

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GREENSBORO, GEORGIA

Sunday, December 10, 2017

Second Sunday of Advent

Elder of the Month: Jan Brasier

Musician: Joan Stevens Pastor: Rev. Alex Stevens

RINGING OF THE HOUR *(Please be seated.)*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

PRELUDE *Let There Be Peace on Earth*

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 95:1-3, 6-7

O come, let us sing for joy to the Lord, let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods,

Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.

* **HYMN #123, vs 1, 3, 5** *It Came upon a Midnight Clear*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dear Lord, our God, we approach Your infinite goodness, mercy and wisdom realizing that we all fall short of Your standards. We have gone astray by following ourselves rather than You. We have sinned by doing certain things and by not doing other things. We have sinned individually and corporately.

You have reached out for us, knowing our condition, and You have made a way for us. You have set us free from a past that we cannot change, for a future that can be changed. Grant us grace to grow more and more in Your likeness and image, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord we pray.

Hear us now, Lord, as we pray silently to You...

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Spirit of the Living God (insert)*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People: Amen.

* **PEACE OF CHRIST**

* **GLORIA PATRI** *(insert)*

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *Apostles' Creed (insert)*

OFFERING

Invitation to Give

Offertory

* **Doxology** *(insert)*

Prayer of Dedication

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND LORD'S PRAYER

* **HYMN #840** *It Is Well with My Soul*

PROCLAMATION

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament

Special Music

Gospel

Sermon

Jan Brasier

2 Peter 3:8–15a

pew Bible p. 238

Princess Rowland and Matthew Ingram

Mark 1:1-8

pew Bible p. 34

The Way of the Lord

Rev. Alex Stevens

* **HYMN #136**

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

CHARGE AND BLESSING

And all God's children said,

People: Alleluia! Amen!

* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #136, refrain only** *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

* (Those who are able, please stand.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN-SPONSORED CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON is to be held at Mary Graham's home December 19th, at 11: 30 am. (Please email your RSVP to Brooke Hinds at spenbrooke@aol.com) All women of the church are invited.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held after church today. The election of officers for the corporation will take place.

PRAYER LIST AND ANNOUNCEMENTS should be forwarded to Pastor Alex at either 678-897-2299 or waastevens@gmail.com.

THE FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS INVITES YOU TO BE OUR GUESTS AT A CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON... When: Sunday, December 17th, immediately after church. Where: Washington Grass Inn, Siloam, GA. Why: to celebrate the greatest gift ever given, Jesus Christ, our Savior!

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS: 9:45 am. Join us and learn. No homework. No stress. We will continue our study of the Reformation and Reformed Faith.

THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY is a local mission project that knits/crochets shawls to be given to those in need of our remembrance. For information, contact Brooke Hinds at 762-445-1006.

FLOWERS To provide flowers for the church, please see the list in the narthex and speak to Eileen Usherwood or Ann Corry.

MANY THANKS to our Advent Readers this month.

THE SYMBOLISM OF THE ADVENT WREATH The wreath is circular in shape. The circle has no beginning or end, reminding us of God's unending love for us. It is made of fresh evergreens, which are a sign of life in an otherwise lifeless winter. They point to new life and the hope of eternal life that we find in Jesus Christ. They also remind us to pray for the restoration of all of God's creation. The five candles contrast darkness and light. They are lit in succession, one more each week as we count the Sundays in Advent, waiting for Christ's birth, remembering those who waited thousands of years for the Messiah. On Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, the fifth candle—the Christ Candle—is lit. Jesus is the light of the world, and the darkness has not put it out. The full blaze stands for the fulfillment of the promise.

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6

SERVICE MUSIC AND LITURGY

Spirit of the Living God

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me*

Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be; World without end. Amen, Amen*

The Apostles' 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.*

[* the word catholic means universal]

Doxology

*Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost*

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

When you depart this sanctuary, you enter the mission field.

MISSION STATEMENT (where we are now)

We are disciples of Jesus Christ reaching out through mission and warm, welcoming fellowship to individuals of various communities of the Greene County area.

VISION STATEMENT (where we are in the future)

To be the church of choice to the very rapidly growing population of the Greene County area: the active adult community.

A PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Richard of Chichester (1197-1253)

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits which you have won for us, for all the pains and insults which you have borne for us. O most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother, may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

Ps. 96:1-2

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing, and give praise to God's name; tell the glad news of salvation from day to day.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Veterans and military personnel	Doris Birdsong, Andrew Boswell's sister
Dell Boettger, Jane Epps's cousin	David Blough, cancer recovery
Scotty Brazier	Nancy Jo Durham, Judy Boswell's sister
Lanie Epps Whitt	Becky Dennis
Lindsey Walker	Lucy Lathrop, Vivian Ferland's sister
Orphan Aid Liberia	Adair Moore, Jimmy Moore's brother
Johnnie Satterfield	The Owens family (friends of Linda Fowler)
Mildred Tietjen	The Wickland family in their grief
Nancy Gloege	Ed Lewis
Stephen Jackson	Chris Sandoval, Beth Lewis's son-in-law
Chris Penna, surgery recovery	Gary Pressley
Bill Corry	Linda Fowler, health concerns
Victims of violence	Pastor Nominating Committee
Eloise Long, Joan Stevens' aunt	Wildfire victims