

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome the Rev. Charles Philips back to our pulpit today!

December's Guest Preachers:

December 4: Rev. Clay Macaulay

December 11: Service by GMPC Laity; Special Music by "Streets of Gold"

December 18: Rev. Charles Philips

December 25: Rev. Dr. Charles E. Bagwell

Christmas Poinsettias in our Sanctuary are given to the glory of God in honor of and in memory of those listed in the enclosed Poinsettia Dedication insert.

Today, we will receive the **5 Cents-a-Meal Offering** and also the **Christmas Joy Offering**. Please use the envelope provided in bulletin for the Christmas Joy Offering.

December Stated Session Meeting – 12 p.m. (est.) today after worship service. Moderator: Rev. Charles Philips.

There will be no Christmas Eve service.

GREGORY MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

6300 Courthouse Rd. / 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

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Session Members

(Term = 3 yrs.; * indicates a partial term)

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

Lisa Brown (2023); Donald Hunter (2023); William Shill* (2023)

Rose Scott (2024); David L. Johnson* (2024); Susan Shockley (2024)

Donald Hunter (Clerk of Session - 2022)

Trustees

Ron Recher (2022); Gail Rollings (2023); Donald Hunter (2024)

Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church



Christians Who Love and Care.

"Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End." Revelations 22:12-13

"4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT"

DECEMBER 18, 2022

GREGORY MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT”

DECEMBER 18, 2022

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 that 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 God's presence!

CHORAL PRELUDE

Sandra Perkins, Organist
Gail Rollings, Pianist

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS/ SHARING OF JOYS/CONCERNS

Rose Scott

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Charles Philips

CALL TO WORSHIP [Pastor]

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.

*** OPENING HYMN #106 "Prepare the Way, O Zion"**

CALL TO CONFESSION [Pastor]

In Jesus Christ, God seeks to smooth those places made rough by sin. With humility and hope, let us make our confession.

***Please stand, as able.**

OUR PRAYERS & CONCERNS

Families, persons, entities impacted by Hurricane Ian

People of Ukraine

Those in our community suffering from mental/physical illness,
loss, grief or hardship

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 & Dennis Allen

Eddie Frankenstein

Grace Cibula

Etta Holc

Jerry Hasky (health issue)

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)

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

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

Billy Hudson, friend of Dianna Lykins Flaherty, Mary Lykins' daughter

Renee' Renier, Diana Flaherty's long-time friend (health issue)

Emily Henry, Mary Holc's sister (health issue)

Charlie Perkins (health issue)

Chris Ashby, Wayne Powers' granddaughter Brittney's husband
(health issues)

Judy Recher (problem with knee)

Barbara Taliaferro

Ruth Figg (Petersburg Home for Ladies)

Billy Robertson (recent health issue)

Shirley MacNeill (recent health issue)

Inez Paul, Mary Holc's mother (rehab., Riverview on the Appomattox)

Paula McDaniel, Pam Elder's sister (health issue, St. Francis Hospital)

Family/friends of James T. ("Tommy") Buren (d. 12/13)

ANNOUNCEMENTS – See back page.

THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY

	DECEMBER 18	25
S	4th Sunday of Advent: "Love" 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship Service ➤ 5 Cents Meal Offering ➤ Christmas Joy Offering Guest Preacher: Rev. Charles Philips 12p Stated Session Meeting Moderator: Rev. Philips	Christmas Day 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship Service Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Charles E. Bagwell
M	19	26
T	20	27
W	21	28
T	6a Clean Church 2p Newsletter out	22
F	23	30
S	Christmas Eve	24
		31
		New Year's Eve 2p Cmte reports due

ATTENDANCE:	WORSHIP		SUNDAY SCHOOL	
	M	V	M	V
December 4, 2022	16	10	7	
December 11, 2022	29	25	9	
December 18, 2022				
December 25, 2022				

M=Members V=Visitors

PRAYER OF CONFESSION [In unison]

Great God, as we behold the birth of Jesus again, we are mindful of how we have failed to receive the fullness of that gift. The story points us to your glory, yet we struggle to join in the song of praise and thanksgiving. We are distracted and confused, so focused on things that matter little that we overlook the good news of great joy that you have prepared. Tell us again that the Savior is born. Tell us again that we are forgiven. Tell us again that our lives can be abundant in faith, hope and love because of what you have given us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

(A Moment of Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON [In unison; from Micah 5:4-5]

“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 [Responsive]

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"**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION [In unison]

Gracious God, illumine these words by your Spirit that we might hear what you would have us hear and be who you would us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

SCRIPTURAL READINGS (NRSV)

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-16 p. 554

New Testament Lesson: Matthew 11:18-25 p. 792

SERMON

“The Sign”

Rev. Charles Philips

REFLECTIVE HYMN #93 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH [In unison; John 1:1-5]

"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."

CALL FOR OFFERING [Pastor]

With gratitude for God's faithfulness and with thanksgiving for all that we have received, let us bring our gifts to God.

OFFERING, OFFERTORY

*** DOXOLOGY HYMN #606 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION [In unison]

O God, with faith and hope, we offer these gifts. Use them, even as you use, to accomplish your purposes in Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate and whose Lordship we praise. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER [Responsive]

One: Come, O Come, Emmanuel...

All: 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.

One: Come, O Come, Emmanuel...

All: 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.

One: Come, O Come, Emmanuel...

All: 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.

One: Come, O Key of David, O Radiant Dawn, O Root of Jesse, O Desire Of Nations, 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 HYMN #88 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, Verses 1 & 7**

***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!

CHARGE & BENEDICTION [Pastor]

Let us go trusting that in Jesus Christ, God is with us. Emmanuel. This day, this Christmas, and forevermore, God is with us. Emmanuel. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the companionship of the Holy Spirit be with you and abide with you today and always. Amen.

***POSTLUDE**

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Resource: Hymns from GLORY TO GOD, THE PRESBYTERIAN HYMNAL, Westminster John Knox Press, 2013.

Resource: Liturgy written by John Wurster and provided for free distribution to Congregations for worship use; © Presbyterian Outlook, 2022.

Christmas Poinsettias – 2022



The beautiful poinsettia plants are given by the following:

Grace Cibula (2R) – In memory of Zdenek Benes.

Sandy and Jim Correll (3R, 4 W) – In honor of our children (Allison, David, Kristen, Morgan, and Patrick and their families) and my mother, Lois Morgan; In memory of my father, Milt Morgan, Jr.

Kevin, Tara, Kevin II and Madison Foster (2R, 2W) – In honor of Evelyn P. Foster, Sarah E. Solesbee and Grace Cibula; In memory of Garland R. Foster, Sr., Franklin E. Solesbee, Sr., and Irving and Jean Waymack.

Maddi Glazer and Jonathan Mendoza (1R) – Given to the glory of God.

The Hunters (1R) – In honor of our grandchildren; In memory of our parents and grandparents.

Linda and Larry Johnson (2R) - In honor of our grandchildren: Corinne, Jack, Owen, Natalie and Emily; In memory of our parents: Homer and Mae Elkins; and Clarence and Ima Johnson.

Mary Lykins (1R, 1W) – In memory of David Lykins.

Shirley MacNeill (1R) – In memory of James MacNeill, Trudy McClenny and Aida Faries.

William Robertson (1R, 1W) – In honor of Shirley MacNeill; In memory of Ruth Robertson.

Howard and Cory Scott (1W) – In memory of Clifford W. Scott, Jr.

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

Janet Swinton (1R) – In memory of Raymond Swinton.

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

Lauren Vaughan (1R) – Given to the glory of God.