

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Please turn to your neighbor and exchange the greeting of peace.

*Advent Chorus

They'll Know We are Christians

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord

And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

And they'll know we are Christians by our Love, By our Love,

Yes they'll know we are Christians by our Love.

Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Candles

Leader: Gather in, Children of God. Gather in from the cold to the warmth of this place, this community, and the loving God we live in.

People: This is the season of Advent. Advent means "coming."

Leader: It means the coming of the Christ Child, it means the Second Coming of Christ

People: It means a time of preparation as we open our hearts, open our souls, and welcome the Holy into our earthly lives.

Leader: This morning we light the candle of Love.

People: We pray that the love of God may find its way into our thoughts, our words, and our actions.

Leader: Let the love of God reign in us. Let us worship God!

*Hymn of Praise #2 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Hyfrydol

Prayer of Confession

Leader: If we have been superficial in our Christmas preparations,

People: God who comes, forgive us.

Leader: If we have sung the musical notes with our voices but not our hearts,

People: God who comes, forgive us.

Leader: If we have invested money in gifts, but have not invested ourselves in love,

People: God who comes, forgive us.

Leader: If we have made beautiful our homes, but have not enhanced our lives,

People: God who comes, forgive us and make us whole. Amen

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news of the gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

Prayer Response "God Rest You Merry"

"Fear not, then," said the angel, "Let nothing you affright;

This day is born a Savior, Of a pure virgin bright,

To free all those who trust in him From Satan's power and might."

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;

O tidings of comfort and joy!

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

The Word with the Children

Anthem "Sing Joy: A Medley of Carols"

by Jay Althouse

The Word Spoken

In the beginning was the Word

And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Luke 1:26-38, 47-55

Pew Bible, NT, Page 57

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Word Declared: "God-bearer"

Rev. Karen Ware Jackson

*Hymn of Response #335 "Though I May Speak"

O Waly Waly

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*Affirmation of Faith: "The Coming of God"

Our God is the One who comes to us

in a burning bush, in an angel's song, in a newborn child.

Our God is the One who cannot be found

locked in the church, not even in the sanctuary.

Our God will be where God will be

with no constraints, no predictability.

Our God lives where our God lives,

and destruction has no power and even death cannot stop the living.

Our God will be born where God will be born,

but there is no place to look for the One who comes to us.

When God is ready

God will come even to a godforsaken place like a stable in Bethlehem.

Watch...

for you know not when God comes.

Watch, that you might be found

Whenever, wherever, God comes.

Presentation of Gifts, Tithes, and Offerings

Offertory "Birthday of a King"

by William H. Neidlinger

*Doxology

from *Gloria in Excelsis Deo*

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;

Come, adore on bended knee, Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria in Excelsis Deo; Gloria in Excelsis Deo.

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

*Closing Hymn #8 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

Truro

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

*Charge and Benediction "Birth Giver"

blessed are the visionaries,

who agreed to My foresight,

and kept eyes for this day;

the yet-to-be has been their company.

blessed is the light-bearer,

the host who agreed to My Spirit,

who carried My Light in darkness;

we will birth together, and our child will carry My torch.

blessed are those who serve with wisdom,

who midwife My coming and

witness hope as it crowns;

they will be the first to see His radiance.

blessed are those who gift their hearts

with tenderness and joy;

I will open them each day,

and fill them to give again:

blessed are those who love

blessed are those who host the poor

blessed are those with arms for children

blessed are those who are meek and mild

blessed are those who seek My guidance

blessed are those who awaken to life

blessed are those oblivious to hate

blessed are those who move with Me

blessed are those who know Me...

and those who don't.

My Light is gentle but strong,

it covers My people, settles and secures them.

because they ache to receive Me

and I long to liberate them from fear.

Warm the blankets,

open your arms,

prepare your hearts,

the Messiah has come!

*Postlude

** Please rise in body or spirit*

Acknowledgements

The image on the front of the bulletin is John Collier's The Annunciation.

The Prayer of Confession in today's bulletin was written by Jim Rismiller.

The Affirmation of Faith is by Ann Weems from Kneeling in Bethlehem.

The Benediction has visual liturgy from TheWorkOfThePeople.com. Text is by

Kelly Hall. Music is by The Brilliance.

INFORMATION AND PRAYER LISTS

Adult Sunday School meets at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday in the Parlor. This week we are continuing our study of "The Work of the People," a video based series featuring some of the great theologians and thinkers of our time!

Worship Enrichment for children and youth is coming soon! We encourage our young people to learn about God and our community through the act of worship. These enrichment experiences will allow the children to learn more about the different parts of worship and enable them

to participate and understand more. **Please talk to our Pastor Karen if you wish to be involved!** We need worship buddies and mentors to learn alongside our young people!

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRAYER LIST:

Lindsey Brown's Aunt	Bob Huffine's Family
Priscilla Christiansen	Marge Mack
Kevin Cook's Family	Pat Magnuson
Fran Cuthbertson	Andy Moye
Bonnie Evans	Larry Murren
'Cile Gorman	Garth Payne
Pat Greeson	Georgia Renfrow
Helen Hall	Beth Weikel (Daughter of
Harold Henderson	Jim and Betty Rissmiller)

Please be in touch with the office regarding any additions or corrections to the Prayer List. You may call (336.292.5150) or e-mail (faithpresgsonc@gmail.com).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We are having our **congregational meeting to elect officers today**, Sunday, December 21st at noon.
Bonnie Maready - Elder, class of 2017
Betsy Rule - Chair, Nominating Committee
Carolyn Huffine - Nominating Committee
Daphne Rupard Atkinson, Nominating Committee
- We will receive the "**Christmas Joy Offering**" this Sunday. This is a PC(USA) special offering which goes to Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and leadership development at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges.
- **Sunday, December 21, 6pm - The Longest Night, A Service of Healing and Wholeness**
Join us as we honor the darkness, the grief, the pain of this season. These things hold weight and power in our lives. It is okay to feel sad while those around you sing Christmas carols. It's okay to cry bittersweet tears. The Light still overcomes the darkness.
- **Theology on Tap** will NOT MEET Monday, December 29th. It will NEXT MEET on Monday, January 5th at 7:30 p.m. the home of Tim and Laura Maher (4208 Shoal Creek Dr). The reading is Maya Angelou's "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" chapters 30-32. Come even if you haven't read the book!
- **Theology on Tap** will begin a new text on Monday, February 2nd. The book is the New Revised Edition of Marjorie Thompson's "Soul Feast." You are encouraged to buy it now to ensure you have received it in time to participate.

Pastoral Team

Rev. Karen Ware Jackson, Pastor
Rev. Jim Rissmiller, Parish Associate
Stephanie Lindley, Music Director
Lois Bazhaw, RN, Congregational Nurse
Beverly Lucas, Office Administrator

WELCOME TO FAITH PRESBYTERIAN



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

We embrace multigenerational worship and welcome the giggles, questions, tears, and even shouts that enliven our oh-so-orderly service. We do have a professionally staffed nursery available for babies and toddlers, but we encourage our youngest members to learn with and from us throughout the worship service.

There is a family worship space available for children and adults at the front of the sanctuary. **Are you curious about all the fun the kids are having up front?** Feel free to join our young people in their interactive worship activities! These experiences are great for active learners of all ages, and our children and their parents appreciate your engagement and support.

We want to be a true family of faith and that means celebrating the gifts, questions, and talents of each of our members from young in age to young at heart!

Do you want to know more about the new life happening at Faith?

“Like” us on Facebook! We post pictures, music, questions, pastor’s blogs, and lots of other great stuff on this page!

Sign up for our weekly email update! Give us your email on the friendship pad, or contact faithpresgsonc@gmail.com to get on the list. You can unsubscribe at any time.

Check out our website www.faihpresgso.org – for more information about who we are and what we believe, as well as weekly updates of bulletins and monthly newsletters

Grab a newsletter! You can pick up a current copy of the newsletter on the table in the narthex and can see previous copies on our website.

Join us for our monthly brunch! Every month on the 4th Sunday, we head down to the fellowship hall after worship for yummy food and good conversation.

Calendar for December 21-28

Today:	9:30 A.M.	Sunday School
	10:30 A.M.	Coffee and Conversation
	11:00 A.M.	Worship, Meeting to Elect Officers
	6:00 P.M.	<i>The Longest Night, A Service for Healing and Wholeness</i>
Tuesday:	9:30 A.M.	Congregational Nurse
	10:00 A.M.	Chair Exercise
Wednesday:	5:00 P.M.	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Thursday:	8:00 P.M.	Narcotics Anonymous
Friday:	8:00 P.M.	Narcotics Anonymous
Sunday:	9:30 A.M.	Sunday School
	10:30 A.M.	Coffee and Conversation
	11:00 A.M.	Worship, Pennies for Hunger

SALEM PRESBYTERY CHURCH PRAYER LIST

Sedgefield Church, Greensboro
Grace Church, Winston-Salem

December 21st, 2014
11:00 A.M.

Service for the Lord's Day
4th Sunday of Advent

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