

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GREENSBORO, GEORGIA

Sunday, December 17, 2017

Third 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

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 96:1-4a

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord, bless His name; proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day.

Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples.

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.

* HYMN #134

Joy to the World

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Emmanuel, Our God, who is with us, all we, like sheep have gone astray. We have ignored the call of your voice and have gone our own way. At this time of your coming to us we remember to come to you in faith and in truth. Restore us, O God. Help us to stay within the call of your voice, so that we may go in your way, remember your Word to us, and obey your Word in all we do and say. Hear us now, Lord, as we pray silently to You...

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Romans 8:34; 2 Cor. 5:17

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us; Christ rose for us; Christ reigns in power for us, and Christ prays for us.

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

People: Amen.

* PEACE OF CHRIST

* GLORIA PATRI

(insert)

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed (insert)

OFFERING

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Silent Night

Loretta and Daijha Moon

* Doxology

(insert)

Prayer of Dedication

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND LORD'S PRAYER

* HYMN #305

Come Sing, O Church, in Joy

PROCLAMATION

Prayer for Illumination

Jan Brasier

Gospel

John 1:6–8, 19–28

pew Bible p. 91

Special Music

Jessie Oliveri

New Testament

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

pew Bible p. 205

Sermon

Anticipate with Joy

Rev. Alex Stevens

*HYMN #611, vs 1-3

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

CHARGE AND BLESSING

And all God's children said,

People: Alleluia! Amen!

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #611, vs 4

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

* (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.

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

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON... today immediately after church, at Washington Grass Inn, Siloam, GA, as we celebrate the greatest gift ever given, Jesus Christ, our Savior!

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.

OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE will take place at 6 pm next Sunday as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, through the reading of Scripture and the singing of Christmas carols. Any children who wish to join together in singing "Away in a Manger" are invited to meet in the sanctuary at 5:30 pm for practice.

MANY THANKS to our Advent Readers this month and to those who provided and decorated our church with the lovely greenery and Christmas floral arrangements.

THE CHRISTMAS JOY GIFT OFFERING beginning this Sunday supports ministers, church workers and their families who are in need. Please consider supporting this fund. Contact Jan Brazier for details. More information is in the Narthex.

IN LIEU OF THE CATECHISM: Let's stop for a few minutes before or after the service today to appreciate our beautiful sanctuary in all its Christmas glory. Every element seems to resound with the message of God's grace. The building itself is designed with purpose to display God's message to His people. The height of the ceiling and the tall windows showing a wide expanse of sky draw our attention away from our small selves toward Him. The shape of the ceiling suggests the hull of a boat – an ark, if you will. The simplicity of architecture and ornamentation focus our attention on the few items at the front of the church. The pulpit and the Bible stand remind us of the centrality of the Word. The Baptismal Font and the Lord's Table remind us of the Sacraments Jesus commanded. The cross hangs over all to focus our attention and our minds on Jesus Christ and His sacrifice on our behalf. Thanks be to God.

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 *Augustine of Hippo (354-430)*

O loving God, to turn away from you is to fall, to turn toward you is to rise, and to stand before you is to abide forever. Grant us, dear God, in all our duties your help; in all our uncertainties your guidance; in all our dangers your protection; and in all our sorrows your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

“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

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