

Worship for the Advent Season

December 14, 2008 – Third 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 *He Shall Feed His Flock* The Messiah

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 Shepherds Candle*
The Moehlenkamp Family

Call to Worship based on Psalm 126

When God brought us out of the last Great Depression,
we were like them that dreamed.

*We said to ourselves,
"The Lord hath done great things for us."*

When we came through the Great War and began to see the
economy flourish again.

*We said to ourselves,
"The Lord hath done great things for us."*

Once again we are in turmoil, the economy
and war wreck havoc and our security is challenged.

*Yet, we continue to remember that Our Lord has done
great things for us. We remember the words of the
Psalmist: He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing
precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing,
bringing his sheaves with him.*

* **Hymn** *Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers*

Hymnal #15

Unison Prayer of Confession

Heavenly Father, it's getting close to the day we celebrate as Your Son's birthday. We are caught up in the rush of the season: Looking for that perfect gift for someone we love, worried about what to serve to friends who drop by for a visit, and anxious over whether we have left someone off our mailing list. It appears as if our focus is on ourselves and not on the Gift which You sent to us in the form of a Little Child. Forgive our self-centered preoccupations. Help us to refocus on how we can translate Your Gift into Love for all who are not as fortunate as we: The homeless and those who are losing their homes; the hungry and those who must choose between food and medical care; those who cannot find jobs and those who are losing theirs. Forgive us God and help us to find ways to put Christ back into the season. 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!***

Solo *Joseph's Song* Joseph M. Martin
Bill Ferguson

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 61:1-4, 8-11;* p.641

New Testament Reading *John 1:6-8,19-28* p.922

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

Sermon *Witnesses to The Light*

To Thank God

* **Hymn** *People, Look East* **Hymnal #12**

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

Prayers of the People · The Lord's Prayer

Offering *Love Came Down at Christmas* Traditional Carol

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** *Would I Have Answered When You Called?* **Supplement #2137**

* **Charge and Benediction**

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

Postlude *Watchman, Tell us of the Night* Joseph Parry

Announcements

Welcome to Altavista Presbyterian Church! If you are a guest with us today, we extend to you the hand of fellowship in the name of Jesus Christ. We are glad you are worshipping with us, and hope you will return.

The **Lay Reader** today is **Sally Sease**.

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

We would like to say a special thanks to Mary Woodie for making the beautiful **Advent Wreath** in our sanctuary.

Please return **Angel Tree gifts** to the church Today with the paper angel secured to the outside of the package.

You won't want to miss our annual **Christmas Celebration** tonight at 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall following the Koinonia supper. Please bring a dish to share for the meal.

Everyone is invited to attend a **Christmas Caroling Event** hosted by the APC 4th & 5th Graders on Friday, December 19th. The group will leave from the church at 6:30 PM, and return to the church afterwards for goodies and hot chocolate.

Next Sunday, our **choir** will be leading our worship service with their annual series of Christmas anthems. Bring a guest to this special Sunday service next week.

The **Session** will meet for its December stated meeting next Sunday, December 21, immediately following worship.

A reminder that the Presbyterian **Christmas Joy Offering** will be received next Sunday. If you would like contribute, please make checks payable to APC and indicate in the memo line that your gift is for the Christmas Joy Offering.

Our **Christmas Eve Candlelight service** will be at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, December 24. As always, your visiting friends and family are invited and encouraged to attend.

Next Committee Meeting Night: January 13, 7:00 PM.

Schedules

Ushers, December

Henry & Nancy Pittard,
Gary & Barbie Andrews

Greeters, December

Christine Oliver, Shirley Vuncannon

Lay Reader, December 21

Dolores Drumheller

Lay Reader, December 28

Chip Roark

Nursery, December 21

David Mabry

Nursery, December 28

Chip Roark

Daily Scripture Readings

Theme of the week: <i>Good News</i> Psalm of the week: 80			
MONDAY	Mark 13:1-13	THURSDAY	John 1:14-18
TUESDAY	Luke 21:25-36	FRIDAY	Ezekiel 34:11-16
WEDNESDAY	Revelation 1:1-8	SATURDAY	Acts 1:1-11

Weekly Calendar

Sun., Dec 14	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Worship	10:00 AM
	Christmas Celebration	5:00 PM
Wed., Dec. 17	Prayer Fellowship - Pastor's Study	9:30 AM
	Second Helping Lunch	11:00-12:30 PM
	Choir Practice	6:00 PM
Friday, Dec. 19	Christmas Caroling	6:30 PM
Sun., Dec. 21	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Worship	10:00 AM
	Choir Christmas Music Program	
	Stated Session Meeting	After Worship

Joys and Concerns for Prayer

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

- Jane Strebel and her family in the death of her Mother, Emily Chappelle, who passed away Sunday night.
- Those who are lonely and those in need
- Help to grow in the grace and knowledge of God, and to share the Good News with others.
- Financial uncertainty
- Pastor Bob Button and his ministries
- The session and the staff
- Search for organist
- Health (Gary Alley, Mike Barker, Tim Coleman, Mary Crabtree, Eula Dillon, Dianne Emmett, Dorothy Finn, Steve Graham, John Hawkins, Jim Hankins, William Hoffman, Ralph Liebchen, Darnell Moorman, 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)
- 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 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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