

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome the Rev. Dr. Katherine C. Jackson to Gregory Memorial's pulpit today!

December Preachers:

December 1 – Communion: Rev. Dr. Katherine C. Jackson; L. Johnson, Announcer

December 8: Rev. Nancy S. Clark; S. Shockley, Announcer

December 15: Service at 3 p.m.: Rev. Marvin Daniel; R. Scott, Announcer

December 22: Rev. Marvin Daniel; Mary Holc, Announcer

December 24 – Christmas Eve Service: Rev. Dr. Katherine C. Jackson

December 29: Rev. Marvin Daniel; D. Hunter, Announcer

Advent Candle lighters:

Dec. 1: 1st Sunday of Advent:

David & Lauren Togger

Dec. 8: 2nd Sunday of Advent:

Barbara Taliaferro & Mary Lykins

Dec. 15: 3rd Sunday of Advent:

Jonathan & Maddi Mendoza

Dec. 22: 4th Sunday of Advent:

Mary & Sarah Webber

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve:

Rose Scott & Wayne Powers

Today we celebrate **Holy Communion**.

Christmas Poinsettias! Today's the last day to order your Christmas Poinsettias!

Color choices are: RED or WHITE. Cost: \$17 per plant (cost includes poinsettia and delivery fee). Please make your check payable to "Gregory Memorial" and place with your order form (blank form is enclosed) in the collection plate.

Christmas Cards – Cards will be given out after Dec. 8.

Circle will meet at 12 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 17; Location: Susan Shockley's.

Faith Cmte meets at 2:30 p.m. at GMPC on Saturday, Dec. 7.

"Cookies & Cocoa" Open House after PG Christmas Parade, Saturday, Dec. 7 at 3 p.m.

Christmas Cantata and Worship Service at 3 p.m. on Dec. 15: The combined choirs of Trinity UMC and Gregory Memorial PC will present the Christmas Cantata, "Celebrate! The Joy and Wonder of Christmas" at Trinity UMN at 11 a.m. Then, at 3 p.m. the choirs will perform a repeat performance of the Cantata at Gregory Memorial with a brief worship service. Please mark your calendar for 3 p.m. on Dec. 15. Refreshments will follow in the Fellowship Hall. Don't forget to bring a friend!

Angel Tree – Pick up your gift card from the Angel Tree in the Narthex. To benefit the ASK Childhood Cancer Foundation. Deadline for bringing the un-wrapped gifts is Dec. 22. See details on this in the December Newsletter.

Resource: *Holy Bible*, (NRSV) © 1989 by Div. of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. All rights reserved. Published by Zondervan.

Resource: *Hymns, Glory To God, Presbyterian Hymnal*, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press.

Resource: AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: "The Apostle's Creed"; "ASSURANCE OF PARDON", *Book of Common Worship*.

Resource: Combined liturgy (Rev. Thom Shuman's Lectionary Liturgies blog; Rev. Teri McDowell Ott, editor of *Presbyterian Outlook* and provided to congregations freely for worship use; © 2024 *Presbyterian Outlook*.)

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*

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 1, 2024

11:00 a.m.

GREGORY MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT”
December 1, 2024
11:00 a.m.

PRELUDE Sandra Perkins, Organist
Gail Hare, Pianist

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS/
SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS Larry Johnson

PASSING OF THE PEACE Rev. Dr. Katherine C. Jackson

CALL TO WORSHIP [*Responsive; based on Luke 21:25-28*]

One: Christ is coming!

All: **We will keep awake!**

One: Christ is coming!

All: **We will be ready!**

One: Christ is coming! Raise your heads because your redemption is drawing near!

All: **Praise be to God! We will worship and prepare**

Candle Lighter: We light this candle as a symbol of the hope we have in the promise of the Lord’s coming. David & Lauren Togger

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

*OPENING HYMN # 93 “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

CALL TO CONFESSION [*Pastor*]

Preparing for Christ’s coming requires honest examination of our lives and our hearts. Let us turn to God in prayer to confess our sins.

Please stand, as able.

OUR PRAYERS & CONCERNS

First-responders, world-wide
Our deployed U.S. service personnel & their families
Families, persons, communities affected by weather disasters & gun violence
All families affected by the Israeli-Gaza Strip war
People & Sovereign Country of Ukraine; Russian citizens conscripted into war
Those in our community suffering from illness/loss/grief/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
Eddie Frankenstein
Etta Holc
Jerry & Ruby Hasky (health issues)
Lee Harsh, Valerie Harsh's brother-in-law (health issue)
Larry Brown of Chesterfield, Larry Johnson's friend (health issue)
Renee' Renier, Diana Flaherty's long-time friend (health issue)
Emily Henry, Mary Holc’s sister (health issue)
Charlie Perkins (health issue)
Paula McDaniel, Pam Elder's sister (health issue)
Moneka Suprenant, Susan Shockley’s & Sandy Eickmeyer’s friend (brain injury)
Mary Kay & Mike Schroeter (health issues)
Dr. Joseph Hillier of Matoaca, Lykins family friend (health issue)
Peggy & Dennis Allen (health issues; Peggy - Petersburg Home for Ladies, Rm #18)
Corey Whelan, Pat Hunter’s grandson (on-going health issue)
Judy Recher (health issue)
Shirley MacNeill (health issues)
Valerie Harsh, living in Staunton, VA (health issue)
Sean Godwin, grandson of Bill & Cheryl Godwin (health issue: MCV-Massey)
Evelyn Foster (Petersburg Home for Ladies, Rm #22)

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THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY

S	DECEMBER 1 "1st Sunday of Advent" 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship Service & Holy Communion By: Rev. Dr. K.C. Jackson <i>Last day to order your Christmas Poinsettias!</i> <i>Angel Tree gift tags are ready for selection (Deadline for return of not-wrapped gifts is Dec. 22)</i>	DECEMBER 8 "2nd Sunday of Advent" 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship Service By: Rev. Nancy S. Clark
M	2	9
T	3 Worship Cmte: Place Poinsettia order w/Florist by 11 a.m.	10
W	4	11
T	5 6a Clean church 6-8p BSA Cub Pack 910 (Fellowship Hall, Kitchen)	12 6a Clean church 7-9p GSA Tr 5000 (Fellowship Hall, Kitchen)
F	6	13
S	7 11a Worship Cmte & volunteers decorate the church 2:30p Faith Cmte meets at GMPC 3p "Cookies & Cocoa" Open House after PG Christmas Parade 8p PG Study Group AA meeting (Fellowship Hall)	14 8p PG Study Group AA meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Worship Attendance	M	V	M	V
November 3, 2024	21	6	13	
November 10, 2024	24	5	13	
November 17, 2024	25	8	13	
November 24, 2024	21	8	11	

M=Members V=Visitors

PRAYER OF CONFESSION [In unison; from Rev. Thom Shuman's Lectionary Liturgies blog]

It is never easy for us to confess our sins, Waiting God. There are the hurts we have caused to our families and friends, which we would like to forget. There are those we believe are impossible to love, and so we do not try. There are people who live on the edge of our society, and we ignore their cries for help. Forgive us, God who comes near to us. When we have lost our way, show us yours. Lead us in humility down the streets of your kingdom. Teach us your truth, so we might be able to keep your Word, revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

[Pause for a moment of silent confession]

ASSURANCE OF PARDON [Pastor]

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE HYMN #581 "Glory Be to the Father"**

***PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION [In unison]**

Savior God, guide us by your word and Spirit, that we might hear Your truth, heed your call and be prepared for Christ's coming this Christmas. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING [Holy Bible, NRSV Trans.]

New Testament: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

SERMON "Living Advent" Rev. Dr. Katherine C. Jackson

***REFLECTIVE HYMN # 83 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH [In unison; Apostle's Creed]

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

CALL FOR OFFERING [Pastor]

OFFERING, OFFERTORY

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

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION [In unison]**

Advent comes with the promise of light and love to come. Advent comes with the promise that, if we just wait, the Prince of Peace will arrive. Advent comes with the expectation that the best is yet to be. As we offer our gifts, let it be with thanksgiving and joy that we are able to bring the light of Advent into another's dark world. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER [Pastor leads ... Copied from *Homiletics Online*]

One: During this holy season of waiting, O God, grace us with the presence of mind to be attuned to what this season is all about, and just what it is we are celebrating.

All: Let us walk slowly into Advent and wait as Mary did and ponder this wondrous birth. Instead of racing to the store and becoming engulfed in mall madness.

One: Let us walk slowly into Advent and watch for the holy happenings that come to us as we journey to Bethlehem.

All: In the midst of December darkness, open our eyes to the gift of light in our lives: the smile of a child, the hug of a friend, our family gathered here, in this place, the delight of music, the aroma of good things baking and the wind in our faces as we walk toward the warmth of home.

One: Let us walk slowly into Advent that we might take note "whenever and wherever God comes ... even to a godforsaken place like a stable."

All: Let us watch where we are going as we walk slowly into Advent so that we might kneel and greet the babe with ready and restful hearts.

One: We offer our prayers in the name of the one for whom we wait, who walks with us even in our darkest times, Jesus the Christ, who taught his disciples that when we pray we are to say...
"Our Father ..."

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE Rev. Dr. Katherine C. Jackson
[Please refer to insert, "THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION"]

***DEPARTING HYMN # 134 "Joy to the World"**

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION [Pastor]**

POSTLUDE