithfully as members of the session..."

(G-2.0301 – Book of Order)

### **To Be Ordained & Installed:**

William Shill (Class of 2023)

### **To Be Installed:**

David L. Johnson (Class of 2022)

Rose Scott (Class of 2024)

Susan Shockley (Class of 2024)

## SERVICE OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

" A service of ordination, installation, or commissioning focuses on Christ and the joy and responsibility of serving him through the mission and the ministry of the church..." (W-4.0403 – Book of Order)

Purpose and Nature of the Office

The Calling Forth

The Constitutional Questions

Questions to the Congregation

Laying On of Hands (For Ordination)

Declarations  
of Ordination and Installation

Reception of Certificates and Welcome

Prayer

## JESUS CHRIST IS HEAD OF THE CHURCH

"Almighty God, who raised Jesus Christ from the dead and set him above all rule and authority, has given to him all power in heaven and on earth, not only in this age but also in the age to come. God has put all things under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and has made Christ Head of the Church, which is his body..."

(F-1.0201 – Book of Order)

## THE SESSION

"The session is the council for the congregation...The session shall have responsibility for governing the congregation and guiding its witness to the sovereign activity of God in the world, so that the congregation is and becomes a community of faith, hope, love, and witness..."

(G-3.0201, G – Book of Order)

## Christmas Poinsettias – 2021



*The beautiful poinsettia plants in our Sanctuary  
are given to the glory of God by the following:*

**Brown, Larry, Lisa, Nadia & Mark (3R)** – In memory of Wayne Pruitt; In memory of Jeanette Shady & Robert Shady; In memory of Steve & Frances Shady.

**Cashing, Betsy & Doug (2R)** – In honor of our friends at Gregory Memorial.

**Grace Cibula (2R)** – In honor of Sandra Perkins; In honor of Gail Rollings.

**Figg, Ruth (1R)** – In memory of Kenneth L. Figg, Jr.

**Foster, Evelyn (1R)** – In memory of Garland R. Foster, Sr.

**The Hunter Family (2W)** – In honor of The Adult Sunday School Class; In memory of our parents & grandparents.

**Larry & Linda Johnson (2R)** - In honor of our beautiful grandchildren, Corinne, Jack, Owen & Emily; In memory of our parents.

**Mary Lykins (1W)** – In honor of David Lykins.

**Scott, Rose & Wayne Powers (1R)** – In memory of Gladys & Roland Wiseman, Peg Ward & Jimmy Wiseman

**Shirley MacNeill (1R)** – In memory of Jim MacNeill, Trudy McClenny & Aida Faries.

**Smyth Family (2R)** – Given to the glory of God.

**Janet Swinton (1R)** – In memory of parents, Harry & Eunice Peterson.

**Barbara Taliaferro (2R)** - In memory of husband, Tommie Taliaferro; In memory of son, Tracy Taliaferro.