

1st Sunday of Advent

November 27th, 2016

11:00 a.m.

PRELUDE *O Come All Ye Faithful* arr. Behnke

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE *Alicia, Cate & Kaylee Arney*

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.**
All: Faithful God,
you are at work to restore all of creation
in its intended harmony.
Give us your shalom
that we may be reconciled to all enemies
In the peace that passes all understanding
through Christ Jesus our Lord.
God of promise, God of hope,
into our darkness come.

+HYMN *People Look East* #12

+PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy Savior, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. But who can endure the day of your coming? We confess you as Lord, yet our paths remain crooked; our ways, rough. We lose sight of your ways, believing that our primary purpose in this life is to collect and consume more and more. We are self-centered, squandering the opportunities you give us to help others, to make the world a better place. Forgive us, O God; show us your tender mercies. Awaken us to your coming and refine us with the fire of your Spirit that we may live as people of light, and walk in ways of peace, to your glory and praise. Amen.

+ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

+RESPONSE *Angels We Have Heard on High* #23
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

+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 5 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 *Spirit of the Living God* #322

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

HEBREW BIBLE READING Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19 p. 496 OT

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Shaw

GOSPEL READING Matthew 3: 1-12 p. 2 NT

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED *Something New Has Begun* Dr. M. Dotterweich

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *from* The Confession of 1967

The reconciling act of God in Jesus Christ exposes the evil in us as sin in the sight of God. In sin, we claim mastery of our own lives, turn against God and one another, and become exploiters and despoilers of the world. We lose our humanity in futile striving and are left in rebellion, despair, and isolation. All people, good and bad alike, are in the wrong before God and helpless without God's forgiveness. Thus, we all fall under God's judgment. No one is more subject to that judgment than those of us who assume that we are guiltless before God or morally superior to others. God's love never changes. Against all who oppose him, God expresses his love in wrath. In the same love, God took upon himself judgment and shameful death in Jesus Christ, to bring us to repentance and new life.

OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

Offertory *Sing We Now of Christmas* arr. Larson
+Doxology *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* #592
+Prayer of Dedication

+HYMN *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* #38

+BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE *May The Grace*

+POSTLUDE *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* trad.

+THOSE WHO ARE ABLE PLEASE STAND

LIGHTING the ADVENT WREATH in the TRADITION of PEACE, HOPE JOY, and LOVE

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. The church has Christianized that practice in the lighting of the Advent wreath. 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.

THIS MORNING...

- the liturgist is Helen Phillips
- the acolytes are Kaylee & Cate Arney
- the bell ringer is Caroline Mason
- Big W.O.W. leaders Joey & Bridget Lamie
- Little W.O.W leaders are Amanda & Lila Godfrey
- the nursery volunteer is Jan Hardman and Rachel Fowlkes
- the sound board tech is Brice Crum

WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION Elders: Matt Crum & Joey Lamie

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.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT ~ **NEXT Saturday, December 3rd at 8:00 p.m.** ~ "The Music of Christmas" will be an hour of sacred and secular holiday songs, mostly familiar but a few new. Dr. Joey Trivette and the returning 9-piece professional orchestra will accompany, and the handbells will perform selections. A reception with light refreshments will follow in the church parlor. Nursery is not provided. The concert is free, but donations to Faith in Action are appreciated. Come early to get a good seat.

BOOKLOVER'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL PROGRAM – Next Thursday, December 1st at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary, **everyone** is invited to come and enjoy music by Joey Trivette and student musicians from Southwest Virginia Community College.

WE WELCOME DR. MARTIN DOTTERWEICH to the pulpit this morning. Dr. Dotterweich is from Knoxville, and graduated from Wheaton College (IL), Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and the University of Edinburgh. He specializes in the Reformation, Scottish history, and book history. He has taught at King since 2004, and lives in Bristol with wife Heather, and children Kathleen and Peter.

RESCHEDULE NOTICE THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING originally planned for Sunday, December 4th has been moved to **Sunday, December 11th** following worship to elect elders to the Session Class of 2019.

INVITATION TO CONGREGATION: Our congregation is invited to attend the ordination of Reverend Boyd M. Evans, III, Ph.D. to be held at 6:00 p.m., November 30th, in the St. Thomas Episcopal Church sanctuary. After a lengthy search, St. Thomas is pleased that Rev. Evans will soon be their Priest-In-Charge. Please welcome Rev. Evans to our Christian community.



CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRY
Elders: Georgia Crews & Jan Hardman

UPDATE: SENAH SEAGLE – We are saddened to report that Senah passed during the night of November 22. Funeral Services will be held at State Street Methodist Church in Bristol, VA.

For those wishing to send cards: Senah Andrews (daughter's address)
146 Spring St. NW
Concord, NC 28025

SHARING OUR TALENTS: Please see insert for a beautiful poem written by Eleanor Munsey entitled: *Life, and The Best Way To Live....*

SERVICE AND OUTREACH
Elders: Mimi Hull & Alice Rainey

MANY HEARTFELT THANKS to the volunteers who participated in the social Club dinner on Thursday, November 17th. Thanks, too, for the numerous, wonderful prizes the congregation donated. Chef Dean cooked a delicious Thanksgiving meal that church members served to our special guests. The evening ended with bingo games, prizes and laughter. This is truly a special event that we are privileged to host twice a year. The camaraderie is truly heartwarming and a blessing to everyone involved. Special thanks to Dianne Loomis for coordinating and to our surprise guest "Piper" who provided so much joy to our guests. Next scheduled Social Club for Sinking Spring Presbyterian Church is May, 2017.

ABINGDON MANOR ANGEL TREE: All angels have been adopted. When the adopted "angel(s)" gifts are returned, each angel should have **one** gift bag, gift box or container that includes all items purchased for that angel with the tag taken from the tree taped, tied or otherwise affixed so that gift is given to the correct "angel". **All gifts need to be returned by next Sunday, December 4th.**

SPIRITUAL FORMATION & DISCIPLESHIP
Elders: Kate Shockley & Stanley Haynes

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS: On the table outside the church office 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.

PRESCHOOL HELPING FAITH IN ACTION FAMILIES ~ Sinking Spring Preschool Children collected 31 large grocery bags of non-perishable food items for families in our community. "A little love goes a long way"

YOUTH ACTIVITY – **Sunday, December 11th**, all middle and high school youth are invited to lunch after worship and then follow up with crafting ornaments for our shut-ins and folks in care at 1:30 p.m. at the Paper Moon studio. Gift delivery of ornaments will be posted in upcoming bulletins.

COMMITTEE MEETING for Spiritual Formation & Discipleship will be December 6th at 5:30 p.m.

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

TODAY, Sunday, November 27th

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

Monday, November 28th

6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training

Tuesday, November 29th

10:00 a.m. Stephen Ministry Training
8:00 p.m. AA in Fellowship Hall
8:00 p.m. Al Anon next to Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, November 30th

3:00 p.m. After School Program
6:30 p.m. Orchestra Rehearsal
7:30 p.m. Choir

Thursday, December 1st

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study, Shoney's
3:00 p.m. Book Lover's Christmas Musical
8:00 p.m. AA in the Fellowship Hall

Saturday, December 3rd

8:00 p.m. Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 4th Communion

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

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY
Elders: Danny Brown & John Legard

Stewardship & Attendance for November 20, 2016

Attendance: 152
Offering: \$3,600

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 (Commonwealth Assisted Living), Reed Cooke (Commonwealth Assisted Living), Hazel Warden (Abingdon Rehab), Don Preston, Claude Greever (English Meadows), Marjorie Addison (English Meadows), Dorothy Phillips (English Meadows) and Helen Napps

WE ASK FOR PRAYERS FOR THESE NEW CONCERNS: Family of Senah Seagle

WE ASK FOR PRAYERS FOR THESE CONTINUED CONCERNS: Richie Hooker, Mary Barr, Joe Hutton and Family

AND FOR THESE MEN AND WOMEN IN THE MILITARY: Joseph McGraw, Walter Holcomb Jr., John Nowell II, John Nowell III, Dexter Bevis and Miles Ratliff

*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)



*Responding to God's grace,
we are called to be a welcoming community,
following Jesus, serving joyfully,
and sharing God's love with each other and the world.*



SINKING SPRING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

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

Teaching Elder:

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 preschool@sinkingspring.org

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