

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

December 22, 2024

11:00 a.m.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Ding Dong! Merrily on High
Angels We Have Heard on High

CHARLES TOWNE BRASS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

◆ LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

The Bruce Family

*We sing: O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

One: Emmanuel is the name of our long-awaited Savior.

All: Emmanuel means, "God with us."

One: God chose to enter the suffering of humanity.

All: In love, God has acted decisively to redeem our sinful and broken world.

*We sing: O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel.*

One: For God so loved the world, he sent his only begotten son.

All: We know that God loves us.

One: As God has loved us, we are called to love one another.

All: Greater love has no one than this: that he would lay down his life for his friends.

◆ INVOCATION

◆ CAROL NO. 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful
Congregation

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

True God from true God, Light from light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; very God, begotten, not created!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord

THE FIRST LESSON

JOHN 1: 1-5, 14

CAROL

Heavenly Light
Choir

ARR. PETER J. WILHOUSKY

*Sent from heaven, thy rays were given on great and small to shine, O Light Divine! May each soul in sorrow's night see the heavenly light! Thou blessing to all creation, lead us to our salvation! All those whose feet may falter, lead unto the sacred altar! Oh, shine from above, Divine Light of love! Show us the way unto our God, we pray!
Thou our beacon and guide shalt be! Light Divine, we praise Thee!*

THE SECOND LESSON

GENESIS 3:6-13

◆ CAROL No. 82

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
Congregation

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.**

THE THIRD LESSON

ISAIAH 11:1-9

CAROL

The Dream Isaiah Saw
Choir

GLENN RUDOLPH

*Lions and oxen will feed in the hay, leopards will join with the lambs as they play, wolves will be pastured with cows in the glade, blood will not darken the earth that God made. Little child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart.
Bring the dream Isaiah saw: life redeemed from fang and claw.*

*Peace will pervade more than forest and field: God will transfigure the violence concealed deep in the heart and in systems of gain, ripe for the judgment the Lord will ordain. Little child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart.
Bring the dream Isaiah saw: justice purifying law.*

*Nature reordered to match God's intent, nations obeying the call to repent, all of creation completely restored, filled with the knowledge and love of the Lord. Little child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart.
Bring the dream Isaiah saw: knowledge, wisdom, worship, awe.*

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Claire Winkles

*Following Children's Time, children ages 2-3K (Wee Church) and 4-5 K (Children's Church) will gather in the narthex with adult leaders and then be led to the Children's Building.
Parents may pick them up following the service.*

THE FOURTH LESSON

LUKE 1:39-45

POEM

The Transfiguration of Mary

Natasha Akery

CAROL

Song of Mary
Choir

RICHARD SHEPHARD

*My Lord and Savior is my song. He fills my spirit with delight. To raise me up his arm is strong, the lowly precious in his sight.
Magnificat anima mea Dominum (My soul magnifies the Lord). My name shall live from age to age, and every tongue His
servant bless, for mercy is their heritage whose hearts the Holy One confess. The proud beguiled by dreams of power divided and
degraded lie: He casts them down from throne and tower and stoops to lift the humble high. He feeds the hungry at his board and
sends the rich unfilled away, and mindful of his promised word has answered Israel's prayer today. With all the elders of our race,
and those unborn who seek this birth, I sing the glory of his grace who brings eternity to earth.*

THE FIFTH LESSON

MATTHEW 1:18-25

CAROL

Jesus, Name Above All Names
Molly Griggs

*Jesus, name above all names; Beautiful Savior, Glorious Lord
Emmanuel, God is with us; Blessed Redeemer, Living Word
Jesus, name above all names; Beautiful Savior, Glorious Lord
Emmanuel, God is with us; Blessed Redeemer, Living Word*

THE SIXTH LESSON

LUKE 2:1-7

◆ CAROL NO. 115

Away in a Manger
Congregation

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

THE SEVENTH LESSON

LUKE 2:8-20

◆ CAROL NO. 113

Angels We Have Heard on High
Congregation

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

CAROL

In the Bleak Midwinter
Choir

GWYNETH WALKER

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan. Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone. Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow. In the bleak midwinter, long ago. Heaven cannot hold him, nor can earth sustain. Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign. In the bleak midwinter, a stable warm sufficed. Our Lord God almighty, our Savior Jesus Christ. Angels and archangels may have gathered there. Cherubim and seraphim thronged the evening air. But his mother only, in her maiden bliss, worshipped the beloved child with a tender kiss. What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb. If I were a wise one, I would do my part. But what can I give him? I would give my heart.

PRAYER

THE NINTH LESSON

COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

◆ CAROL No. 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Congregation

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

◆ BENEDICTION

**We sing together: Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel;
God with us, revealed to us; His name is called Em-man-u-el!**

◆ POSTLUDE

Toccata on Regent Square

LANI SMITH

◆ *Please stand, if able*

LEADING THE SERVICE TODAY

Daniel Smoak, Pastor; Priscilla Holtzclaw, Parish Associate;
Claire Winkles, Director of Youth & Children's Ministries; Sarah Shayban, Director of Music

Readers:

Priscilla Holtzclaw, Tim Fox, Sara Dwyer,
Liliya Davis, Nathan Ward, Marshall Ward,
Susanna Hopkins, Andrew Hopkins, Daniel Smoak

Musicians:

Nancy Parrish, *piano*
Todd Smith, *trumpet*
Susan Messersmith, *trumpet*
Vincent Lindgren, *horn*
Chris Lingren, *trombone*
Chris Bluemel, *tuba*

Acolytes: Mac Ferguson, Aurora Davis

Wee Church and Children's Church: Paige Dadin, Donna Caldwell

Ushers: Deb Brown/Carole Russell, Susana Comte Walters, Jim Frye, Nathan Ward

11:00 am Livestream at www.wpccharleston.org, YouTube (Westminster Presbyterian Charleston)

You may also listen to the weekly sermon by utilizing *Sermon By Phone* and calling 843-252-0146.
Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from CCLI License #2778901

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! LET US KNOW YOU'RE HERE.

Please take a moment to sign and pass the Friendship Register in the pews. There is a virtual option for those who are worshipping online. Simply scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to open or find on our website under the Quick Links, Virtual Friendship Register. Want to get involved? Fill out and return a "Using Your Gifts" form in the Friendship Register.



LET'S GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER!

Name tags are available on the name tag cart in the Narthex. Please find yours and wear it on Sunday mornings, returning it before you leave. If yours is missing, please use a sticky badge and put your name on the 'I need a name tag' form.

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO JOIN THE WESTMINSTER FAMILY?

Here's how you can do it.

1. Fill out a New Member Form and put it in the offering plate in the narthex. Forms are available at the Hospitality Table in the narthex, or you may fill one out online under the visitor tab at wpccharleston.org or using the QR code.
2. One of our pastors or someone from the Membership Committee will quickly be in touch, providing an opportunity individually or with a group to learn more about the church.
3. On a Sunday morning, you'll attend a meeting with the Session for reception into membership. We'll handle paperwork if you're transferring from another church or arrange baptism if you've never been baptized.
4. That same Sunday morning, you'll be introduced to the congregation during worship. Questions? Speak with an usher or one of our pastors following the service.



WAYS TO GIVE TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Church Pew Envelope: Place cash or check in the Pew Envelope and drop it in the Offering Plate in the narthex.

Online: Click the "Give Now" button in the top right of our homepage wpccharleston.org.

Text: "charlestonwpc" to 73256. Thank you for giving.

2024 YEAR END GIVING

As we approach the end of the church's fiscal year, please be aware that the church books will close December 31, 2024. In order to be recorded for 2024 all contributions will need to be received by December 31. You can mail your check, bring to the church office, or take advantage of the safe and convenient online giving. Thank you for your faithful and generous support of the missions and ministry of Westminster. 2024 Giving Statements can be accessed through your online Realm account. If you need to have it printed for pick up or mailed, please contact the church office. If you have any questions or need any information, please don't hesitate to call Tommye Owen at 843-766-8311, ext 105 or finance@wpccharleston.org.

For online givers, please make sure to update your "giving fund" to 2025 Estimate of Giving starting in January. That drop down will be available by 1/1/2025. This is particularly important if you have set up for automatic weekly or monthly giving.

PRAYER REQUEST?

Leave your written requests in the basket next to the main sanctuary doors. WPC staff will pray for your request at our weekly meeting and throughout the week.

READ GOOD BOOKS IN 2024!

Join Pastor Daniel in reading the last book of 2024. This year, we've covered a variety of topics, authors, and genres, the choices designed to stimulate the heart and mind and be a catalyst for growth in discipleship. **On December 22nd at 5:00 we'll discuss Keith and Kristyn Getty's *Sing!*** A great book about worship and singing, we'll cover five key areas: to discover why we sing and the overwhelming joy and holy privilege that comes with singing; to consider how singing impacts our hearts and minds and all of our lives; to cultivate a culture of family singing in our daily home life; to equip our churches for wholeheartedly singing to the Lord and one another as an expression of unity; to inspire us to see congregational singing as a radical witness to the world. *Sing!* may be purchased online or at church (\$5)

GIFT OF WARMTH

Our mission partner, Mary Ford Early Childhood Center, is looking to help students keep warm on the playground. Needs include gently used outer clothing (coats, sweaters, gloves, caps, and socks) sizes 2T-Children 8. Clothing can be dropped off in baskets located in the narthex. Thank you!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITY: GOD BLESS US, EVERY ONE!

The classic tale of Ebenezer Scrooge is a cherished symbol of Christmas and a wonderful story of redemption and hope. We'll use Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol as our guide for a combined adult Sunday school class during Advent. Everyone is invited. December 1, 8, 15, 22 in Covenant Hall at 10:00. Books will be available.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP AT WESTMINSTER

December 22: The Fourth Sunday of Advent: Lessons and Carols

Sing! We gather for Lessons and Carols to hear the advent promises and respond in song.

December 24: Christmas Eve

3:00 & 5:00 Two options to attend a Service for Families with Young Children. We recreate the nativity with help from the congregation and all the children who wish to participate. Costumes provided; it's wiggly and wonderful.

7:00 Carols and Candlelight. A more reverent service with traditional carols, a sermon, and candle lighting.

December 29 and January 5

One worship service at 10:00. No Sunday School.

THORNWELL OFFERING AT CHRISTMAS

At the Christmas Eve Services, we receive an offering to support the Thornwell Home for Children in Clinton, SC. Founded as a Presbyterian ministry in 1875, Thornwell is a joyful Christian community, offering hope and wholeness to children and families. Its goals are to provide loving homes for abused, abandoned and neglected children, to offer an opportunity for healing by providing proper healthcare and mental health counseling for every Thornwell child, and to offer Thornwell's children hope for a successful future by providing educational support and teaching self-advocacy.

Please make checks to Westminster Presbyterian and mark them Thornwell Offering; place them in the offering plate in the narthex. You may also text charlestonwpc to 73256 or make an online gift at www.wpccharleston.org. Select "Give Now" and "Thornwell."

GLOBAL MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITIES IN 2025!

We are so glad for growing Global Partnerships at Westminster.

- In **Mexico**, we're returning to share in the Cistern Ministry of Todd Luke in the Yucatan. Todd works with local families in building rainwater cisterns so families can have a year-round supply of safe water. The church identifies the needs and works alongside families and mission teams to construct needed cisterns. There are two opportunities in 2025: a team of adults March 24-29 and a team of High School Juniors and Seniors July 7-12.
- In **Brazil**, we partner with Felipe and Laura Mathias in their ministry to the children in the slums of Sao Paulo. Life in the slums is hard, but the Lighthouse is a beacon of hope where children can learn about Jesus and experience the love God has for them. We are returning with a team of adults and youth/children (with a parent) July 16-23.

An informational meeting is set for January 12 at 4:00 pm. To indicate your interest in being a team member, speak with Pastor Daniel or Pastor Priscilla. The total cost of each trip is about \$2000, and the cost will be divided in thirds between participant contribution, the church's Global Mission Fund, and group fundraising.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary, please contact the church office or access the flower calendar on the church website. The cost is \$60. A member of the Flower Committee will contact you regarding your flower preference. You may take the arrangement home after worship or share it for pastoral care visits made by our pastors and deacons. The flower committee will create and place the arrangement for the sanctuary on Sunday with a take-home liner or break down flowers into vases to share with our members.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Toothpaste, deodorant and soap bars

COMMUNITY SUPPORT NUMBERS

Al-Anon (843) 762-6999

Community Resource and Support Hotline 211

Neighbors Together (843) 747-1788

Narcotics Anonymous (843) 852-3001

Mental Health Crisis Hotline 988

PostPartumsupportchas.org

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Sunday, December 22

9:00 am	Worship Service
10:00 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship Service
	No Youth Group due to Winter Break
7:30 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

Monday, December 23

Tuesday, December 24

6:30 am	Toastmasters, Covenant Hall
3:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service for Families with Young Children
5:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service for Families with Young Children
7:00 pm	Carols and Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day
Church Office Closed

Thursday, December 26

Church Office Closed

Friday, December 27

Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 28

Sunday, December 29

10:00 am	Worship Service
10:00 am	No Sunday School
7:30 pm	AA Meeting, Covenant Hall

WESTMINSTER PRAYS

Cary Alexandre (WPC)	Bruce Hamilton (Theodosia Wade)	Reed Family (Dee Bee Wright)
Joyce Aydlette (Becky Grafton)	Megan Hatfield (Debbie McQueeney)	Charles Reeves (Carol Patrick)
Daryn Baker (Jane Acker)	Harter Family (Jennifer Binnicker)	Nita Rodemann (WPC)
Mary Ashley Barbot (Lisa Couch)	Betsy Henson (Ashley Snider)	Gloria Ricoma (Karen McInnes)
Sissie Brigman (WPC)	Tom Higgins (Lynda Higgins)	Kevin Ritzel (Neil Ritzel)
Susie Cashion (WPC)	Chris Huff (Gloria Purcell)	Rushton Family (WPC)
Lauren Choate (Sara Dwyer)	Debbie Kieffer (Daniel Smoak)	Jim Seay (WPC)
Cherie Couche (Dana Tumbleston)	Mary Laird (Ashley Snider)	Tradd Shepard (WPC)
Lydia Crosby (WPC)	Fran Ligon (WPC)	Rachel Singletary (Sara Bobo)
Martin Davis (Kevin Mikles)	Jane Livingston (Tom Livingston)	Jerry Smoak (WPC)
Rose Derrick (Brenda Clarey)	Ray Long (Ellen Bollinger)	Rab Snider (Ashley Snider)
Andrea Dunn (Karen McInnes)	John Martschink (WPC)	Dave Stanton (WPC)
Hosanna Eadie (Katie Baturin)	Mary Martschink (WPC)	Towne Family (WPC)
Roxanne Eadie (Katie Baturin)	Love Moody (WPC)	Gloria Underhill (Laura Nunn)
Debbie Eastwood (Jill Lundgrin)	Jennifer Morgan (Susie Cashion)	Jacqueline Vance (Sara Dwyer)
Julia Fletcher (Niblock Family)	Roy Nickles (WPC)	Aileen Wiese (WPC)
Pat Finn (Dee Bee Wright)	Joe Nuchols (Debbie McQueeney)	Janet Wilson (Gloria Purcell)
Edward Fitzgibbon (Joan Frye)	Nancy Plowden (WPC)	Donnie Woods (Presbytery)
Harold Fountain (Henry Shepard)	Pratt Family (WPC Preschool)	Robbie Yarnall (WPC)
Joan Frye (WPC)	Monnie Privette (Robert/Sylvia Coker)	Zemp Family (WPC)
Eleanor Grayson (WPC)	Donna Purcell (WPC)	
Janie Hammersmith (WPC)		

PRAYER LIST UPDATED DECEMBER 2024

If you need to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please email Suzann at office@wpccharleston.org

Friend of the Week	College Student	Mission of the Week	Church Family
Heather MacInnes 504 Shem Butler Court Charleston, SC 29414	Stella Wood 22 E. State Street Apt 202 Athens, OH 45701	Thornwell Home for Children 302 South Broad Street	Bob & Lauren Openlander - John, James, & Elizabeth

ELDERS AND SESSION COMMITTEES

Administration: Tom Whetstone and Michael Patrick; **Buildings and Grounds:** Matt Teitsort and Randy Davis; **Christian Education:** Lindy Coleman and Cathy Grills; **Fellowship:** Mike Niblock, Betsy McLaughlin and Jon Bazzle; **Finance:** Sarah Schumann and Joshua Robinson; **Membership:** John Dounian and Cameron Baker; **Missions:** Mary McAbee and Matthew Patrick; **Preschool:** Ashley Snider; **Worship:** Allyn Bruce and Deborah-Anne Ferguson; **Clerk:** Carole Russell; **Assistant Clerk:** Lindy Coleman; **Treasurer:** Nancy Dixon; **Assistant Treasurer:** Patty Stokes

Westminster Presbyterian Church

1157 Sam Rittenberg Boulevard
Charleston, SC 29407

www.wpccharleston.org (843) 766-8311

Rev. Dr. Daniel L. Smoak, Pastor, dsmoak@wpccharleston.org

Priscilla Holtzclaw, Parish Associate, pwholtz@gmail.com

Claire Winkles, Director of Youth & Children's Ministries, cwinkles@wpccharleston.org

Sarah Shayban, Director of Music, sshayban@wpccharleston.org

Suzann Lilienthal, Office Administrator, office@wpccharleston.org

Tommye Owen, Financial Administrator finance@wpccharleston.org

Alicia Crosby, Preschool Director, preschool@wpccharleston.org

Meg Dorsel, Communications Coordinator, mdorsel@wpccharleston.org

POINSETTIAS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF:



My mother, Ann Furmanchik by Deb Brown
My husband, Charles M. Bruce & my son, John William Bruce by Allyn Smoak Bruce
William Butts by the Butts Family
Stewart & Edna Tarbert by the Butts Family
Betty Tipton by Timothy Montgomery & Eden Couch
Juanita Lines, Harvey Cowart, Elsie Hunter, Floyd Hunter by Kate Cowart
Winnie & Kennerly Corbett by Brenda Corbett Haile
Barbara & Richard Streett by Brenda Corbett Haile
Fred & Jan Curtis by Joe & Cylinda Scruggs
The Reverend Joseph & Elizabeth Scruggs by Joe & Cylinda Scruggs
Norma O'Brien by Carolyn Drose
Julia Drose Leonard by Carolyn Drose
Our parents by Leslie Allen & Dan Krajewski
Babchi & PopPop Krajewski by Melissa Rutter
Hallie Grace Davis by Mary & Randy Davis
George & Margaret Austin by Mary & Randy Davis
Bill & Mary Davis by Mary & Randy Davis
Jim Holtzclaw by the Holtzclaw & Griggs families
Jim Holtzclaw by Charlotte, Katie, & John Griggs
My Parents, Ed & Mary Overcash by Lynda Higgins
Jerry Hallman by Rita Hallman
Dr. Haldor & Brenda Jonsson, Hudson A. & Nancy M. Waller by the Jonsson Family
D.T. & Agnes Hubster Livingston by Rita, Tom, Dave, & John Livingston
Rita G. Spivey, Maggie & Evelyn Spivey, Frances S. Williams by Rita, Tom, Dave, & John Livingston
Bill Maastricht by Dorothy "Dot" Maastricht
Tony Rushton by Nita Rushton
Jim & Margaret Fortney by Melissa Rutter
Nanny Wilkinson & Grandpop Allen by Melissa Rutter
My son, Wesley by Tommie Owen
My sister, Pat by Tommie Owen
Our parents, Susie and Robert Pell by Sandy & Debbie Pell
Brenda Jonsson by Gloria Purcell
Ed & Jane Small by Carole Russell
Walter Russell by Carole Russell
Kate Stanton by Dave Stanton

POINSETTIAS GIVEN IN HONOR OF:

My grandchildren, Spencer, Lily, & Henry Bruce by Allyn Smoak Bruce
Audrey Sims by Timothy Montgomery & Eden Couch
Priscilla Holtzclaw by Charlotte, Katie, & John Griggs
Our children, Abby Grace & Cole by Derek & Betsy McLaughlin
Carole Russell by Betsy McLaughlin
Liliya Davis by Betsy McLaughlin
Suzann Lilienthal by Betsy McLaughlin
Amy and Jason McCabe by Derek & Betsy McLaughlin
Barbara McKee, our Granny/GG, by Jairus, Sarah, & Teddy Schumann
Our grandchildren, Grayson, Caroline, Abigail, Elloise, Beau, Liv, & Alayna by Jerry & Sue Smoak
My grandchildren, Anna Louise, Audrey, Jax, Ellie, & Sarah by Nita Rushton
Amelia O'Brien by Keith & Mary Stansell
John Griggs on his birthday by Molly and Kevin Griggs

The Season of Advent

ADVENT is the Latin word for “coming.” For Christians it refers to the church season that prepares for the coming of Jesus Christ as God in human flesh – the incarnation. We celebrate his humble birth, his coming to us now, and his coming again in glory at the end of time.

The round shape of the Advent Wreath is a symbol of God's never-ending love for us. The evergreens represent everlasting life, and the purple candles are for him who comes royally as King of kings and Lord of lords. The pink candle is for the joy of the season, and in the center of the wreath is the white Christ candle lit on Christmas Eve. In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light. To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world. Until the dawning of that Great Day, we watch and wait in Holy Spirit for Christ's coming into the darkness of our world, lighting candles of hope, peace, joy, and love; and remembering the promises of God with prayer.

The Christmas tree is adorned with lights and Chrismons. Lights remind us that Jesus is the light of the world. Chrismons are symbols that illustrate aspects of the Christian faith.