

Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021 – 11:00 a.m.



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 this Advent season, 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

Minute for Mission

Generosity

Dave Johnson

VOLUNTARY

Trio on People, Look East

Wayne Wold

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

INTROIT

O Come O Come Emmanuel

Arr David Cherwien

Carolyn Ziegler, *Flute*

† CALL TO WORSHIP AND CANDLE LIGHTING

Debby Vial and David Castello

A voice calls out in the wilderness.

It sings of a home for all, a home of justice and peace,
a home bursting with joy.

We could choose to ignore it.

Instead, we come into this sacred space.

We let the world grow quiet and we hear:

Joy in the giggles and stretches of a newborn child.

Joy in a tail-wagging dog sliding to meet you at the door.

Joy in unabashed laughter

freely shared at tables of hospitality and warmth.

Joy in making it home after a long journey,

discovering that you are found when you thought you were lost.

Today we light the candle of joy, because the welcome God has for us is nothing short of good news of great... seriously great joy!

Family of faith, we are close to home. Let us worship God.

†HYMN NO. 105

People Look East

BESANCON

CALL TO CONFESSION

David Carter Florence

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of safe spaces, we wish we were more like Mary,
who in the face of great change, went and sought help.
She did not wait for help to find her; she walked to the shelter she needed.
Too often we wait silently for the world to change around us
instead of speaking up for the things we need.
Forgive us for failing to care for ourselves the way you would care for us.
Give us the courage to be more like Mary.

... silent prayers...

God of safe places, we wish we were more like Elizabeth,
who greeted Mary with laughter and contagious joy.
How many people have crossed our doorstep
and how many times have we failed to see them?
Give us the courage of Mary, and the grace of Elizabeth.
Gratefully we pray, amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe this Good News: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

†RESPONSE

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

O-So-So



1 Come now, O Prince of Peace; make us one bod - y.
2 Come now, O God of love; make us one bod - y.
3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.



Come, O Lord Je - sus; rec-on-cile all peo - ple.

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you.**

LISTENING FOR THE WORD

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:39-55

SERMON

Seeking Sanctuary

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† HYMN

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

SUO GAN



Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.
Heav - y clouds that block the moon-light now be - gin to drift a - way.
Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:
Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.
come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.



seed of pro - mise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!
Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.
In the lon - ly, in the stran - ger, in the out - cast, hid from view:



Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

† PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Bob Tuttle

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

† CHORAL PRAYER RESPONSE *There is a Longing*

CALL TO OFFERING / CONNECTION CARDS

Anthem

My Soul Magnifies the Lord

Aaron Garber

Franklin Keel, *cello*; Carolyn Ziegler, *flute*

† **Doxology**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

† **Prayer of Dedication**

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

† **HYMN NO. 104**

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

† **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

† **CHORAL BENEDICTION** *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*

Peter Lutkin

† **CLOSING VOLUNTARY**

Salvation unto Us Has Come

Stephen Johnson



cover art: Dances for Joy by Hannah Garrity

Inspired by Luke 1:39-45 (Mary goes to Elizabeth) | Paper lace with watercolor

(description on back cover)

The flowers today are given in memory of Ruth Janes, by her family

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Linda Bryson, prayers for healing

Family and friends of Jim Cogswell who entered God's Church Triumphant on November 18
A memorial service is planned for December 18 at 2:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

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

Jim Elam, recovering from surgery at home

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

Ellen Phillips Smith, prayers for healing following surgery

Joe Standaert, cancer treatments

Leigh Stiles, Robin and Tom Stiles' daughter-in-law, who is immunocompromised and very ill

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, Penny Sampson,

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

Paul Willison, Barbara & Gene Witherspoon, Jack Wynn

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Gracious God, through the prophet you told your people, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. The apostle tells us that God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus calls us to love one another as he has loved us. Come quickly to save us, O God, so that wars and violence shall end and all your children may live in peace, honoring one another with justice and love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Prayer of the week composed by Joe Walker

WORK AND WORSHIP OF THE CHURCH

Greeters Hospitality & Welcome • **Welcome Table** Jen & Cory Partlow

Bus Driver Dave McClintock • **Head Usher** Perry Sprawls

Sunday, December 12

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

9:00 a.m. FirstLight

9:45 a.m. Adult Church School

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

12:15 p.m. Confirmation Class

3:30 p.m. Caroling at Highland Farms

Monday, December 13

8:00 a.m. Sacred Circle

1:00 p.m. Earth Care Book Study

5:15 p.m. HS Girls Group

6:30 p.m. Mission

Tuesday, December 14

1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting

3:30 p.m. Congregational Life

6:00 p.m. Lydia Circle

6:00 p.m. Sacred Circle

7:00 p.m. Prophets

Wednesday, December 15

12:00 p.m. Old Fellers Lunch

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 16

3:30 p.m. Caregiver Group

Saturday, December 18

2:00 p.m. Jim Cogswell Memorial Service

When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we share our love with the leaders of our Church – past, present, and future – who point us to God.



Join in the merriment as we go caroling at Highland Farms **TODAY**. Meet at the church at 3:30 p.m. or at Highland Farms on the patio outside the dining hall at 3:45 p.m.

Memorial Service for Jim Cogswell
Saturday, December 18, 2:00pm
in the sanctuary

Poinsettias

To purchase a poinsettia during Advent, provide the information below. Please make your \$10 check payable to BMPC, adding "poinsettia" on the memo line. You may take your poinsettia to keep after December 24.

your name _____ in honor of or in memory of _____
(circle one)

As I worked through the creative process for this image, I was talking to my mother and showing her my inspiration board: images of babies in the womb, spinning or cuddling. She said that John dancing for joy in his mother's womb is one of her favorite biblical images. I thought back to my study abroad in Glasgow, Scotland, at the Glasgow School of Art. I spent every day in a studio designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh. Through windows the height of almost two stories, light poured into the room.

I was interested in childbirth that year. I asked the local hospital if I could view one. They said, no, legitimately citing privacy concerns. Childbirth is rightfully a protected and private time — a time when women, the possessors of the womb, choose to use their bodies for the delivery of the children of God. As a woman in my early twenties, I had no plans of having children anytime soon. Truly, I was intrigued by the way we hide the earthy, natural, bloody parts of the process. All semester I painted fetuses, newborns crowning, mothers birthing alone. They were dancing in the womb. They were emerging from the womb. They were patterns in a collage of orphaned children due to the AIDS epidemic. They were an American flag interwoven with articles of the strain of American military action on children overseas. They were newborns, still bloody, painted on patterned fabric with the stories of Peter Rabbit and the cow jumping over the moon.

I even made a paint by number children's book explaining the stages of childbirth. The clash of a facade of perfection and the tangible reality was and is ever-present in my every day.

Here the globe is drawn as the background flow of the image. This long view of the world acknowledges the earthy, bloody, tangible, pouring-out reality that Mary and Elizabeth will soon embody to bear their sons. There is so much liquid everywhere. The central story of the text emerges as John dances with joy in his mother's womb of this world. Around him the patterns of his baptisms flow outward into the miracles of Jesus, woven into the flow of landforms and waters on the map.

Comparison is the thief of joy, my cousin tells me. God's children need us to dance for joy when we encounter one another. Where in my daily routines can I remove the facade of perfection, or break through it, and embrace the tangible reality of a beautiful and wonderful, earthy joy?

—Hannah Garrity



QR code
for giving

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church

117 Montreat Road | Black Mountain, NC 28711 | 828-669-2725 | www.bmpcnc.org



an Earth Care Congregation



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

