



ORDER OF WORSHIP
Third Sunday in Advent

Shelby Presbyterian Church
December 17, 2023
10:00 a.m.
*Please rise as you are able.

PRELUDE: *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"* (arr. McDonald)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Drew Mangione

*HYMN #133: *"O Come All Ye Faithful"* Congregation & Choir

LIGHTING THE THIRD CANDLE OF ADVENT: JOY

Tabatha Coker and May & Randy Reed

Friends in Christ, join the family reunion, for the Holy One calls us.

From far and near, we gather to wait for His arrival, God's son.

We wait in joyful expectation for Emmanuel, God-with-us.

Let every heart joyfully prepare Him room.

Into a sorrowful world Emmanuel will be born, Dayspring of Joy.

This is good news of great joy for all people. Joy comes in the morning.

Today we light the candles of hope, peace, and joy.

PRAYER

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

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

O grace from heaven, come; O grace from heaven, come.

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, O grace from heaven, come

CALL TO CONFESSION

Bly Borders

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION: **Emmanuel, you are God-with-us, and in every generation, we have known your faithfulness. In the uncertainty of life, we lose sight of you. We lose joy. We sin and inflict sadness. 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 Bly Borders
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 Bly Borders
The Peace of the Lord be with you! **And also, with you!**

MOMENT FOR CHILDREN: "John the Baptizer" Anne Langley

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Bly Borders

FIRST SCRIPTURE: Psalm 126

ANTHEM: "Arise!" (Martin) Chancel Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE: Thessalonians 5:14-24 Drew Mangione

SERMON: "Through Uncertainty"

*HYMN #88: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" verses 1, 4, 6

*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.

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Bleak Midwinter's Gift" (Martin) Chancel Choir

CALL TO PRESENT TITHES AND OFFERINGS
Offertory: "Comfort Ye My People" from Handel's Messiah
Emily Monroe, Bruce Moser, Hailey Rodden, & Hannah Stevens

*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 #93: "Lift Up Your Heads"

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

*CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

*POSTLUDE: "Overture" from Handel's Messiah

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

Sound Board: David Grose & Mike Jackson

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 CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING will be collected today. This offering supports both the Board of Pensions assistance program and several Presbyterian schools and colleges, which serve under-represented students to cultivate their gifts.

THE ROSEBUD is given in honor of Elizabeth “Eliza” Caroline Martin born November 30, 2023. Eliza is the daughter of Stephanie and Alex and joins big brother Brent. Overjoyed grandparents are Tom and Mimi Martin.

THANK YOU to Hailey Rodden, flute, and Hannah Stevens, violin, for sharing their talents today to help lead worship.

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.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES are now available for you to pick up in the hallway behind the sanctuary (across from the conference room). Be sure to get your box - they will be arranged in alphabetical order. If you use offering envelopes and cannot find your box, please let the church office know.

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, 2023. 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.

ADVENT VIDEO REFLECTIONS: Videos will be posted Monday through Friday at 12:15 pm December 4th – 22nd 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 TODAY 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 TODAY 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.

BLOOD DRIVE DECEMBER 19TH: 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>

THIS WEEK (December 17 - 23, 2023):

Monday	NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE
	9:30 am Food Ministry in Ellis Hall
	7:00 pm Boy Scouts in Scout House
	8:00 pm AA in Ellis Hall
Tuesday	10:30 am Staff Meeting in Ellis Hall
	1:00 pm Blood Drive in Ellis Hall
Wednesday	7:00 pm Longest Night Service in Ellis Hall
Thursday	6:00 pm Mission and Ministry in Back Parlor
	8:00 pm AA & AI – Anon in Ellis Hall & Back Parlor

THE LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE on Wednesday, December 20th 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.

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 spread out from Jan. 17 to April 24 in Ellis Hall.

Childcare will be available, the Growing in Grace program for Pre-K to 5th Grade and for younger children in the nursery. 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.

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 14th, 105 families have pledged \$510,350.00. 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) . . .

Our prayers and sympathies go out to Allen Callahan and family in the passing of his daughter-in-law Barbara Callahan, December 5, 2023.

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.



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

THE CHRISTMAS TREE in the narthex is given to the glory of God by Richard and Jan Dedmon in memory of Bitsy and Clyde Fesperman and Carl Dedmon and in honor of Doris Dedmon.



THE CHRISTMAS TREE in Ellis Hall is given to the glory of God by Mary and Holly Conner in memory of A. M. "Sandy" McGeachy and in honor of Camille McGeachy.

THE CHRISTMAS TREE on the lawn is given to the glory of God by Joyce Boyette in memory of Doug Boyette.



THE SANCTUARY WINDOW WREATHS are given to the glory of God and to the beautification of His Church by Debbie and Brent Ferrell, Ellen and Richard Fletcher, Peggy and Ali Paksoy, Stuart and John Schweppe, Martha and Bee Strain.

THE LARGE SANCTUARY WREATH is given to the glory of God by Claire McCullough and daughters, Lilly and Anna Grace in memory of Doug Boyette.

THE OUTSIDE DOOR WREATHS are given to the glory of God by:

Gilbert and Nancy Bowman in memory of Wes Bowman.

Carolyn Brooks in memory of Bill Brooks.

Len and Pat Byers in memory of Matthew Libby.

Bert and Joy Cushman in memory of Ed Cushman.

Bert and Joy Cushman in honor of Rob, Alene, Lia and Caden Cushman.

Marlene Lovelace in memory of Hoyt Lovelace.

Drew and Claire Mangione in honor of the intergenerational connections made by our members.

Tom and Mimi Martin, Alex, Stephanie, Brent, and Eliza Martin in memory of Betsy Martin.

Tom and Mimi Martin in memory of T. W. "Casey" and Elene Conner Martin.

Tom and Mimi Martin in memory of George Alexander and Betty Stackhouse Stanley.

John and Stuart Schweppe in memory of Frances and Perry Macomson.

John and Stuart Schweppe in memory of Ruth, Jack, David, and Martha Schweppe.

Rachel Pharr White in memory of Pat and Joe Pharr, Joe B. and Paula Pharr.

Rachel Pharr White in memory of Rachel A. and C. Howard White Sr., and Howard White Jr. and Dot Matsik White.

THE POINSETTIAS are given to the glory of God by:

Judy Black in memory of Wayne Black.

Sue Breen in memory of Jack Breen.

Sue Breen in honor of her children Steve, Donna, and Mark.



Don and Kathryn Bridges in memory of Cheryl Sisk.

Don and Kathryn Bridges in memory of Lillian Bridges and Clara Sue Bridges.

Don and Kathryn Bridges in honor of their children and grandchildren, Jonathan and Farah Bridges, Kate Bridges and Ashley Willis, Forrest Bridges, Layla and James Bridges.

Jonathan, Farah, Layla and James Bridges in memory of Doris Shaw Bridges, Clay Shaw and Anna Shaw.

Jonathan, Kate and Forrest Bridges in honor of Dick and Betty Bowling, and in memory of Walter Bridges and Lillian Bridges.

The Brownlee Family in memory of Nancy Powell.

The Brownlee Family in memory of Robert Brownlee.

The Brownlee Family in memory of Sloan Chambers.

Allen and JoAnn Callahan in memory of Ann Callahan.

Allen and JoAnn Callahan in memory of Ace Richards and Scott Richards.

Allen and JoAnn Callahan in memory of Denver Parker and Betty Deutsch.

Russ and Sandy Cheaney and Family in memory of Rhett Chamberlain and Betsy Martin.

Russ and Sandy Cheaney and Family in memory of Paul Cheaney and Martin Early and in honor of Rose Cheaney and Betty Early.

Barbara Dixon and Family in memory of Sid Dixon.

Scout and Myra Dixon in honor of Cam and Kenan Dixon.

Scout and Myra Dixon in honor of Kate and Will Wolking.

Brent and Debbie Ferrell in memory of Anne-Marie Darnell.

Brent and Debbie Ferrell in memory of Ira and Carolyn Darnell.

Brent and Debbie Ferrell in memory of Grady and Pauline Ferrell.

Brent and Debbie Ferrell in honor of their grandchildren Adelaide and George Ferrell, Brent and Owen Ferrell, and CeCe Clark.

D, Amy, Emma and Trey Goforth in memory of Wes Bowman.

D, Amy, Emma, and Trey Goforth in memory of Kip Smith.

Emma and Trey Goforth in honor of Gilbert and Nancy Bowman.

Emma and Trey Goforth in honor of Dennis and Peggy Goforth.

The Greer Family in memory of Mr. & Mrs. R. E. Steadman, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Greer, and Larry Greer.

Mike and Marie Jackson in memory of Gary Borders.

Mike and Marie Jackson in memory of Thelma Hughes.

Mike and Marie Jackson in memory of Steve Jackson.

Charles and Anne Langley in memory of Charlie and Eva Langley, and Richard and Margaret Smevog.

Charles and Anne Langley in honor of Thomas, Catherine, Elizabeth, and Victoria Couch.

Charles and Anne Langley in honor of Jeff, Anna, and James Yerger.
The David LeGrand Family in memory of Bill and Carolyn LeGrand.

The David LeGrand Family in memory of Ned and Jo Freeman

The David LeGrand Family in honor of Lisa Freeman LeGrand.

Marlene Lovelace in memory of Hoyt Lovelace.

Drew, Claire, Harrison, and Josephine Mangione in memory of SPC's friends and family who have died this year.

Drew, Claire, Harrison and Josephine Mangione in honor of John and Dianne Sproul.

Drew, Claire, Harrison, and Josephine Mangione in memory of Frank and Dorothy Mangione.

David and Susan Melton in memory of Robin Hendrick.

David and Susan Melton in memory of Gene Melton.

Grace and Millie Melton in honor of Roger and Robin Holland.

Grace and Millie Melton in honor of David and Susan Melton.

Thomas and Emily Monroe in memory of Rip and Lillian Collins.

Thomas and Emily Monroe in memory of Ellis Monroe.

Thomas and Emily Monroe in honor of Billy and Carolyn Cooper.

Joe Ogburn in memory of Jessi Ogburn.

Joe Ogburn in honor of Carolyn, John, and Katherine Ogburn.

Dot Roark and Family in memory of Les Roark.

Ben, Margaret, Charlie, Daniel, Anna, Jack, Ann, Lucas, and Sam Schweppe in honor of John and Stuart Schweppe.

Ben, Margaret, and Charlie Schweppe in honor of James and Margaret Herring.

Daniel and Anna Schweppe in honor of Susan Bell.

John and Stuart Schweppe in memory of Betsy Martin.

John and Stuart Schweppe in memory of Anne Gilbert Potts.

John and Stuart Schweppe in memory of Cheryl Sisk.

John and Stuart Schweppe in honor of Bruce Moser and the SPC Chancel Choir.

Grace Teddy and Family in memory of Jim Teddy Sr.

Grace Teddy and Family in memory of Jim Teddy Jr.

Scott and Sherry Thomas in memory of Claude, Pearl, and Cindy Lieurance and Bob, Jessie, and Phil Thomas.

Foster, Paxton, and Kesson Warrick in memory of Cheryl Sisk.

**We thank all those who placed poinsettias in the church.
You may pick them up following the Christmas Eve Service.**