

PRELUDE *Now Sing We, Now Rejoice* *arr. Held*

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE *Richard Cano & Hazel Ramos-Cano*

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: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
All: The light shines even in the places where shadows touch our lives.
One: Rejoice, then, you people, for Christ's presence lives among us.
All: He brings light to our world!

+HYMN *Joy to the World!* #40

+PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord of Joy, we come into your house and sing Joy to the World, but we confess that we do not always live lives of joy *in* the world. We are too overcome with the cares of the world or the worries of our lives to see the joy you place in the world and in our lives every day. We are too focused on what people should and shouldn't be doing that the world experiences us as dour and judgmental. We have not prepared room in our hearts for the love of Christ and have ended up having nothing to offer a hurting world. Forgive us for not grasping the meaning of Advent. Forgive us for not keeping our eyes open to your truth and grace. Forgive us for not embodying the joy of Christ. Send us your Spirit that we may make your blessings known, glorify your righteousness and proclaim the wonders of your love. Amen.

+ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

+RESPONSE *O Come, Let Us Adore Him*
We'll give him all the glory, we'll give him all the glory
We'll give him all the glory, Christ the Lord

+PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SPECIAL MUSIC *A Christmas Medley* *Children's Choir*

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

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

+HYMN *The King of Glory Comes* PROMISED ONE

Refrain:
The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices
Open the gates before him, lift up your voices

Who is the King of glory: what shall we call him?
He is Emmanuel, the promised of ages
Refrain

In all of Galilee, in city or village
He goes among his people, curing their illness
Refrain

He gave his life for us, the pledge of salvation
He took upon himself the sins of the nation
Refrain

He conquered sin and death; he truly has risen
And he will share with us his heavenly vision
Refrain

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

HEBREW BIBLE READING *Ecclesiastes 4:9-12* p. 579 OT
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* *arr. Shaw*

GOSPEL READING *Mark 6:8-13* p. 35 NT
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE WORD PROCLAIMED Tim Reynolds

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *from The Confession of 1967*
To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as his reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and shares his labor of healing the enmities which separate us from God and from each other. Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit. The church maintains continuity with the apostles and with Israel by faithful obedience to his call.

OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

Offertory *Go, Tell It On The Mountain*
+Doxology *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* #592
+Prayer of Dedication

+HYMN *We All Are One in Mission* #435

+BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE *Go With Us, Lord*

+POSTLUDE *Joy To The World* *arr. Held*

+THOSE WHO ARE ABLE PLEASE STAND

WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION
Elders: Randa McCall & Danny Wilson

THIS MORNING...

- the liturgist is John Legard
- the acolytes are Jeni Holt and Emma Shockley
- the bell ringer is Maggie Willson
- the W.O.W. leaders are Kurt & Amber Moran
- the nursery volunteers are Kay Bunn, Seth & Sara Land and Kaeleigh Damico
- the sound board tech is Dennis Bailey

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.

ABOUT THE BULLETIN COVER ART: The bulletin cover art for Advent 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.

SPENCER-MILLER CONCERT...featuring the McLain Family String Band will perform THIS AFTERNOON at 3:00 p.m. Plan to attend and enjoy traditional bluegrass and Appalachian folk music performed with guitar, banjo, mandolin, bass, fiddle and accordion.

SERVICE AND OUTREACH
Elders: Alicia Arney & Kay Bunn

OUR ANNUAL MITTEN TREE located in the Narthex now through the week following Christmas, your contributions of warm hats, mittens and scarves will be taken to Faith in Action for distribution to needy families.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX a special thanks to all, we collected 87 shoeboxes. A few of us will be heading to Boone, NC on December 16th to help process boxes. For many, this will be their first experience of God's unconditional love. To view one of the many ways God is at work in this ministry visit, <http://www.samaritanspurse.org/article/love-finds-a-way/>.

THANKS TO ALL who have worked and donated to Faith in Action during November and December thus far. Our church and preschool donated 373 canned food items and financial support to purchase over 1,100 food items. Last week, we provided 98.25 hours from 30 volunteers, who served 281 families equaling 807 individuals including 282 children. Thank you for YOUR continued faith in action during this Thanksgiving and Christmas season!

SERVICE AND OUTREACH
Elders: Alicia Arney & Kay Bunn

“**FIELDS PENN HOUSE MUSEUM CHRISTMAS TREE CONTEST**” will be open to the public now through January 6th. 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.

THE JOY GIFT OFFERING helps provide financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families and also enables deserving students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic colleges and schools. Rooted in a nearly 300-year old tradition, the Assistance Program embodies the connectional Church at its best. As the Assistance program relies on voluntary gifts, legacies, endowments, and the Joy Gift offering for funding, it provides a way for caring Presbyterians to support those who serve the Church during their times of need. This year Sinking Spring Presbyterian Church will recognize the Joy Gift offering on December 21st. Envelopes will be provided in your bulletin. Please give generously.

CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRY
Elders: Georgia Crews & Rachel Fowlkes

HEARTFELT THANKS to the more than 20 people who helped extend hospitality to approximately 120 guests who attended the post – Christmas Concert reception December 6th.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION & DISCIPLESHIP
Elders: Lucy Phillips & Baird Smith

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: This fall we are studying the Kingdom Parables – parables in which Jesus says, “The Kingdom of Heaven is like...” Pastor Tim leads this study every Wednesday at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall. You are welcome to join at any time, as each week is a self-contained study. Hope to see you there!

CHILDREN SING AT JOHNSTON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL: The children have been invited to sing at the Christmas Tree Lighting at Johnston Memorial Hospital on Thursday, December 18th. Children who are able to participate need to be at the church at 5:00 p.m. to go as a group. Children, remember to wear your Santa hat.

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.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Dec. 24 th	Communion & Candlelight	5:30 p.m.
Dec. 25 th	Christmas Day Informal Worship	10:00 a.m.

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

TODAY, Sunday, December 14th

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

MONDAY, December 15th

6:30 p.m. Session Meeting

Tuesday, December 16th

8:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 17th

6:00 p.m. Bible Study

Thursday, December 18th

7:00 a.m. Men’s Bible Study at BabyCakes
 5:30 p.m. Children Sing at Johnston Memorial Hospital
 8:00 p.m. AA in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 21st

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

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY
Elders: Fred Holt & John Legard

Stewardship & Attendance for December 7, 2014

Attendance: 220
 Offering: \$16,679.00
 Hunger: \$1,305.00

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 (Johnston Memorial Hospital), Hazel Warden (Abingdon Rehab), Betty Hunter (Abingdon Rehab)

WE ASK FOR PRAYERS FOR THESE NEW CONCERNS:

WE ASK FOR PRAYERS FOR THESE CONTINUED CONCERNS: David Henninger, Charles Henninger, Jay McCallum, Charlotte Brillhart and Family of Bess Orr.

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

Ministers: Members & Friends of the Congregation
Pastor: Tim Reynolds pastor@sinkingspring.org
Director of Music: Arch Snyder agstonsilcoach@gmail.com
Dir. of Christian Ed: Janet McGraw christianeducator@sinkingspring.org
Office Administrator: Donna Hale office@sinkingspring.org
Organist: Joey Trivette Joseph.Trivette@sw.edu
Preschool Director: Gypsy Holt

December 14, 2014