

4th Sunday of Advent

December 18th, 2016

11:00 a.m.

PRELUDE *Meditation on "Veni Emmanuel"* *arr. Scriverneyer*

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE *The Trivette Family*

+CALL TO WORSHIP

***Based on Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26*

One: We sing of God's mercy and grace shown to all generations.

All: **We praise God's constant and never-ending love and faithfulness.**

One: We rejoice that God's promise of an anointed one-the Messiah- is about to be fulfilled.

All: **O come, O come, Emmanuel – God with us – forever.**

+HYMN *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* #8

+PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O promised Christ: we are a world at war. Our peace depends on your coming. We are a sinful people. Our pardon depends on your coming. We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises; our only hope of doing God's will is that you should come and help us do it. Lord Christ, Word made flesh, our world waits for your peace, for your pardon, and for your grace. Even so: Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

+ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God has given ear to our confession and God's face has shined upon us! In the name of Jesus Christ, you and I are saved – saved from our sins, saved to our faithful savior, whose steadfast love is gifted to the world!

+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.

+HYMN *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child* #27

Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the undefiled, To the world a stranger
Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His favor.

Angels sang about His birth, Wise men sought and found Him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth, Glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ringing.

Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
He is still the undefiled, But no more a stranger.
Son of God, of humble birth, Beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth, Hail the King of glory!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

HEBREW BIBLE READING Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19 p. 503 OT

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 1: 18-25 p. 1 NT

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Christmas Program: THE NATIVITY

Children in the Nativity: Cate Arney, Scotlyn Bales, Abe Campbell, Ben Campbell, Judge Dillow, Muriel Dillow, Noah Gibson, Ross Gibson, J. W. Hortenstine, Katherine Hortenstine, Isabella Kim, Stella Kim, Milo Leidig, Caroline Mason, Charlotte Moran, Annsley Trivette and Joby Trivette

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We are an Advent people, a people of hope. For us, Advent is a time of waiting, and so we wait. We wait for the coming of the One who is the fulfillment of God's promise, the fulfillment of help, the declaration that we have been redeemed. Even so, we are not a naïve people. We know that the world in which we live will continue to be filled with pain and sorrow. We know that hatred and violence will continue to exist. We know that death and separation will continue to be a part of our lives. But because we are an Advent people, we know that none of these things will win in the end. The Holy One is coming, to make holy once again all that was, is, and ever will be. And in our waiting and our hoping, we work and worship, pray and play, in all things hoping that peace, love and joy will reign in our lives and in our world, now and forever.

OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

Offertory *The First Noel* *arr. Carter*

+Doxology *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* #592

+Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, you have given yourself to us in Creator, in Christ, in the Spirit. We now give back to you: this money that seems so little; this worship that seems so small; these words that never quite get it right. Receive what we offer and transform it by the power of your Spirit into: enough money, sufficient praise, worthy words for proclaiming and enacting your peace, justice, and love in the world.

+HYMN *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* #48

May Christ enable us to love our neighbors each day;
may the Father help us to support one another with
mercy and grace; and may the Holy Spirit lead us to
fulfill God's law through being servants of His
Kingdom and disciples of Christ, for now and always.
Amen.

+POSTLUDE *Christmas Postlude on 'In Dulci Jubilo'* *arr. Martin*

+THOSE WHO ARE ABLE PLEASE STAND

WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION Elders: Matt Crum & Joey Lamie

THIS MORNING...

- the liturgist is Youth
- the bell ringer is Emmie Jo Allen
- the W.O.W. leaders (NO W.O.W. today)
- the nursery volunteers are Mary Beverly and Rachel Fowlkes
- the sound board tech is Isaac Short

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.

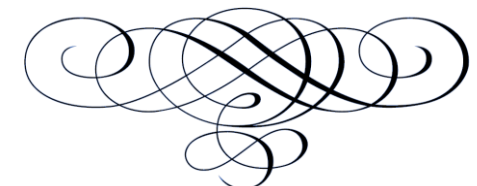
THE 2016 CHRISTMAS CONCERT was once again a wonderful success. Special thanks to Arch Snyder, Director of Music; Dr. Joseph Trivette, Organist; our college students; the 9-piece Orchestra that accompanied and to our wonderful Sinking Spring Church Choir and Bell members

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: This year we will once again gather to worship God and celebrate the birth of Christ on Christmas Eve at 5:30 p.m. Bring your family, your friends, or some of both and celebrate the arrival of Christmas.



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.



SERVICE AND OUTREACH
Elders: Mimi Hull & Alice Rainey

THE JOY GIFT OFFERING TODAY, will go to church workers needing financial assistance and our future racial ethnic leaders to equip them for all ministries of the Church or to assist with education at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges. Please place your donation in the bulletin envelope or write "Joy Offering" on your check memo line. Thanks 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.

CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRY
Elders: Georgia Crews & Jan Hardman

CONGREGATIONAL UPDATES: *Doris Buchanan* has been moved to Abingdon Rehab for recovery. She is in Room 124 and visitation is welcomed from 10:00 a.m. till 8:00 p.m.

Betty Patterson is also at Abingdon Rehab recovering from a recent fall. Visitation, cards, and your prayers are appreciated.

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

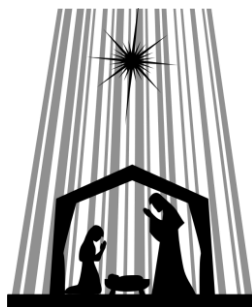
HEARTFELT THANKS to everyone who helped extend hospitality to our guests who attended the post – Christmas Concert reception on December 3rd. A special thanks Toni Oliver for the delicious mulled cider and to Joanne Ross for the wonderful peanut butter fudge and the wonderful cookies prepared by Dean McGraw.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION & DISCIPLESHIP
Elders: Kate Shockley & Stanley Haynes

NO W.O.W. TODAY: There will be no W.O.W. today. All children are invited to remain in the sanctuary for the children's portrayal of the Christmas Nativity.

AFTER SCHOOL IS ON CHRISTMAS BREAK UNTIL JANUARY 4, 2017.

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.



IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

TODAY, Sunday, December 18TH

10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Youth Sunday – Youth Christmas Program

Monday, December 19TH

6:30 p.m. Session Meeting

Tuesday, December 20TH

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

Wednesday, December 21ST

NO AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
NO CHOIR OR BELL REHEARSAL

Saturday, December 24TH

5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 25TH Christmas Day

NO Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Monday, December 26TH

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY
Elders: John Legard & Danny Brown

Stewardship & Attendance for December 11, 2016

Attendance: 139
Offering: \$5,400

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

THE CHRISTMAS JOY GIFT OFFERING
WILL BE RECEIVED TODAY

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:

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

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

136 E. Main St. + Abingdon, VA 24210

Church Office: 276.628.3361

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

www.sinkingspring.org

Ministers: Members & Friends of the Congregation

Pastor:

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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