



ORDER OF WORSHIP  
**Second Sunday in Advent**

Shelby Presbyterian Church  
December 10, 2023  
10:00 a.m.

\*Please rise as you are able.

PRELUDE: *"Angels and Shepherds"* (arr. Lamb) Handbell Choir

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Drew Mangione

LIGHTING THE FIRST CANDLE OF ADVENT: PEACE

Judy Black, Fred & Jennipher, River & Sawyer Harrill  
Family and friends of Christ, the Lord has come down to humanity.

**We set aside our burdens to be present with mind and body in worship.**

Listen generations, let us come together as disciples to praise the Lord.

**We call out his name, Emmanuel, God is with us, who is peace for all.**

Emmanuel will be born, the Prince of Peace, who bore our suffering.

**Blessed are we who make peace, for we will be called Children of God.**

Today, we light two candles, for in his presence, we find hope and peace.

PRAYER

\*RESPONSE #92: *"While We Are Waiting, Come"* verse 2

The choir will sing first, then the congregation will join to repeat

CALL TO CONFESSION Mystie Brotherton

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION: **Emmanuel, you are God-with-us, and in every generation, we have known your faithfulness. In the suffering of life, we lose sight of you. We lose peace. We sin and create division. We fail to love you. We fail to love our neighbors. Yet, you are faithful and call us back by your love. Forgive us, Lord, for we have sinned. Restore us in your presence. 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 Mystie Brotherton  
The Peace of the Lord be with you! **And also, with you!**

MOMENT FOR CHILDREN Carol Ann Hoard

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Mystie Brotherton

FIRST SCRIPTURE: Mark 1:1-8

ANTHEM: "The Advent Rose" (J. Martin) Chancel Choir  
*Like a rose blooming in the winter, like a candle burning bright,  
like a star shining in the shadows, like a love song in the night,  
hope comes softly. Hope comes gently like a promise over all;  
falling graceful as a snowflake from the loving heart of God.  
Like a lark singing to the silence, like a fragrance in the air,  
like a wind moving through the forest, like the whisper of a prayer,  
peace comes softly. Peace comes gently, bringing mercy, bringing grace;  
heaven's blanket of assurance, warming touch of love's embrace.  
Let the valleys ring with music. Let the desert loom and thrive;  
for a Rose opens in the moonlight, bringing hope and joy and life;  
bringing love to heal the nations, bringing comfort to the soul,  
bringing truth to light the darkness, bringing grace to make us whole.  
Like a rose blooming in the winter, bringing grace to make us whole.*

SECOND SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 40:1-11 Drew Mangione

SERMON: "Through Suffering"

\*HYMN #88: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" verses 1,3,5

\*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: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" (arr. Wissinger) Handbells

\*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 #102: "Savior of the Nations, Come"

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION: "O Come, Let Us Adore Him!" (Moser)

\*CHIMING OF THE TRINITY Avery Moser

\*POSTLUDE: "With Heart and Soul and Voice Rejoice" (arr. Scholes)

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

**Sound Board:** John Brotherton & Patrick Glenn

**Ushers:** Thomas Monroe, Holly Petrilli, Kyle Aldinger, Mary Ann LaSelva

**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 for infants through preschool in Room 102, staffed by

Lindsay Carter, Lilly Hamilton, and Holly Conner

\*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. 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 given to the glory of God and in memory of Ferry E. "Ace" Richards by family and friends.

**THANK YOU** to the Handbell Choir for ringing to the glory of God and to lead in worship today: Jennifer Niblack, Brett Niblack, Anne Langley, June Hobbs, Mimi Martin, Bruce Moser, Barbara Hannah, Julie Bryan, Catherine Couch, Thomas Couch & director Emily Monroe.

**CHEESEBALL DELIVERY:** If you ordered cheese balls for the Habitat fundraiser, you may pick them up TODAY from Richard Hart. Thank you for your support of our Habitat Church Partnership Build.

**"LET THERE BE CHRISTMAS"** will be presented **TODAY** at 3 pm at Central United Methodist Church. The choir is made up of members from Shelby Presbyterian, Central and Aldersgate United Methodist Churches, and First Baptist Church. All are invited to attend this gift of music for the community to celebrate the season!

**TURNING POINT ACADEMY ANGEL TREE:** Turning Point Academy Angel Tree: Many thanks to everyone who has chosen to help us provide a little Christmas cheer to some of our Turning Point families this year. Please remember all items - unwrapped and marked with your student's ornament/number - are due **TODAY**. Any questions, please contact Molly Brownlee (704-477-8947). Thank you!

**ADVENT VIDEO REFLECTIONS:** Videos will be posted Monday through Friday at 12:15 pm December 4<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> on Facebook and YouTube. Each video reflection is about 10 to 15 minutes long and includes a poem, scripture, art, and prayer, for you to encounter the season in a new way. A limited number of physical copies will be available in the narthex.

**KEYBOARDS AT CHRISTMAS** will be held on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 and 6:00 at First Baptist Church, Kings Mountain: five grand pianos played by Traci Aderholdt, Heather and Jonathan Bundon, Bethany Keller, Mike Sisk, and SPC's Sherry Thomas.

**THE LIGHTBALL DASH** to benefit Feeding Kids Cleveland County will be held Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm gathering at the former Marion School parking lot. The 1-mile walk/run will begin at 6 pm and conclude with a party on Peach Street. SPC is a sponsor of this event.

**THIS WEEK (December 10-16, 2023):**

Today	3:00 pm	<b>Let There Be Christmas!</b> Cantata at CUMC
	5:00 pm	<b>Youth Christmas Party</b> in Youth Room
Monday	9:30 am	<b>Food Ministry</b> in Ellis Hall
	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
	5:30 pm	<b>Personnel Committee</b> in Back Parlor
	6:00 pm	<b>Fellowship Committee</b> in Back Parlor
	6:30 pm	<b>Session/Diaconate Meeting</b> in Ellis Hall
Wednesday	11:00 am	<b>Rainbow Committee</b> in F3 Room
	7:00 pm	<b>Choir Rehearsal</b> in Choir Room
Thursday	11:00 am	<b>Rainbow Christmas Program</b>
	8:00 pm	<b>AA &amp; AI – Anon</b> in Ellis Hall & Back Parlor
Friday	5:30 pm	<b>Girl Scouts</b> in Ellis Hall

**GIFT CARD OFFERING FOR TURNING POINT ACADEMY:** On Epiphany Sunday (Jan. 7) we will have a Gift Card Offering. Please bring \$10 gift cards to place in the offering plates. These cards will be used for motivational events for the students, for good attendance, good behavior, and good work. The students love this, and it is a great reward for them. Some suggested locations for gift card purchasing are Chic-fil-A, Cook Out, Dominos, Wal-Mart, and Sonic.

**THE LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE** on Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 will be an opportunity to acknowledge stressful experiences and feelings with others who are going through similar emotions and circumstances in the Christmas season. Through prayer and reflection, with music and Scripture, participants will find a relaxed, friendly environment in Ellis Hall to pause and take a break; to ask God's help and presence in coping with these often unanticipated and unintended results of the holiday season. Light refreshments will be served.

**THE CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE** will be at 5:00 on Sunday, December 24 in the Sanctuary. All are invited to join in celebrating the birth of Jesus with worship and The Friendly Beasts.

**CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS** from SPC's 150th Anniversary in 2008 are available in the Narthex. Please add one to your tree and consider sending in a donation to the Emergency Assistance Fund.

**BLOOD DRIVE DECEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>:** 37 out of 49 blood appointments are filled for the Dec. 19 American Red Cross blood drive! Are you scheduled to donate? If you would like to volunteer in a different capacity than a blood donation, sign up here: <https://bit.ly/SPCblood22>

**PRAYERS FOR JOYCE BOYETTE AND CAROL ANN HOARD** as they go on mission with Dream Ministries to Barahona, Dominican Republic in January. They will serve on the Medical Mission team which averages seeing 125 patients a day and also provides bags of beans and rice. Please keep them in prayer as they travel and serve along with the rest of the team. Contributions for unexpected circumstances such as medicines, transportation and incidentals are always appreciated. Donations can be sent to Shelby Presbyterian, earmarked for DR Mission trip. Thank you.

**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 Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 100 families have pledged \$496,050.00. 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 112 families pledged \$527,016.00. Thank you. – Stewardship Task Force

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

John Auten, JoAnn and George Beattie, Pam Birmingham, Debra Blanton, Dick Bowling, J.W. & Pat Brotherton, Karen Carpenter, Myra Carpenter, Sandy Carpenter, Chris Denning, Debbie Ferrell, Susan Grose, Ina Harrington, August Hohne, Cheryl Lutz, Faye McCants, Brooke McCurry, Marie Patterson, Pauline Persing, Ellen Poston, Clay Pruett, Larry Stern, Linda Ware, Doreen Wacaster, Jackie Weathers, Stephanie Williams, Teresa Wingo, and our homeless neighbors; all with respiratory illnesses; the victims of natural disaster and war, including in Ukraine, Israel-Gaza, and Guatemala; 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.