

WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

Hope - Mark 13:24-37

*Said the night wind to the little lamb,
do you see what I see
Way up in the sky, little lamb,
do you see what I see
A star, a star, dancing in the night
With a tail as big as a kite
With a tail as big as a kite*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Choral Call to Worship “Shine, Jesus, Shine”

***The Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

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

***Gathering Music #100** “My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout” *Star of the
v.1: County Down*

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant’s plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain: My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

***Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Candles**

One: First the silence, then a whisper. First the shadows, then a spark.

All: There is Light!

One: One voice murmuring, “Take courage.”

One light reassuring, “Do not be afraid.”

All: This is hope!

One: Here, take my hand. Here, lend your voice.

All: We are not alone!

One: In the light of this season, let us worship God.

***Hymn of Praise #82** “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” *Hyfrydol*

Prayer of Confession

One: How good are we at watching for signs of God's presence in the world—in our lives, our homes? (*silent reflection*)

All: Advent God, forgive us when we pay more attention to satisfying our own needs, than seeking you and your will for our lives—for being more interested in possessing the material things of life, rather than your spiritual gifts. Turn our lives around so that we are looking in the right direction - towards you. Only then can we hope to recognize the signs of your presence in the world. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

(silence is kept for private confession)

Assurance of Pardon “I am the Path” *from The Work of the People*

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

The Word Spoken

In the beginning was the Word

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

New Testament Lesson *Mark 13: 1-8, 19-27, 32-37* **Pew Bible NT, p. 50**

The Word Declared Rev. Karen Ware Jackson

Anthem “Do You Hear What I Hear?” Regney and Shayne

The Word And Wonder With All Ages

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

***Affirmation of Faith** “The Coming of God” by Ann Weems

**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.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

One: Let us pray. The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, for you made us, and before us, you make the world we inhabit, and before the world, you made your eternal home in which, through Christ, we have a place. And grateful as we are for the world we know and the universe beyond our ken, we particularly praise you, whom eternity cannot contain, for coming to earth and entering time in Jesus. For his life which informs our living, for his compassion which changes our hearts, for his clear speaking which contradicts our harmless generalities, for his disturbing presence, his innocent suffering, his fearless dying, his rising to life breathing forgiveness, we praise you and worship him. Here too our gratitude rises for the promise of the Holy Spirit, who even yet even now, confronts us with your claims and attracts us to your goodness. Therefore we gladly join our voices to the song of the church on earth and in heaven:

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

Setting our wisdom, our will, our words aside, emptying our hearts and bringing nothing in our hands, we yearn for the healing, the holding, the accepting, the forgiving which Christ alone can offer.

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.

Words of Institution

***Communion Hymn #527** “Eat This Bread” *Berthier*
Eat this bread; drink this cup; come to Christ and never be hungry.
Eat this bread; drink this cup; trust in Christ and you will not thirst.
(Repeat until all are served)

Prayer After the Meal

In gratitude, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the Living Bread, and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. So Lord, may we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of earth and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven. Amen.

Presentation of Gifts, Tithes, and Offerings

Offertory

***Doxology #606** “Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow” *Old Hundredth*
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

***Closing Hymn #292** “As the Wind Song” *Wairua Tapu*

WE GO IN GOD’S NAME

***Charge and Benediction**

** You are invited to rise in body or spirit*

INFORMATION AND PRAYER LISTS

Announcements

- **Memorial and Honor Gift forms** are due by Sunday, December 17th. All gifts will be honored in a special Christmas bulletin. Forms are available on the table outside of the Sanctuary.
- **Men's Bible Study** meets Thursdays at 7p.m. in the Parlor.
- **Women's Circle** will meet Tuesday, December 12th at 11a.m.
- **We will only have one service** on Sunday, December 24th – it will be at 4pm.
- There will be a **Congregational Meeting** on Sunday, January 7th to elect elders and approve pastoral terms of call.

Salem Presbytery Church Prayer List

Sarah McHenry, Salem Presbytery Representative to Synod Jubilee Fund Committee
First, Kernersville–Elkin–Mt. Vernon Springs
–Jacqueline Kunkle, Chaplain, Hospice of Iredell Co.

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRAYER LIST:

Larry Avent and Family	Sara Kearns
Rick Barreau	Tommy Knight (Betsy Rule's cousin)
Reginald Brooks	Marge Mack
Priscilla Christiansen	The Family of Andy Moye
Bertha Collins (Ralph Bazhaw's sister)	Garth and Inky Payne
Vicki Duncan	Georgia Renfrow
The Family of Bonnie Evans	The Sharon Family
Kem Gomo	Patricia Shoffner (René's mother)
Pat Greeson	Bill Summerlin (René's father-in-law)
Helen Hall	Karen Thomas (Helen Hall's daughter)
Harold Henderson and Family	Michelle Watkins
Judy Herron and Family	Gary Williams
	Stuart Witt (Lois Bazhaw's cousin)
	Marge Zeliff

Bulletin Acknowledgements

Do You Hear What I Hear? Advent Series – Year B

*This series was originally created by Rev. Phyllis Stutzman and used at First Presbyterian Tecumseh, OK in 2014. The Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Candles adapted from Rachel G. Hackenber. The Prayer of Confession is Copyright © Moira Laidlaw, posted on her Liturgies Online website. The Assurance of Pardon is from <http://www.theworkofthepeople.com/i-am-the-path>. The Affirmation of Faith is by Ann Weems from *Kneeling in Bethlehem*.*

Special Thanks to David Gibson and Nataly Jimenez for adding their musical talents to our worship services.

Advent Poem

O Lord,
let Advent begin again
in us,
not merely in commercials;
for that first Christmas was not
simply for children,
but for the
wise and the strong.

It was
crowded around that cradle,
with kings kneeling.

Speak to us
who seek an adult seat this year.

Help us to realize,
as we fill stockings,
Christmas is mainly
for the old folks —
bent backs
and tired eyes
need relief and light
a little more.

No wonder
it was grown-ups
who were the first
to notice
such a star.

~ written by David A. Redding, in *If I Could Pray Again* (1965). Posted on **Journey with Jesus**. <http://www.journeywithjesus.net/>

Pastoral Team

Rev. Karen Ware Jackson, Pastor
Rev. Jim Rissmiller, Parish Associate
Prince Mundeke Mushunju, El-Shaddai Pastor
René Summerlin, Music Director
Beverly Lucas, Office Administrator
Michelle Watkins, Childcare Provider

WELCOME TO FAITH PRESBYTERIAN



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 **“PrayGround”** available for children and adults at the front of the sanctuary. 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!

December 3, 2017
11:00 A.M.

Service for the Lord's Day
1st Sunday of Advent

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