

3^d Sunday in Advent

December 11th, 2016

11:00 a.m.

PRELUDE *Trumpet Tune on Sleepers, Wake!* M. Sobaje

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE *The Shockley Family*

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: O Lord, our redeemer,
You lead us from languishing in sorrow's shadows
Into laughter's joy over your abundant restoration.
Thank you that you are coming for us
To lead us home along your Way, Jesus Christ.

+HYMN *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* #1

+PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for the coming of your Son. Grant us the wisdom to see your purpose and openness to hear your will, that we too may prepare the way for Christ who brings good news to all people. Help us make room in our hearts for the joy that Christ offers. Too often we chase after vain glory and transient pleasures, instead of trusting your greatest gift to bring us true joy. Forgive us. Refocus our attention on your miraculous in-breaking, which makes manifest your kingdom of peace, justice, and eternal joy. Let our hearts sing for joy as we prepare the way for your birth and welcome your reign on earth and in our hearts. 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 *O Sing a Song of Bethlehem* #308 v: 1-3

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

HEBREW BIBLE READING Isaiah 35: 1-10 p. 622 OT
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *Baby Boy* Besig/Price

GOSPEL READING Matthew 11: 2-11 p. 9 NT
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED *They Shall Obtain Joy* Rev. S. Freeman

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles Creed*
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

Offertory *Partita on "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* Drischner
+Doxology *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* #592
+Prayer of Dedication

+HYMN *Joy, to the World* # 40; V: 1,2

+BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE *Lord, Dismiss Us*

+POSTLUDE *Noel X (Echo Noel)* L. D'Aquin

+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 Richard Cano
- the acolytes are Muriel Dillow and Cate Arney
- the bell ringer is Ben Campbell
- Big W.O.W. leaders
- Little W.O.W leaders are Dianne Loomis and Jeni Holt
- the nursery volunteers are Amanda Livingston and Sarah Allen
- the sound board tech is Gloria Wadle

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.

WE WELCOME REVEREND SCHAAP FREEMAN to the pulpit this morning. Rev. Freeman is a graduate of Davidson College and Columbia Theological Seminary. A native of Marion, Virginia and a child of Royal Oak Presbyterian Church, Schaap was ordained in Abingdon Presbytery in 2005. She has served congregations in Charleston, SC, Charlotte, NC, Fort Mill, SC and Atlanta, GA. Currently, Schaap works at the Holston Presbytery, and she resides in Johnson City, TN with her husband and young daughters.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING today following worship to elect elders to the Session Class of 2019.

SPENCER MILLER CONCERT TODAY at 3:00 p.m. featuring *Blue Highway* a 22-year strong powerhouse band in the world of Bluegrass. Admission is \$10 per ticket. All events are free for students.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS will be in the sanctuary next Sunday, December 18th.

WE WELCOME JOAN KEITH to worship this morning. Joan is filling in for Dr. Trivette who is with the Community Chorus in Georgia performing at the Dalton State College this weekend.

JAZZ AT THE HEARTWOOD – Join Dr. Trivette and Southwest Virginia College Jazz Combo band and Jazz vocalists performing Christmas Music at Heartwood for lunch on December 13th from 12:00 p.m. till 1:30 p.m. Come and enjoy great Christmas music and lunch.



CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRY
Elders: Georgia Crews & Jan Hardman

CONGREGATIONAL UPDATES: *Doris Buchanan* is back in the hospital with complications from pneumonia.
Betty Patterson is recovering at Abingdon Rehab from a recent fall.
 Please remember these ladies in your prayers.

NEW MEMBER: a warm welcome to *Fred Brown* who has joined our congregation.

REMINDER: Congregational Ministry committee will meet December 13th at 6:30 p.m. in the church parlor.

SERVICE AND OUTREACH
Elders: Mimi Hull & Alice Rainey

ANGEL TREE GIFTS were delivered to Abingdon Manor on December 5th. Activity Director, Ashley Dolinger expressed her gratitude and appreciation for your generosity and caring for the residents who will receive your gifts. Thank you for helping make a difference in the lives of those who are without.

JOY GIFT OFFERING through the Presbyterian Mission Agency will be collected on December 18th. With our congregation's help, church workers can receive financial assistance during their time of need and our future racial ethnic leaders can be equipped for all ministries of the Church or educated at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges. Thanks, in advance for spreading joy to our PCUSA church workers this Advent Season.

GATLINBURG WILDFIRES: Please pray for the victims of the Gatlinburg wildfires. If you wish to donate to the relief efforts, you may make a check payable to SSPC and notate "Gatlinburg Fire" in memo line. Monies will be sent to Presbytery for disbursement.

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.

YOUTH ACTIVITY – TODAY - 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.



IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

TODAY, Sunday, December 11th

- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
- 12:00 p.m. Congregational Meeting
- 1:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training
- 3:00 p.m. Spence Miller Concert – Blue Highway Bluegrass Band

Tuesday, December 13th

- 6:30 p.m. Congregational Ministry Committee Meeting
- 8:00 p.m. AA in Fellowship Hall
- 8:00 p.m. Al Anon next to Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 14th

- 3:00 p.m. After School Program
- NO CHOIR OR BELL REHEARSAL

Thursday, December 15th

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study, Shoney's
- 8:00 p.m. AA in the Fellowship Hall

Friday, December 16th

- 6:00 p.m. Children's Dress Rehearsal – Christmas Program

Saturday, December 17th

- 6:00 p.m. AA in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 18th

- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Youth Sunday – Children's Program

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY
Elders: Danny Brown & John Legard

Stewardship & Attendance for December 4, 2016

Attendance: 136
 Offering: \$6,500

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: Betty Patterson (fall)

WE ASK FOR PRAYERS FOR THESE CONTINUED CONCERNS: Richie Hooker, Mary Barr, Family of Senah Seagle, Doris Buchanan and Peggy Semancik 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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