



ORDER OF WORSHIP  
First Sunday of Advent

Shelby Presbyterian Church  
December 1, 2024  
10:00 a.m.

\*Please rise as you are able.

PRELUDE *“Savior of the Nations, Come”* (Wagner) Emily Monroe

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Carol Ann Hoard

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST CANDLE OF ADVENT: HOPE

Emily & Greg, Grace & Millie Melton

Susan & David Melton, Robin & Roger Holland

Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight the path of our God!

**We proclaim the Lord who was, and is, and is yet to come!**

We light this candle for the hope we have in Emmanuel – God with us.

**Our hope is the Lord Jesus in whom heaven and earth are one.**

Open our eyes to your action in this world! Give us hope again.

**May we be your faithful presence until you come again!**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: *“Lift Up Your Eyes”*

***Lift up your eyes and see the light surround you;  
with radiant hope, illuminate the night.***

***Lift up your voice and sing, let earth and heaven ring,  
lift up your eyes and see the everlasting light.***

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 25)

Claire McCullough

Let us Worship the Lord!

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. **O my God, in you I trust.**

Good and upright is the Lord: **Our God instructs sinners in the way.**

The Lord leads the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.

**All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those  
who keep his covenant.**

According to your steadfast love, remember us, for your goodness’  
sake, O Lord! **Let us praise the name of the Lord!**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE: #88 *“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”* verses 1 and 6

CALL TO CONFESSION

Claire McCullough

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION: **O Son of God, light of the world, as the sunrise chases the darkness and lights up hidden places, so your coming prompts eager anticipation and fear. For we comfort ourselves thinking that our private actions are unobserved; that our unspoken thoughts are secure in the silence of our minds; and thus we are caught off-guard and are startled to meet you. The secret faults, often hidden even from us, are penetrated by your seeing; our most guarded words are within your hearing; our most personal thoughts are subject to your discerning. Your coming is both soothing light and refiner’s fire. Have mercy on us then, loving Lord. Correct us gently. Transform us and make us your new creation. Amen. (silent confession)**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Sisters and brothers, 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

Claire McCullough

The Peace of the Lord be with you! **And also, with you!**

CHILDRENS’ NATIVITY PLAY

“Unto Us” (Patterson)

“Gather ‘Round the Manger” (Mayo)

“Jesus, the Light of the World” (LeDoux)

FIVE CENTS A MEAL

Carol Ann Hoard

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Claire McCullough

FIRST SCRIPTURE:

Jeremiah 33:1-3, 10-16 NRSV

SECOND SCRIPTURE:

Luke 21:25-36

Richard Hart

SERMON

“Faith Under Fire”

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE: #357 “The Days Are Surely Coming”

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (from “A Brief Statement of Faith”): **In life and death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.**

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.**

CALL TO PRESENT TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (Martin)

Emily Monroe

\*DOXOLOGY (sung): **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: #313

“Lord, Make Us More Holy”

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Richard Hart

\*CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

Anna Grace McCullough

\*POSTLUDE: “Noel” (Daquin)

Emily Monroe

Music Licenses: 1575277 (CCLI)/ A-739540 (One License)

Sound Board: John Brotherton & Chip Blackley

**Scriptures read in service** are original translations, unless otherwise noted.

Feel free to read a familiar translation and listen for different word choices.

**CHILDCARE** is available each week for infants through preschool in the Nursery (Rm 102), staffed by Lilly Hamilton, Maggie Hohne, and Heather Johnson. In order to protect your children, please be sure they are accompanied to the nursery by a parent or responsible adult caregiver.

**WE WELCOME** all who worship with us this morning. Please take a moment to fill out the friendship pad in the pews. 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, 9:00-4:00, Friday 9:00-12:00. **After the service, all first-time visitors are invited to the back of the church where a church member will welcome you with a special gift.**

**THE ADVENT WREATH** is placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in memory of Ferry E. "Ace" Richards by family and friends.

**A HUGE THANK YOU** to the Growing in Grace children for leading in worship today: Annie Kate Brown, Victoria Couch, Vivi Dow, Theia Stern, Mills Bryant, Vashti Bryant, River J, Seren Bryant, Elizabeth Couch, Lena Kate Dow, Josephine Mangione, Millie Melton, Annie Moser, Avery Moser, Steele Bryant, Ivie Carter, Harrison Mangione, Grace Melton, Anna Grace McCullough, Thomas Pruitt, Ruby Raudez, Savannah Raudez, Corban Stern, Oliver Stern, and Kesson Warrick **Thank you** to the narrators: Khia Hickman, Amelia Pruitt, Foster Warrick, Benjamin Pruitt, and Paxton Warrick. **Thank you** to the adults: Tonda Christian, Debbie Hart, Annie Little, Susan Melton, Margie Trivett, Carol Ann Hoard, and Emily Monroe

**THE FRIENDLY BEASTS:** Shelby Presbyterian's claim to fame, The Friendly Beasts, needs beasts!! We will do the show during the 5:00 pm Christmas Eve service, and if possible, for Rainbow Connection sometime between December 11<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup>. No memorization required, just the ability to speak/sing somewhat clearly and like an animal! Please be an equal opportunity puppeteer, no guarantees on which puppet you'll be. They're all fun! Contact Laura Wheeler if you want to make puppet magic, [lauraew66@gmail.com](mailto:lauraew66@gmail.com) or text 704-438-0513. If you haven't seen the Friendly Beasts, you can watch the 2017 show at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q9ft6Hk6yFc>.

**THE ANGEL TREE FOR TURNING POINT ACADEMY** students is back this year! We have the opportunity to provide students in need with Christmas gifts which they would not otherwise receive. Located in the Narthex, the tree has information about the students and how you can go about participating. We are excited about the possibility of helping the school meet the needs of these young people, while bringing them some Christmas cheer at the same time! This is a special chance to choose and shop for a student as a family, a Sunday School class, neighborhood group, or on your own. Please prayerfully consider helping these students have a very Merry Christmas!

**CLEVELAND COUNTY HABITAT WOMEN BUILD RESCHEDULED:** New dates for this year's Women Build have now been set. This special event is scheduled for Saturdays, December 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. The number of volunteers is limited each day and available on a first-come-first served basis as long as slots are open. The worksite is at 608 East Warren Street. Contact Richard Hart or Amy Allen for more details.

# Christmas SERVICES & FELLOWSHIP

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**HANGING OF THE GREEN - WED., DEC. 4**  
Come decorate the church building for Christmas at 6 pm and join us for a short worship service at 6:30 pm, after which the children and adults will decorate the tree on the front lawn of the church.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER & CAROLING  
- WED., DEC. 11**  
Join us at 6:00 pm for pizza, salad, and Christmas cookies. After dinner we will load up the trailers and go caroling!

**HANDBELL CHOIR - SUNDAY, DEC. 8**  
Worship at 10 am will feature the SPC Handbell Choir providing the music for the prelude, the offertory and the postlude.

**LONGEST NIGHT - SAT., DEC. 21**  
On the longest night of the year, this 7 pm worship service is meant to acknowledge the grief, loss, stress, and pain that can make it hard to celebrate in this season. In prayer and reflection, with music and Scripture, participants will find a relaxed, friendly environment in Ellis Hall to pause and ask God's help and presence through the often unanticipated and unintended results of the holiday season.

**CANTATA - SUNDAY, DEC. 22**  
Worship at 10 am will feature the SPC Choir singing a Cantata for Christmas which was composed by Choir Director Bruce Moser.

**FRIENDLY BEASTS W/ CANDLELIGHT  
TUESDAY, DEC. 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE**  
Celebrate the birth of Jesus at 5 pm in the Sanctuary with the Friendly Beasts and a candlelight service.

**CANDLELIGHT AT MIDNIGHT TUESDAY,  
DEC. 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE**  
Celebrate the birth of Jesus at 11 pm in the Sanctuary in a solemn service that will conclude close to midnight with candlelight caroling.

**THIS WEEK (DECEMBER 1 - 7, 2024):**

|           |          |   |
|-----------|----------|---|
| Today     | 11:00 am | <b>Handbell Choir</b> in Bell Room                      |
|           | 4:30 pm  | <b>Advent Family Kits</b> pick up                       |
| Monday    | 9:30 am  | <b>Food Ministry</b> in Ellis Hall                      |
|           | 6:00 pm  | <b>Discipleship Ministry</b> in Back Parlor             |
|           | 7:00 pm  | <b>Boy Scouts</b> in Scout House                        |
|           | 8:00 pm  | <b>AA</b> in Ellis Hall                                 |
| Tuesday   | 10:30 am | <b>Staff Meeting</b> in Ellis Hall                      |
|           | 7:00 pm  | <b>Worship &amp; Music</b> in Back Parlor               |
| Wednesday | 6:00 pm  | <b>Hanging of the Greens</b>                            |
| Thursday  | 8:00 pm  | <b>AA</b> in Ellis Hall & <b>Al-Anon</b> in Back Parlor |
| Saturday  |          | <b>Habitat for Humanity</b> Women Build                 |

**STEWARDSHIP SEASON:** Your pledge to pray for, serve in, and give to your church will help us live into God's will in this exciting time. As of Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> 82 families have pledged \$422,316.00. Thank you. If you have not submitted your pledge, please place it in the offering plate or turn it in to Miranda who holds them in confidence and provides aggregate totals to help prepare next year's budget. Last year 113 families pledged \$532,770.00. Thank you. – Stewardship Task Force

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

John Auten, Ed Blake, Sue Breen, Sid Bridges, Allen Callahan, JoAnn Callahan, Hannah Carpenter, Karen Carpenter, Myra Carpenter, Sandy Carpenter, Conway Carter, Betty Clark, Randy Derwin Clark, Kay Clark-James, Al Eatmon, Debbie Ferrell, Tim Hamrick, Ina Harrington, August Hohne, Scot Horton, Andi Houser, Joan Hunt, Kevin Jones, Chuck Laughlin, Cheryl Lutz, Claire Mangione, Brooke McCurry, Nancy Minor, Lisa Perkins-Dodrill, Pauline Persing, Tommy Price, Clay Pruett, Susan Reed, Dot Roark, Larry Stern, Bill & Patty Thorne, Linda Ware, Jackie Weathers, Jack Weller, Stephanie Williams, Teresa Wingo, and our homeless neighbors; the victims of natural disaster and war, including in Ukraine and Israel-Gaza; all in military service and their families; Food Ministry; Turning Point Academy, Rainbow Connection, our brothers & sisters of Monte los Olivos; Tenwek Hospital; John McCall in Taiwan; Christians around the globe who are persecuted for their faith.