



ORDER OF WORSHIP
Fourth Sunday in Advent

Shelby Presbyterian Church
December 24, 2023
10:00 a.m.

*Please rise as you are able.

PRELUDE: *"Once in Royal David's City"* (arr. Benkhe) Emily Monroe

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Drew Mangione

LIGHTING THE FOURTH CANDLE OF ADVENT: LOVE

Glenn & Barbara Moore and David, Alison, Walton, & Lillian Moore, Fritz Schmidt

Friends in Christ, behold the force that draws us to God and each other.

That force is love: inescapable, unconditional, and tireless.

Come, receive God's grace: Jesus, Son of God, incarnation of God's love.

We receive the gift of Jesus, God-made-flesh to dwell among us.

Come, celebrate, behold, receive. Let us worship in Spirit and in truth.

We receive this love which overcomes fear, evil, isolation, and shame.

Into our lives, Emmanuel will be born, God-with-us, the author of love.

Today, we light four candles, because in God's presence, we find hope, peace, joy, and love.

PRAYER

*RESPONSE #92: *"While We Are Waiting, Come"* verse 3

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

CALL TO CONFESSION Michelle Moser

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION: **Emmanuel, you are God-with-us, and in every generation, we have known your faithfulness. In the trials we endure, we lose sight of you. We forget your love. We sin and spread hate. 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

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

MOMENT FOR CHILDREN

Carol Ann Hoard

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Michelle Moser

FIRST SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 7: 1-14a

ANTHEM *“Who is this Child?”* (Wagner) Chancel Choir
Who is this child that cries in the darkness? Who is this child that kings now seek? With feeble steps, draw near to the cradle, on a night cold and bleak. Who is this child on straw now reposing? Who is this child that shepherds have found? High from the heavens, sweet, lovely music, songs of angels abound. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing: Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary. Who is this child that princes now worship? Who is this child that we now praise? Welcome him still, the dawn of our mornings, Christ, the hope of our days.

SECOND SCRIPTURE

Luke 1: 26-38

Drew Mangione

SERMON *“Through Whatever Our Family Endures”*

*HYMN #88: *“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”* verses 1,6,7

*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: *“See Amid the Winter Snow”* (arr. Wagner) 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

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

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

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is truly right to...

Therefore, with all creation we sing your praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Acclamation of Faith

The Word became flesh to dwell among us. Dying you destroyed our death. Rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus come in glory.

Words of Institution

Communion by Intinction

Prayer after Communion

*CLOSING HYMN #143: *“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION: *“O Come, Let Us Adore Him!”* (Moser)

*CHIMING OF THE TRINITY Lindsay Glenn

*POSTLUDE: "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" (arr. G. Young) Emily Monroe

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

Sound Board: Chip Blackley & Joe Petrilli

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 placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in memory of Ferry E. "Ace" Richards by family and friends.

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.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS: The Office will be CLOSED Monday, December 25th, Tuesday, December 26th, Friday, December 29th. Office hours Wednesday, December 27th and Thursday, December 28th are from 10:00 to 2:00.

2023 DONATIONS: The Office will be open Wednesday, December 27th and Thursday, December 28th from 10:00 to 2:00 to receive any end-of-year giving. Last donations must be in at that time, or if mailed, postmarked no later than December 31. By law, anything after that will be considered 2024 donations, even if the check is dated 2023.

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.

THIS WEEK (December 24 - 30, 2023):

Monday	Office Closed/No Food Ministry 8:00 pm AA in Ellis Hall
Tuesday	Office Closed
Wednesday	Office Hours 10:00-2:00
Thursday	Office Hours 10:00-2:00 8:00 pm AA in Ellis Hall/ AI Anon in Back Parlor
Friday	Office Closed

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.

BOOK STUDY: You're invited to participate in a study and discussion of "Building a Multiethnic Church" by Rev. Dr. Derwin Gray, Pastor of Transformation Church in Charlotte. Pastor Drew will lead the study over eight (8) sessions beginning with a **Wednesday Night Supper on Jan. 17**, and concluding on April 24, all in Ellis Hall. Childcare will be available, with Growing in Grace for Pre-K to 5th Grade and nursery for younger children. Books are available, please contact Miranda (704-487-8503 or miranda@shelbypres.org) by **JANUARY 10, 2024.**

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 gives them 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.

ANNOUNCING SUCCESS FOR OUR HABITAT CHURCH PARTNERSHIP

BUILD! As of this week Habitat has received approximately \$50,885 in contributions from congregations participating in our Church Partnership Build! This means that we will be able to claim the full \$50,000 matching grant from the Cornerstone Fund of Shelby Presbyterian Church. The cheese ball fund raiser netted over \$4,000 from all sales in all churches, and we are grateful to all who purchased cheese balls through our congregation. This is exciting news and a great accomplishment in support of the mission of our Cleveland County Habitat for Humanity. A big and sincere thank you to our congregation and all individuals who provided support in a myriad of ways, especially for your generosity in giving to help us meet this goal. Houses are progressing nicely and there will be more volunteer opportunities to help with construction after the first of the year.

STEWARDSHIP SEASON: Thank you for your faithful response in this year's pledge drive for stewardship season. The Session passed our annual budget with confidence, and as of Tuesday, December 19th, your total commitment in 110 pledges is \$527,270 and you have submitted quite a few interest forms for SPC ministries and committees. If you have not pledged, you still can do so confidentially with Miranda either online or by submitting your pledge to her. 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, Andi Houser, Cheryl Lutz, Shayvonne Maddox, 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.