

Worship for the Lord's Day

December 30, 2008 - First Sunday in Advent
10:00 AM

*An asterisk * indicates standing, as you are able.
The congregation's responses are in **bold italics**.*

The Church is Gathered

Welcome The Lord be with you. ***And also with you.***

Announcements *Please see the bulletin insert for all announcements.*

Prelude *The Advent Chorale* Felix Mendelssohn

In order to prepare for worship, you are invited to pray silently during the prelude.

Choral Introit *O Praise the Lord with Heart and Voice* Haydn

To Praise God's Name

Lighting of the Advent Wreath — *The Prophet Candle*
The Copes Family

Call to Worship

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
thou that leadest Joseph like a flock;
thou that dwellest between the cherubims, shine forth.

***Turn us again, O God, and cause thy face to shine;
and we shall be saved.***

O Lord God of hosts,
how long wilt thou be angry against the prayers of thy people?

***Turn us again, O God of hosts, and cause thy face to shine;
and we shall be saved.***

Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand, upon the
son of man whom thou hast made strong for thyself.

***Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts,
cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.***

* **Hymn** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* Hymnal #2

Unison Prayer of Confession

Sovereign God, all we, like sheep, have gone astray. We have turned to the ways of death rather than life. We have preferred security to sacrifice and gluttony to generosity. We have failed to care about or respond to the needs of our sisters and brothers, for we have been preoccupied with our own narrow concerns. Forgive us and turn us around so we may accept our rightful place in your eternal realm. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

* **Song of Praise** *Gloria Patri* Hymnal #579

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.

Response Forgiveness is ours in Jesus Christ. ***Thanks be to God!***

Choral Anthem *The Promised One* L. Smith

Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of our Lord be with you. ***And also with you.***

As our Passing of the Peace ends, all children through fifth grade are invited to depart for Children's Church.

To Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 64:1-9* p.643.

New Testament Reading *I Corinthians 1:3-9* p.991
Mark 13:24-37 p.882

This is the word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God!***

Sermon *Christ, the Answer to a Deep Yearning*

To Thank God

* **Hymn** *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* Hymnal #10

* **Profession of Faith** *Apostles' Creed* Hymnal p.14

Prayers of the People · The Lord's Prayer

Offering *From Heaven on High the Angels Came* Schreiner

During the offertory, you are invited to offer silent prayers of gratitude.

* **Song of Thanksgiving** *Doxology* **Hymnal #592**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* **Prayer of Dedication**

To Depart to Serve God

* **Hymn** *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* **Hymnal #8**

* **Charge and Benediction**

* **Congregational Amen** **Hymnal #586**

Postlude *Arr. by A. Schreiner* J. S. Bach

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Next Week's Sermon

“A Tale of Two Times”

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2,8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a

It is coincidence that God's people longed for an outpouring of God's Spirit in the midst of tribulation during two different times of their existence. The first time was the Captivity in Babylon, when the children of Israel were carried off into captivity by King Nebuchadnezzar. And the second time was during the early years of the church when all the forces of the Roman Empire conspired to snub out this radical movement called Christianity. Hard times called for strong faith and we have a lot to learn from the faith of these two different times in the history of God's dealing with God's children.

Announcements

The **Poinsettia** that has been placed in our Sanctuary was given by Anne Andrews for the glory of God, and in celebration of Preston Andrews' 80th birthday.

The **Lay Reader** today is **Vika Henderson**.

The **Organist** today is **Dot Hogan**.

The **Presbyterian Men** will meet for our monthly men's lunch this Tuesday, Dec. 2, at the Main Street Emporium in downtown Altavista at 11:45 AM. Those of you with a lunch hour free, come join us for food and fellowship!

The Worship and Discipleship Committee will be sponsoring an **Advent Workshop** for children ages 4 to 12 on this Saturday, December 6, from 10 - 12 Noon in the fellowship hall. Please sign up on the bulletin board by the office.

As is our tradition, our church will again host a **Christmas Party** for the **Sheltered Workshop**. It will be **Tuesday, Dec. 9**, at 1:30 PM in the fellowship hall. Please sign up on the bulletin board by the office if you are able to provide cookies, cupcakes, popcorn, or punch.

Please return **Angel Tree gifts** to the church by December 14, with the paper angel secured to the outside of the package.

The beautiful decorations in our sanctuary add so much to our worship during the **Advent and Christmas season**. If you would like to support this endeavor, and at the same time offer tribute or a memorial to someone special to you, you can do so for a \$10 donation. If you want to donate a poinsettia and take it with you after the service on Christmas Eve, please sign up on the bulletin board next to the office. We will need eight. Other donations will be used for the wreaths on the doors, the greenery, roping and the window decorations. All money should be turned in no later than Sunday, Dec. 14.

Our annual **Christmas celebration** will take place on Sunday December 14th, following the Koinonia supper at 5:00 PM. Please plan to join us.

Schedules

Ushers, December

Henry & Nancy Pittard,
Gary & Barbie Andrews

Greeters, December

Christine Oliver, Shirley Vuncannon

Lay Reader, December 7

Jane Strebel

Lay Reader, December 14

Sally Sease

Nursery, December 7

Debbie Berger

Nursery, December 14

Anne Mabry

Communion Servers, Dec. 7

Dennis & Linda Janiak, Sang-il Lee
Kelly deBernard, Anne Mabry
Doug Hecht, Bill Ferguson
Murrell Routon

Daily Scripture Readings

Theme of the week: <i>Waiting and Watching</i>		Psalm of the week: 97	
MONDAY	Luke 1:67-80	THURSDAY	Isaiah 43:1-13
TUESDAY	Colossians 1:9-23	FRIDAY	Hebrews 10:11-25
WEDNESDAY	Mark 1:1-8	SATURDAY	Zephaniah 3:14-20

Weekly Calendar

Sun., Nov. 30	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Worship	10:00 AM
	Children's Church & Sunday School for 4 th and 5 th Graders	
	Decorate Chrismon Tree following worship	
Wed., Dec. 3	Prayer Fellowship - Pastor's Study	9:30 AM
	Second Helping Lunch	11:00-12:30 PM
	Choir Practice	6:00 PM
Sun., Dec. 7	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Worship - Communion	10:00 AM

Joys and Concerns for Prayer

Speak to Elder Sang-il Lee to add a name or item to this weekly list.

- Praise: Bob and Ellen Ragsdale, Our new members
- Financial uncertainty
- Pastor Bob Button and his ministries
- The Hawkins family and New Wilmington Pres. Church in PA.
- The session and the staff
- Our children and grandchildren
- Search for organist
- The Wilbur West family and Alphonso Destin & Renaldo Oliver.
- Health (Gary Alley, Mike Barker, Abbey Bogert, Rudy Burgess, Tim Coleman, Mary Crabtree, Eula Dillon, Dianne Emmett, Dorothy Finn, Steve Graham, John Hawkins, Jim Hankins, William Hoffman, Ralph Liebchen, Darnell Moorman, Ruth Muehleisen, Alma Rountrey, Ben Towne, Heath Tuttle, Margaret Young, Ken Younkin)
- Newly elected government officials and the transition phase
- Leaders in the town, county, state, country and world.
- Military and their family (Jeremy Larkin, Grant Martin, Joshua Wright)
- Help to grow in the grace and knowledge of God, and to share the Good News with others.
- Our church mission projects.
- John and Beth Muehleisen (Their newsletters are posted on the bulletin board.)
- John Farmer with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at UNC.
- Residents in retirement homes and residential care (Thelma Blanchard, Tom & Emily Chappelle, Francis Harvey, Ruth Knight, Wilmoth McClelland, Martin Strebel)

People to Contact at APC

Session (Active Elders)

Ron Coleman

Ministry Beyond the Congregation

Kelly deBernard

Ministry Within the Congregation

Rob Gilliam

Ministry Support

Sang-il Lee

Prayer & Visitation

Anne Mabry

Worship & Discipleship

Jennifer McCrickard

*Ministry Within the Congregation,
Visitation*

Stephanie Moehlenkamp

Worship & Discipleship

Caroline Peerman

Home Communion & Pulpit Supplies

Chip Roark

*Visitation, New Membership,
Presbyterian Men*

Sandi Smith

Visitation & Nominating Committee

John Tucker

Visitation & Nominating Committee

Mark Younkin

Ministry Beyond the Congregation

Bob Button

Moderator of Session

Staff

Carolyn Doss

Church Secretary

Stephanie Moehlenkamp

Choir Director

Preston Andrews

Treasurer

John Erb

Clerk of Session, Presbytery Delegate

Shannon Moorman

Nursery Attendant

Other Contacts

Sue Ferguson

Link Newsletter Editor

Sally Sease

Women's Circles

Alline Rogers

Meal Coordinator

Anne Mabry

Nursery Coordinator

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