

First Sunday in Advent

November 28, 2021 – 11:00 a.m.



Hanging of the Greens



BLACK MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

Grace and peace! All are welcome here!

During the Advent season we prepare for the One who has come, whom we expect to come, and who will come again. We prepare our hearts and make room for the Messiah. In the Hanging of the Greens we share with Christians throughout the ages the memory and anticipation of Christ's coming. We decorate our church with the symbols of love, joy, hope, and peace. Why do we do this? To tell the story again and then proclaim: Jesus is born. God is with us!

Please silence all communication devices. This sanctuary incorporates a hearing assistance loop; to engage this system, set hearing aids to the "t-coil" setting. † indicates to stand, if you are able. The congregation is invited to join in where the liturgy is marked in bold.



ADVENT BELL PEAL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Katherine Robinson

VOLUNTARY

Savior of the Nations, Come

Michael Burkhardt

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

INTROIT

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

ALL: Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel, Shall Come to Thee, O Israel

† CALL TO WORSHIP

The poet, Emily Dickinson, wrote:

"Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul."

The psalmist declared "I put my hope in the Lord all day long."

Hope is more than wishful thinking.

Hope is the Spirit of God dwelling within us, reminding us we are never alone.

Hope is our active commitment to be God's faithful people,

whether we walk an easy path or face fiery trials.

Let us open our hearts to the creative power of Hope,
that we may walk in the light of Christ.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Rebecca Askew, Nell Summerlin

We hope for a world where all are fed.

We hope for a world with more bridges than walls.

We hope for a world with wide open doors.

We hope for a world with contagious laughter.

We hope for a world where trees grow tall and creeks run clean.

**We hope for a world where all people feel at home —
in their bodies, in the church, in their physical homes.**

We hope for that world.

We long for that world.

We are homesick for that world.

† HYMN NO. 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

CALL TO CONFESSION

David Carter Florence

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

A Sanctified Art

Gracious God,

We find ourselves with two options every day —
to long and wait for the world you had in mind,
or to allow cynicism to win.

Do we hope against hope, or do we throw in the towel?

Do we insist on a better world, or do we assume it's impossible?

Forgive us for the days when cynicism wins.

Forgive us for numbing our hurt instead of using it to fuel a better world.

Kindle in us a hope that won't let go.

Gratefully we pray, amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe this good news:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

† RESPONSE TO PARDON

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

Two staves of musical notation in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: 'Come now, O God of light; make us one body. Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.'

Come now, O God of light; make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you.

Hanging of the Greens

How shall we prepare this house for the birth of Jesus?

With branches of cedar, the tree of excellence and strength.

How shall we prepare this house for the eternal Christ?

With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.

How shall we prepare this house for the prophet of Galilee?

With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of his passion, death and resurrection.

How shall we prepare our hearts for this revelation of God?

By hearing again the words of the prophets and the promises of God.

Today we wait with Hope for the light of Christ
to shine in the dark places of lives and memories.

**We wait in Hope for God's vision of wholeness, justice,
and peace for all creation to be born again in Bethlehem.**

The Greens

Within this Service we will bring in the greens, the pine, the fir, the cedar - all are part of Christmas joy - and we will add them to the decorations of the sanctuary.

The greens remind us, when all is bare and barren, of the promised reawakening of the earth in spring.

Early Christians decorated with evergreens as a promise of new life and a sign of hope that in Christ all live forever. Early belief was that evergreens symbolized the blessing of everlasting life. In Isaiah 60:13 we find these words: “The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, the cypress, the plane and the pine, to beautify the place of my sanctuary.”

The Holly

Gleaming brightly in the light of Christmas candles, the glistening leaves and shining berries of the holly remind us of the joy and happiness that comes to humankind in the birth of God’s Son. In the midst of a bleak, dead winter the green leaves speak to us of life, and the red berries remind us of the blood our Lord shed so that we might have life.

As we place the Holly this year we recall the many winters through which God has led us. As we rejoice in the promises of God to our church in years past so let us be ready to trust God for its future.

The Holly and The Ivy

Traditional English

**The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown
Of all the trees that are in the wood
The holly bears the crown
O the rising of the sun
And the running of the deer
The playing of the merry organ
Sweet singing of the choir**

The Mistletoe

Bob Tuttle

The mistletoe has become for us the symbol of merriment, the sign of a kiss. But in ancient times two warriors meeting under the mistletoe threw down their weapons and embraced in brotherhood. Thus it became the custom of early Christians to place a spray of mistletoe upon the Communion Table at Christmas time to remind the worshipper of the power and peace of Christ to heal the body and the soul.

In times of war and peace, struggle and rest, change and challenge God has nurtured the life of our congregation leading us to experience and share the wholeness and healing that God offers to the world in our Savior Jesus Christ.

HYMN NO. 378

We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom

The Poinsettia

Jesus has been described as the Rose of Sharon, the Christmas rose. His life reminds us of the fragrance of flowers, the beauty of the petals, the freshness of the leaves. No sanctuary would be completely dressed without the beauty of these flowers.

The custom of decorating churches, homes and marketplaces with poinsettias had its origin in Mexico and Central America where the “fire flower” has been the source of many legends. One tells of a poor peasant girl who had no gift for the Christ Child to place at the altar on Christmas Eve. As she wept with sorrow an angel appeared to her and directed her to gather a bouquet of tall weeds that grew nearby and to present them as her gift. The girl obeyed, and as she laid them on the altar the weeds burst into a glorious red bloom.

During this Advent season, and throughout the incoming year, in our celebrations we will share memories of joys and sorrows, of births and deaths, of good days and challenging times. Let us continue to affirm that in all things God has been present and faithful and forming us to be the Body of Christ.

HYMN NO. 129.1

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Es Ist Ein Ros'

The Christmas Story

Now with the beauty of the greens to remind us of the glory that came to earth at Christmas, let us rejoice again in the birth of Christ, the light of the world, as we focus on the scene described for us in Scripture and song.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:68-79

HYMN NO. 142

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

ADVENT MEDITATION

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† HYMN NO. 377

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

The Wreaths

We decorate our sanctuary in order to help us celebrate the birth of our Savior and to anticipate the Second Advent of our Lord. The meaning and the message of the coming of Jesus is not only for us but for the whole world and so we will add wreaths to the portico of the church as a sign of welcome and proclamation of the presence of Jesus the Savior of the world and the Lord of All. Let us be encouraged to continue the good work that has been started in us of serving our neighbors, within our congregation and community and beyond. Let us never tire as we reach out in true Christian compassion toward all.

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Advent is a time of waiting.

We wait for the coming of the One
who is the fulfillment of God's promise,
the fulfillment of hope,
the declaration that we have been redeemed.

We are not a naïve people.

**We know that this world will continue
to be filled with pain and sorrow,
hatred and violence, death and separation.**

**But, because we are an Advent people,
we know that none of these things will win in the end.**

The Holy One is coming to make holy once again
all that was, is, and ever will be.

**In our waiting and hoping,
we work, worship, pray and play.**

**In all things, hoping that peace,
love and joy will reign in our lives now and forever.**

PRAYER FOR ADVENT 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.

CHORAL RESPONSE

CALL TO OFFERING

Anthem

Advent Kyrie

John Parke/David Lantz

† **Doxology No. 583**

TAIZE GLORIA

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

† **HYMN NO. 87**

Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People

GENEVAN 42

The Christmas Tree

Best loved of all Christmas greens is the Christmas tree, bedecked with shining ornaments and sparkling lights. Upon its branches and beneath its boughs we place our gifts of love. We place Chrismons, on the tree to remind us of the life of our Lord born at this Christmastime.

Each Chrismon is a symbol of Jesus, and as we see them each week during Advent, we are reminded of the coming of our Lord at his first advent and at his second.

The Magi brought their gifts, expensive gifts, to lay at the feet of the Christ Child. Gifts do not need not be expensive to be appreciated by God so long as they are given from the heart.

This Advent we recall and give thanks to God for the many, many gifts given by so many people throughout the years that have enabled us to share the life of our Lord as we worship and serve together.

O Christmas Tree

German Traditional

O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree!

Thy leaves are so unchanging;

O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree!

Thy leaves are so unchanging;

Not only green when summer's here,

But also when 'tis cold and drear.

O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree!

Thy leaves are so unchanging!

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

† POSTLUDE

Wake, Awake for Night is Flying

Michael Burkhardt



Connect with us on our website: bmpcnc.org

Visitors: let us know of your interest or questions about BMPC.

Members: share prayer requests, pastoral concerns, or updated contact information.

We look forward to hearing from you.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Sam Baraki recovering from open heart surgery at home

Family and friends of Jim Cogswell who entered God's Church Triumphant on November 18

Kim Wood Colby, Johnnie Wood's daughter, hospitalized while being treated for leukemia

Kevin Griffin undergoing radiation for colon cancer

Rena Henderson's father, Hal Storey, entered God's Church Triumphant on November 21.

Family and friends of Ruth Janes who entered God's Church Triumphant on November 9.

A memorial service is planned for December 11 at 2:00 p.m. in the sanctuary

Congratulations to **Patty and Mark Keith** on their new grandson, Leo Fort Butler

Gayle Petty-Johnson's sisters. **Kay Young**, age 81, suffered a stroke following shoulder replacement surgery. She cannot use her right leg or stand but is progressing. **Bobbie Baker**, age 83, in ICU with congestive heart failure, in and out of consciousness.

Ronald Vaughan's brother and Alison Banzhoff's uncle, Reverend Charles Ray Vaughan, died on November 12

Our PC(USA) Mission Co-workers: **John McCall** in Taiwan;

Dan & Elizabeth Turk in Madagascar; Outreach Foundation: **Frank Dimmock**;

Seminary Students: **Emily Beaver**, Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia;

Levi Bannerman, Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia;

Susie Burns, Union Presbyterian Seminary in Charlotte, North Carolina;

Our partner Presbytery and partner church, Ebenezer, in Guatemala

Please remember in prayer these people with ongoing concerns:

Nada Barnett, Ron Botsford, Chad Carlton, Paul Carreiro, Sandy Cheatham,

Jane Collins, Candy Donnell, Ellen Gibson, Doris Hogle, Becky Hughes, Eleanor Landers, Mary McElrath, Jerry Newbold, Margaret Rada, Betty Rand, Porter Reece, Penny Sampson,

Renee & Charles Sandy, Callie Shaffer, Richard Speegle, Katherine Stanley, Heath Tuttle,

Paul Willison, Barbara & Gene Witherspoon, Jack Wynn

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O Lord, we prefer our Advents peaceful and full of stars and angels and babies.

But Advent carries upheaval and confusion as well – a New Order is breaking in and disruption is to be expected. Strengthen us to be vigilant and stand calmly amid the chaos, heads and eyes raised to behold Your Kingdom come. Amen.

Prayer of the week composed by Ken Kelly

WORK AND WORSHIP OF THE CHURCH

Sunday, November 28

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

- 9:00 a.m. FirstLight in the sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Adult Church School
- 9:45 a.m. Advent Workshop
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 12:15 p.m. Confirmation Class
- 1:30 p.m. Youth
- 3:30 p.m. Officer Training
- 5:00 p.m. Take 5 at 5

Monday, November 29

- 8:00 a.m. Sacred Circle
- 5:15 p.m. HS Girls Group

Tuesday, November 30

- 10:00 a.m. Worship Planning
- 1:00 p.m. PW Bible Study
- 1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 2:30 p.m. PW Coordinating Team
- 7:00 p.m. Prophets

Wednesday, December 1

- 12:00 p.m. Old Fellers Lunch
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 2

- 3:30 p.m. Caregiver Group

Friday, December 3

- 4:00 p.m. Holly Jolly Cocoa & Cider

Sunday, December 5

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

New members joining

- 9:00 a.m. FirstLight
- 9:45 a.m. Adult Church School
- 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 12:15 p.m. Confirmation Class
- 1:30 p.m. Youth

Take 5 at 5

scripture, poetry, jazz, and prayers
TODAY in the sanctuary 5:00-5:45 p.m.

Aaron Price and Sam Webber, *coordinators*

Alternative Gifting

for our mission partners!

Make your donation to local or global ministries through Christmas Alternative Gifting beginning today in the narthex.

Our Welcome and Hospitality ministry team will have a booth set up for Holly Jolly this year in our lower parking lot (White Horse). Drop by and join in the merriment!



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Advent

The word “advent” means coming, or arrival, and as such, the Christian church calls these four weeks before Christmas Advent. We wait for the coming of Emmanuel, God with us. It is a time during which we participate in anticipation by moving from darkness into light.

This year we are using the color blue for our liturgical art. Many churches use blue in order to distinguish this season from the purple of the more penitential season of Lent. Though it may seem new to those of us who are accustomed to using purple, it is by no means new to our tradition.

It was used before the 12th century in the western church. Early art shows church leaders in ornately decorated blue robes. Shades of blue symbolize royalty, the coming of the King, hope, the night sky before the dawn, the sea before creation, and Mary.

Incidentally, the third week of Advent, this year on December 12, is the halfway point of the Season. In the Roman Catholic Church, that Sunday is referred to as “Gaudete” Sunday, from the Latin word for joy. We also refer to that Sunday as the “joy” Sunday, the first Sunday being hope, the second Sunday being peace and the fourth Sunday being love.

We have painted stars on our banners for all sorts of reasons. Think of the brightness in the dark sky, the coming of the Cosmic Christ, and (from Psalm 19) “the heavens declare the glory of God.” And, certainly it was a star that shone brightly in the night sky above the tiny manger where our Savior first appeared.

Ellen Phillips Smith



QR code
for giving

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church

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an Earth Care Congregation



BMPC Child Protection Policy
providing a safe environment for children & youth

