

1st Sunday after Christmas

December 28th, 2014

11:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

+CALL TO WORSHIP

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

All: And also with you.

One: Let our spirits rejoice in God our Savior, who has done great things for us, and for all people.

All: God scatters the proud in the imagination of their hearts, and raises up those who humble themselves.

One: God fills the hungry with good things and satisfies those who thirst for goodness.

All: Glory be to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and goodwill to all. Amen.

+HYMN *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* #22, vv. 1-3

+PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, who makes all things new, we humbly bring before you the record of our lives in the year now ending. Where life has been good to us, do not let us take more credit than we deserve. Where we have been good to others, help us to forget all thoughts of honor and reward. Where we have fallen short, forgive us, and free us from brooding over what is past. Cleanse us by your mercy, guide us by your truth, fill us with your love, lead us forward in your all-conquering hope. Through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

+ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

+RESPONSE *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* #22, v.4

+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 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 *What Child Is This?* #53

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

HEBREW BIBLE READING Psalm 23 p. 464 OT

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC *Beautiful Star of Bethlehem* Boyce

Tim and Tuesday Reynolds

GOSPEL READING Mark 6:30-44 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 *The Nicene Creed*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

Offertory

+Doxology *In the Bleak Midwinter* #36, v. 4

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb

If I were a wise man, I would do my part

Yet what I can I give him: Give him my heart

+Prayer of Dedication

+HYMN *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* #29

+BENEDICTION

+RESPONSE *Song of Zechariah* #602

+POSTLUDE *Paxton*

+THOSE WHO ARE ABLE PLEASE STAND

WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION Elders: Randa McCall & Danny Wilson

THIS MORNING...

- the liturgist is Richard Cano
- the acolytes are Hope Shockley and Ashby Bonin
- the bell ringer is Cate Arney
- the W.O.W. leaders are Jamie & John Hortenstine
- the nursery volunteers are Rachel Fowlkes, Nissa Morrell & Jan Hardman
- 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.

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.

WE WELCOME DR. HOWARD HALSEY as guest organist today.

SERVICE AND OUTREACH Elders: Alicia Arney & Kay Bunn

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

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!

"FIELDS PENN HOUSE MUSEUM CHRISTMAS TREE CONTEST" will be open to the public 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.

CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRY
Elders: Georgia Crews & Rachel Fowlkes

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who remembered our family with cards, candy, and gifts this holiday season. We are truly blessed to serve such a wonderful, loving, and generous congregation. – *Tim, Tuesday, Seth & Lily Grace*

CONGREGATIONAL DISCUSSION FORUM! The Session has scheduled a Congregational Discussion Forum concerning the General Assembly's proposed change in the definition of marriage for **January 11th at 3:00 p.m.** At this forum we will have some small group and some large group discussion. This will be a time for dialogue, for listening, and for learning and we hope will be an opportunity for us to recognize that there are people of deep faith on both sides of the marriage issue, and to practice covenant community and unity by focusing on who unites us, rather than what divides us.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION & DISCIPLESHIP
Elders: Lucy Phillips & Baird Smith

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: There is no Wednesday night Bible study this week due to the New Year's Eve holiday. We will resume our study of *Kingdom Parables* on January 7th at 6:00 p.m.

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

TODAY, Sunday, December 28th

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

Monday, December 29th

9:00 a.m. OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, December 30th

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

Thursday, January 1st

8:00 p.m. AA in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, January 4th 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 December 21, 2014

Attendance: 205
Offering: \$6,201.75
Joy Gift Offering: \$1,010.00

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

THE HUNGER OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED NEXT SUNDAY

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: James Hall

WE ASK FOR PRAYERS FOR THESE CONTINUED CONCERNS: David Henninger, Charles Henninger, Jay McCallum and Eunice Blankenship

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)



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