

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome the Rev. Marvin Daniel 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

Our 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 Webber & Sarah Schrum

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve:

Rose Scott & Wayne Powers

Today, we welcome William A. ("Billy") Robertson into our membership.

Please note that moving forward, we will stand (as able) for the Affirmation of Faith, as noted with the *.

Angel Tree – Today's the last day for bringing in your Angel Tree gifts to benefit the ASK Childhood Cancer Foundation.

Christmas Joy Offering – Will be received today. An envelope and is provided for your offering with a flyer detailing how the funds will be spent.

Christmas Eve Service – 7:00 p.m. Rev. Dr. K. C. Jackson will lead our service, opening with the Christmas Pageant.

Epiphany Luncheon, Jan. 5 - Rev. Dr. K. C. Jackson, in conjunction with the Faith Committee, will be hosting an Epiphany Luncheon immediately after Worship on January 5, 2025 (Menu: soup, sandwiches and a special dessert). You can count on having lots of fun, and you may even learn some facts about Epiphany that you didn't know!! What a wonderful way to kick off the New Year. No cooking required; just come and enjoy. As always, please take this opportunity to invite a friend to join you! *All are welcome at Gregory Memorial!*

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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 22, 2024

11:00 a.m.

GREGORY MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT”

December 22, 2024

11:00 a.m.

PRELUDE Sandra Perkins, Organist
Gail Hare, Pianist

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS/
SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS** Mary Holc

PASSING OF THE PEACE Rev. Marvin Daniel

CALL TO WORSHIP [*Responsive; Luke 1:46*]

One: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

All: With Mary, our spirits rejoice, and we sing God’s praise.

One: Let us honor God with our worship this fourth Sunday of Advent.

Candle Lighter: *We light this candle as a symbol of God’s love for us and our love for one another.* Mary Webber & Sarah Schrum

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

***OPENING HYMN # 113 “Angels We Have Heard on High”**

CALL TO CONFESSION [*Pastor*]

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.

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 & civil unrest in Syria
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 (health issue)
Mary Kay & Mike Schroeter (health issues)
Dr. Joseph Hillier of Matoaca, Lykins family friend (health issue)
Peggy & Dennis Allen (health issues)
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)
Evelyn Foster
Michael Evans, former son-in-law of Nancy & A. W. Adams and son of Bobby & Sandra Tipton and Ray Evans (health issue)
Frank (“Butch”) Reiter, Jr. (health issue)

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THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY

	DECEMBER 22 "4th Sunday of Advent" 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship service By: Rev. Marvin Daniel ➤ 5 Cents-a-Meal Offering ➤ Christmas Joy Offering	DECEMBER 29 "1st Sunday of Christmas" 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship service By: Rev. Marvin Daniel
M	Church office open 23	Church office open 30
T	Christmas Eve 24 Church office open 7p Christmas Eve Service opens with Christmas Pageant	New Year's Eve 31 Church office open
W	Christmas Day 25 Church office closed	New Year's Day 1 Church office open
T	Church office open 26 6a Clean church 2p Newsletter (Jan) out	6a Clean church 2
F	27	3
S	8p PG Study Group AA meeting (Fellowship Hall) 28	8p PG Study Group AA meeting (Fellowship Hall) 4

Attendance	Worship		Service		Sunday		School	
	M	V	M	V	M	V	M	V
December 1, 2024	20	8	11	2				
December 8, 2024	15	7	13	2				
December 15, 2024	24	28	---					
December 22, 2024								
December 29, 2024								

M=Members V=Visitors

PRAYER OF CONFESSION [In unison]

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 turning dialogue into debate. We wage war with enemies and invest in self-defense before giving non-violent strategies a chance. Lord, forgive us. Help us work towards your peaceable kingdom, where swords will be beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks. Amen.

[Pause for a moment of silent confession]

ASSURANCE OF PARDON [Pastor; Micah 5:4-5]

One: "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."

All: **In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

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

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

Open us, Holy One, to your Word and your Way. As we make our final preparations before Christmas, clear our minds of holiday distractions and long list of to-dos. Help us approach your Word with awe and wonder, so we may hear the message you intend for us today. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING [Holy Bible, NRSV Trans.]

Old Testament: Isaiah 9:1-7 [p.555]

Psalm 98 [p. 480]

Reader: M. Holc

New Testament: John 3:16-21 [p. 864]

SERMON

"Love Came Down"

Rev. Marvin Daniel

*** REFLECTIVE HYMN # 123 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH [fr Book of Common Worship, Colossians 1:15–20]**

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

CALL FOR OFFERING [Pastor]

In this season of generosity, let us remember from whom all our blessings flow. Let us present our tithes and offerings to the Lord.

OFFERING, OFFERTORY

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

FIVE CENTS-A-MEAL OFFERING ("RED WAGON" OFFERING)

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

Holy God, with Mary we seek to magnify you in our worship and in our deeds. Accept these gifts and bless them for Christ's ministry. May they lift the lowly and fill the hungry. May they reveal your glory present with us today and still yet to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER [Pastor leads ...]

One: 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.

All: Come, O Come, Emmanuel...

One: 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.

All: Come, O Come, Emmanuel...

One: 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.

All: Come, O Come, Emmanuel...

One: Come, Lord Jesus. Bring your passions; bring your fire; bring your steadfastness. Inspire our witness. Motivate our mission. Energize your church. Open our minds. Extend our hands. Overcome our lethargy.

All: 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.

One: Finally, hear us now, as we pray the prayer Christ taught us by saying together: **"Our Father ..."**

***DEPARTING HYMN # 634 "To God Be the Glory"**

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION [Pastor]**

Magnify God the Creator; Magnify God the Redeemer; Magnify God the Sustainer in your life and the lives of others. May God bless you, keep you, and encourage you this Sunday and forevermore. Amen.

POSTLUDE