

# 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014

11:00 a.m.

PRELUDE *Ein Feste Burg ist unser Gott* J. G. Walther

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE *The Middle School Students*

INTROIT *Light The Advent Candle*

### +CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Now is the time of watching and waiting, the time of anticipation.

All: **The time of pregnant expectation of new life.**

One: Now is the season of hope unfolding.

All: **The dark winter season when hope is waiting to be born.**

One: Let us come before God with receptive and willing spirits.

All: **May our souls magnify the name of the Lord as God comes to bring life and hope!**

+HYMN *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* #15

### +PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, Light of the World, you caused light to shine out of the darkness in the advent of Jesus, our Christ. You continually open to us the ways we are to prepare for you, the ways we are to follow you, the ways we are to proclaim your Good News. We confess, however, that we are often unwilling to see the light and to walk in your ways. We have shut our eyes to the needs of others; our feet have wandered from the ways of justice, reconciliation, and peace; we have remained silent in a world that so desperately needs to hear some Good News. Forgive us, Father, and send your Spirit to be born anew in us, that our hearts may be stirred to glorify your presence within us through acts of compassion and service. Amen.

### +ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

+RESPONSE *O Come, Let Us Adore Him*  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord

### +PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

### TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

All children are invited to come forward for the Time for Young Disciples. Afterward, children ages 4 thru 3<sup>rd</sup> grade may go to Worship Our Way (W.O.W.) while children in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and older are invited to worship with their families.

+HYMN *O Christ, the Healer* #380, vv. 1,2,5

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

HEBREW BIBLE READING Psalm 130 p. 536 OT  
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM *Light The Advent Candles* Clark/Nix

GOSPEL READING Mark 5:21-43 p. 34 NT  
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE WORD PROCLAIMED Tim Reynolds

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### +AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

This is the Good News which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day; and that he appeared to Peter, then to the Twelve and to many faithful witnesses. We believe he is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. He is the first and the last, the beginning and the end, he is our Lord and our God.

### OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

Offertory  
+Doxology *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* #592  
+Prayer of Dedication

+HYMN *A Father Came to Jesus*

A father came to Jesus with only one request.

"My daughter needs your help now. They say that you are blest.

Come, Jesus, heal my daughter. She lies so close to death.

Come, lay your hands upon her while she has life and breath."

Before they reached the daughter, a man came, bringing word:

"Why bother Jesus now, sir? Your daughter died, we've heard."

The wails of weeping women grew loud as they drew near,

but Jesus told the father, "Believe and do not fear."

When Jesus saw the mourners, he said, "Why do you weep?

She is not dead; believe me, the child is but asleep!"

The mourners laughed, but Jesus still took his friends inside.

The faithful parents followed to see what would betide.

They watched the girl with wonder as Jesus took her hand.

He said, "Dear child, get up now," and gently helped her stand.

Then Jesus warned the father, "Tell no one that you meet;"

and asked the grateful mother to bring her food to eat.

Dear God, when we are tempted to doubt Love's mighty power,

give us the faith of Jairus in every day and hour,

that, trusting in your promise of everlasting care,

we all may lay before you our deepest needs in prayer.

+BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE *The Grace Of Our Lord*

+POSTLUDE *Nun Danket alle Gott* G. F. Kaufmann

+THOSE WHO ARE ABLE PLEASE STAND

## WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION Elders: Randa McCall & Danny Wilson

### THIS MORNING...

- the liturgist is Helen Phillips
- the acolytes are Wiley Leidig and Lila Godfrey
- the bell ringer is Judge Dillow
- the W.O.W. leaders are Joey and Bridget Lamie
- the nursery volunteers are Jason and Nissa Morrell
- the sound board tech is Rick Ratliff

**VISITORS:** We are delighted to have you with us this morning and hope you feel at home. Please let us know a bit about you by filling in your information in the Friendship Register. **A Nursery is available** for infants and children through age 4. If you need directions an usher can assist you.

**HEARING DEVICES** are available for the hearing impaired from an usher.

**WE ARE CURRENTLY IN A YEAR-LONG SERMON SERIES** on the *Gospel of Mark*. Mark says this is the story of God's Son and it is Good News. Each hearer of Mark's story must determine what his/her own response will be to this Good News.

**ADVENT WREATH LIGHTERS NEEDED** – If your family, Sunday School class, small group, or group of friends would be interested in lighting the Advent Wreath one Sunday during Advent, please let Pastor Tim know. He will provide training and guidance for you.

**WE WELCOME SCHERY COLLINS** as our guest organist this morning and Ruth Brown as our guest pianist.

**ABOUT THE BULLETIN COVER ART:** The bulletin cover art this year is a new series of Advent bulletin covers created by regional artist John Stuart, a Scottish Presbyterian pastor who lives and ministers in East Tennessee. He describes his work as "therapeutic" and a creative way to strengthen his spiritual connection to God. His work is created through a process known as the "digital glass" process, a recent discovery of his. For more information you can go to [www.stushieart.com](http://www.stushieart.com).

### SERVICE AND OUTREACH Elders: Alicia Arney & Kay Bunn

**ECUMENICAL FAITH IN ACTION** – This is our week to serve! There is a signup sheet in the Narthex. Please sign up to serve those in need in our community during this season of Thanksgiving.

**OUR ANNUAL MITTEN TREE** will be located in the Narthex beginning today until the week following Christmas. Contributions of warm hats, mittens and scarves will be taken to Faith in Action for distribution to needy families.

**THE SERVICE AND OUTREACH TEAM** wants to recognize the efforts of our Sinking Spring Presbyterian Church Preschool families who collected food for Ecumenical Faith in Action through their second "Children Helping Children" campaign. We wish to dedicate this food to nourish families in need this Thanksgiving season and may we be mindful of God's abundant blessings.

**A SPECIAL "THANK YOU"** to all the Sinking Spring Presbyterian Church folks who helped make the Social Club dinner a huge success! Around fifty guests from neighboring "retirement" homes enjoyed a delicious, home-cooked turkey dinner with all the trimmings and a fun-filled evening of bingo and prizes. Whether you helped with the cooking, serving, clean-up, bingo calling or just by donating prizes, the Service & Outreach Team is grateful for your support. Your contribution put a smile on many deserving faces!

**SERVICE AND OUTREACH**  
**Elders: Alicia Arney & Kay Bunn**

“FIELDS PENN HOUSE MUSEUM CHRISTMAS TREE CONTEST” will be open to the public from November 29<sup>th</sup> through January 6<sup>th</sup>. Take your family and **VOTE** by placing a donation of canned goods under your favorite tree. Donations will go Ecumenical Faith in Action and the Animal Defense League. Please see bulletin board in Narthex for point scoring system. The “Bread for the Journey” Sunday School class would appreciate your **VOTE** for the Children’s bedroom tree located upstairs. The After School Program children handmade the decorations! If you would prefer, donations may be brought to the church and someone will transport to museum, or you may make a monetary contribution by notating on memo line – **EFIA Fields Penn** and place in the offering plate. Monies received will be used to help our neighbors in need this CHRISTmas season.

**CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRY**  
**Elders: Georgia Crews & Rachel Fowlkes**

**IN ORDER TO GIVE ADEQUATE TIME AND ATTENTION** to discussing and understanding all the issues surrounding the PC(USA)’s proposed redefinition of marriage, the Session of Sinking Spring Presbyterian Church has decided to wait until after the first of the year to hold a discussion forum on the topic. The date has been set for Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. A sub-committee will be established by the Session to design the format and content of the forum and more details will be forthcoming, but we wanted you to get the date on your calendar now. We look forward to hearing from you and sharing with one another.

**SPIRITUAL FORMATION & DISCIPLESHIP**  
**Elders: Lucy Phillips & Baird Smith**

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY:** This Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall our weekly Bible study will be Bible Trivia Night! We will play in teams and prizes will be awarded. David Shockley will host so come out for a night of fun and education!

**CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL:** “A Light at Christmas” will be performed on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

**SPECIAL NEED:** Sinking Spring Presbyterian Church has the best group of volunteer leaders! There is a need for some adult leadership in the children and youth Sunday School classes so the burden can be lightened for those teaching every Sunday. I’m talking team teaching. The responsibility is shared and therefore lightens the load. Search your heart and ask God if this is an area where you can help. Let Janet McGraw know if you are interested. You can shadow the teacher for a week or two until you feel comfortable going solo! WE NEED YOU!

**ADVENT DEVOTIONALS:** On the table outside the church parlor are devotional resources for the Advent season. Please feel free to take one so that you and/or your family may grow closer spiritually to God and one another during this season of Advent.



**IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH**

**TODAY, Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

**Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup>**

6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir  
 7:30 p.m. Choir

**Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

10:30 a.m. Women’s Bible Study  
 8:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon in the Fellowship Hall

**Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

3:15 p.m. After School Program  
 5:00 p.m. Junior Choir  
 6:00 p.m. Bible Study  
 6:30 p.m. Orchestra  
 7:30 p.m. Choir and Handbell Choir

**Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 a.m. Men’s Bible Study at BabyCakes  
 5:30 p.m. Spiritual Formation & Discipleship Committee Meeting  
 8:00 p.m. AA in the Fellowship Hall

**Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 p.m. Christmas Concert

**Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> Communion**

10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

**STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY**  
**Elders: Fred Holt & John Legard**

**Stewardship & Attendance** for November 23, 2014

Attendance: 172  
 Offering: \$5,709.00

**THE HUNGER OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED NEXT SUNDAY**

**CHURCH BULLETINS** are now available on our website! The link to view is <http://www.sinkingspring.org/worship.html#ws>.

**WE ASK FOR PRAYERS FOR OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS:** Mazie Cook, Helen Napps, Reed Cooke (Grand Court), June Atkins, Hazel Warden (Abingdon Rehab), Betty Hunter (Abingdon Rehab)

**WE ASK FOR PRAYERS FOR THESE NEW CONCERNS:** Charlotte Brillhart and Family of Bess Orr

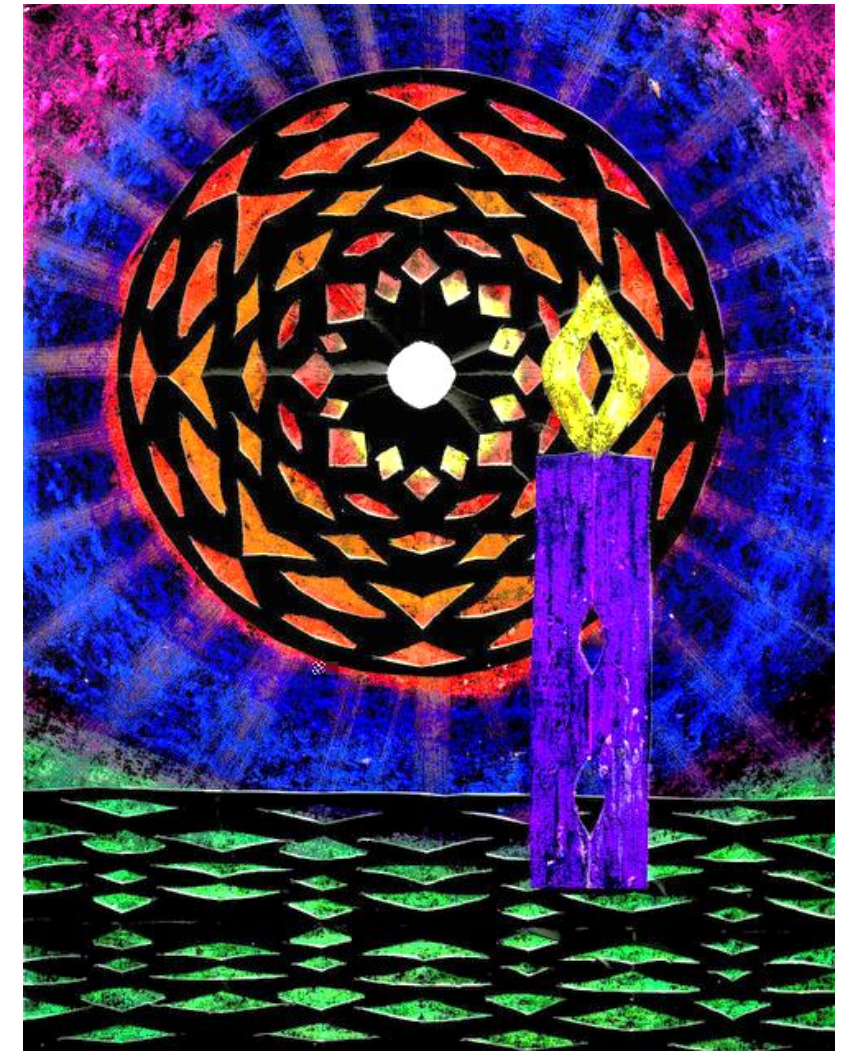
**WE ASK FOR PRAYERS FOR THESE CONTINUED CONCERNS:** David Henninger, Charles Henninger, John Cornelius and family, Family of Lewis & Abbey Mwazembe, and Jay McCallum

**AND FOR THESE MEN AND WOMEN IN THE MILITARY:** Joseph McGraw, Nathan McGraw, Mark Widener, Walter Holcomb Jr., John Nowell II, John Nowell III and Dexter Bevis

\*Names remain on the prayer list for 4 weeks unless requested to keep them on longer

**Sinking Spring Presbyterian Church**  
**Organized 1772**

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)



**SINKING SPRING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

136 E. Main St. + Abingdon, VA 24210

Church Office: 276.628.3361

Email: [office@sinkingspring.org](mailto:office@sinkingspring.org)

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

[www.sinkingspring.org](http://www.sinkingspring.org)

**Ministers: Members & Friends of the Congregation**

**Pastor:** Tim Reynolds [pastor@sinkingspring.org](mailto:pastor@sinkingspring.org)

**Director of Music:** Arch Snyder [agstonsilcoach@gmail.com](mailto:agstonsilcoach@gmail.com)

**Dir. of Christian Ed:** Janet McGraw [christianeducator@sinkingspring.org](mailto:christianeducator@sinkingspring.org)

**Office Administrator:** Donna Hale [office@sinkingspring.org](mailto:office@sinkingspring.org)

**Organist:** Joey Trivette [Joseph.Trivette@sw.edu](mailto:Joseph.Trivette@sw.edu)

**Preschool Director:** Gypsy Holt

**November 30, 2014**