



ORDER OF WORSHIP
Shelby Presbyterian Church
December 23, 2018
11:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

ORGAN PRELUDE: "*Sinfonia*" from "*Christmas Oratorio*" Bach
Carolyn Billings

WELCOME AND PRAYER Luke Harkey, Pastor

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP: from Isaiah 63 Pat Byers
I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,
because of all that the Lord has done for us,
and the great favor to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.
For he said, "Surely they are my people,
and he became their savior.

LIGHTING THE FOURTH CANDLE OF ADVENT: JOY Ormand Family
Caja, Jennifer, Madison and Tristan

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #92: "*While We Are Waiting, Come*" v. 1
While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come. (twice)

*HYMNS OF PRAISE #88: "*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*" v. 1, 6, 7
#121: "*O Little Town of Bethlehem*" v. 1, 2, 3

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION Pat Byers
**Merciful God, you sent your messengers, the prophets, to preach
repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to
heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy
the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who gave his life as a
ransom for many. (*silent confession*)**

RESPONSE IN SONG #83: *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"* v. 1
***Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.***

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS
Friends, believe the good news!
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

*GLORIA PATRI (sung): *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.*

*THE PEACE OF CHRIST
May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!
And also with you! (*Greet one another with the Peace of Christ.*)

*HYMN #314: *"Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness"* verse 1
***Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.***

PRESENTATION OF PRAYER SHAWL

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN Anne Langley
"What do you love about Christmas?"

NEWS FOR THE CHURCH FAMILY Luke Harkey

*HYMN #137: *"He Came Down"*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Pat Byers

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Micah 5:2-5a

ANTHEM: *"This Is the Time to be Joyful"* (Choplin) Chancel Choir

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Luke 1:46-55

SERMON: *"From Generation to Generation"* Luke Harkey

*HYMN #129: *"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: from A Brief Statement of Faith
**We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of
life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept
ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with
all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. In a broken and
fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to
witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask
idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long
silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In
gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ
in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch
for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom
come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our
daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the
kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS
Offertory: *"Pastoral Symphony"* from *"Messiah"* Handel

*Doxology
***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures
here below; praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts; praise Father,
Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

*Prayer of Dedication

*CLOSING HYMN #123: *"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Luke Harkey

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #115: *"Away in a Manger"* verse 3
***Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.***

*CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

*POSTLUDE: *"Adeste Fideles"* arr. Whiting

*Those who are able may stand.
Music Copyright License No. 157527

Sound Board: Joe Petrilli

Deacon Ushers: Warren Julian, Barbara Moore,
Wiley Smith, Beverly Styers.

Childcare is available for preschool aged children in Room 102
and is staffed today by Tricia Butler and Annie Holland.

*In order to protect your children, please be sure they are
accompanied at all times by a parent or responsible adult caregiver.*

WE WELCOME all who worship with us this morning. If you are interested in more information or in becoming a member of our family of faith, please call the church office, 704-487-8503. If you have questions about our hearing loop system, please call the church office Monday-Thursday, 8:30-4:30, Friday 8:30-12:00.

IF YOU ARE ABLE to assist after the service we need to remove pew cushions in preparation for the candlelight evening services. Balcony cushions are placed in the sound room and Sanctuary cushions are placed in the Narthex Parlor.

EXTRA LISTINGS of trees, wreaths and poinsettias are available in the narthex.

FORMS for nominating officers for the Class of 2022 are available in the narthex. Nominations are due in church office by January 14, 2019.

THESE DAYS devotional books for January-February-March are available in the narthex. Please take one for your family.

THE SERENDIPITY CLASS will do a study of First Corinthians, *In the God's Word for Today Series* beginning in January. All are invited to join.

CHURCH SEXTON Shelby Presbyterian is accepting resumes for the position of Church Sexton. The sexton is responsible for cleaning, light maintenance duties, minor repairs to the church buildings and grounds and other tasks such as setting up and moving of furniture, etc. as designated and assigned. This is an essential service to the church in that it provides a clean, comfortable, and safe environment to promote the mission of the church. Please direct all inquiries to Shelby Presbyterian Church, 226 E Graham Street, Shelby, NC 28150. Attention: Personnel Committee.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT SPC
DECEMBER 23, 2018 - JANUARY 2, 2019**

Sunday, December 23

- 4:00 "Friendly Beast" Rehearsal
- NO YOUTH

Monday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

- Church Office Closed
- 5:00 pm Service for Families, including "Friendly Beasts" Puppets
- 11:00 pm Worship Service, including Communion and Candlelight

Tuesday, December 25 - Merry Christmas!

- Church Office Closed

Wednesday, December 26

- Church Office Closed
- NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER/PROGRAM, NO CHANCEL CHOIR

Thursday, December 27

- 8:30-4:30 Church Office Open
- 10:00 am SPC Staff Meeting in Pastor's Study

Friday, December 28

- 9:00-12:00 Church Office Open

Sunday, December 30

- 11:00 am one Worship Service

Tuesday, January 1, New Year's Day

- Church Office Closed

Wednesday, January 2

- 8:30-4:30 Church Office Open
- 5:00 pm Membership Committee
- 5:00 pm Property Committee
- 6:00 pm Supper & Program
- 7:00 pm Youth Committee
- 7:10 pm Chancel Choir

2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available for you to pick up in the hallway behind the sanctuary (across from the conference room). They are arranged in alphabetical order. If you want to use offering envelopes and cannot find your box, please inform the church office.

CONTRIBUTIONS were received this week to Marion School Backpack Ministry Fund in memory of Kathie and Bobby Burgin, Kathy Gardner, Gina Suttle, Larry Ware; in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gefaell; to the Food Ministry Fund in honor of Mabel and Morris Lacey.

STEWARDSHIP SEASON

In keeping with the season of Thanksgiving, we are reminded again this year of how blessed we are as a congregation. Not just for the support we have in one another but also in our financial blessings. The Stewardship season is well underway. We have received 108 pledge cards totaling \$474,454.00. Last year we had total pledges of \$486,985.40 and therefore, we are still hopeful that those who have not pledged to date will consider doing so. And for those who have pledged, if you feel led to make changes there is still time for changes to be considered as we make out the 2019 budget.

Our church continues to move forward with our worship of Jesus Christ in accordance with the mission statement "GROWING, PRAISING, SERVING". Each of us has a special contribution to make in support of this mission and as we begin the season of Advent take time to review your commitment to God. Again thanks to your continuing support.

REMINDER: Please review the status of this year's pledge in order to close 2018 with our commitments completed.

-The Stewardship Task Force and Finance Committee

STEWARDSHIP REPORT:

2018 Operating Budget	\$568,665.00
2018 Monthly Budget Needs	\$ 47,388.75
Total Received December 1-16.	\$ 39,250.51

REMEMBER IN PRAYER (also see ongoing prayer list in newsletter)

Holly Petrilli and family on the death of her grandmother, Dorothy Williams, on December 7, 2018.

Paul Couey, Bert Cushman, Ed Cushman, Ellis Monroe, Patrick Potts, Steve Sisk; all disaster victims; all those serving in the military; Food Ministry; Rainbow Connection; Our brothers & sisters of Monte los Olivos; Dr. Steve & Alene Burgert in Kenya; Jo Ella Holman in the Caribbean; John McCall in Taiwan; Dr. Martha Sommers in Malawi; Christians around the globe who are persecuted for their faith.