



ORDER OF WORSHIP  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Shelby Presbyterian Church  
December 22, 2024  
10:00 a.m.

\*Please rise as you are able.

PRELUDE: *“Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light”* (arr. Christopher)  
Emily Monroe

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS  
Drew Mangione

CANTATA PRELUDE: *“Isaiah 9”* (Moser)  
*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. On those living in darkness, a light has dawned. For unto us a child is born, for unto us a son is given, and will be called wonderful. Of the greatness and peace, there will be no end.*

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH CANDLE OF ADVENT: LOVE

Bill & Tonda Christian, Tommy & Catherine Tedder

Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight the path of our God!

**We proclaim the Lord who was, and is, and is yet to come!**

We light this candle for the love we have in Emmanuel – God with us.

**Our love is the Lord Jesus in whom heaven and earth are one.**

Open our eyes to your action in this world! Renew your love in us!

**May we be your faithful presence until you come again!**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: *“Lift Up Your Eyes”*

***Lift up your eyes and see the light surround you;  
with holy love, illuminate the night.***

***Lift up your voice and sing, let earth and heaven ring,  
lift up your eyes and see the everlasting light.***

CALL TO CONFESSION

Ben Brooks

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION: **Loving God, in you we find hope, peace, and joy, because you pursue us with your love. You are faithful for us, sending the eternal Son to be born as one of us in a manger. Forgive us for the times we do not trust your love and turn away from you. Too often, we search for hope, peace, joy, and love from the false idols of prosperity, power, and popularity. By your grace, forgive us and draw us closer to you. Amen. (silent confession)**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

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

The Peace of the Lord be with you! **And also, with you!**

## MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

Carol Ann Hoard

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Ben Brooks

FIRST SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:39-56

## CANTATA INTRODUCTION/MEDITATION

Drew Mangione

*“CANTATA OF CHRISTMAS”* (Moser)  
*In the Beginning*  
*How Can This Be?*  
*Mary’s Song*  
*Glory to God*

See insert for text

\*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.**

## CALL TO PRESENT TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory: *“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”* (arr. Wolz) Emily Monroe

\*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

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table and Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also, with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is truly right to...Therefore, with all creation we sing your praise:

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

Acclamation of Faith

**We rejoice in his birth. We remember his death. We proclaim his resurrection. We await his coming glory.**

Words of Institution and Communion by Intinction

Prayer after Communion

\*CLOSING HYMN: #110 *“Love Has Come”* verses 1 and 3

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Drew Mangione

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION: *“O Come Benediction”* (Moser)

\*CHIMING OF THE TRINITY Mason Tyree

\*POSTLUDE: *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”* (arr. Payne) Emily Monroe

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

Sound Board: Patrick Glenn & Joe Petrilli

**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 each week for infants through preschool in the Nursery (Rm 102), staffed by Lilly Hamilton, Maggie Hohne, and Heather Johnson. In order to protect your children, please be sure they are accompanied to the nursery 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.**

**2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are now available for you to pick up in the hallway behind the sanctuary. 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.

**THE LIGHT BALL DASH** to benefit Feeding Kids Cleveland County will be held next Sunday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**CHRISTMAS EVE 5 PM:** Celebrate the birth of Jesus at 5 pm in the Sanctuary with the Friendly Beasts and a candlelight service.

**CHRISTMAS EVE 11 PM:** Celebrate the birth of Jesus at 11 pm in the Sanctuary in a solemn service that will conclude close to midnight with candlelight and carols.

**THIS WEEK (DECEMBER 22-28, 2024):**

Sunday	5:30 pm	<b>Light Ball Dash</b> Marion School parking lot
Monday	9:30 am	<b>Food Ministry</b> in Ellis Hall
	7:00 pm	<b>Boy Scouts</b> in Scout House
	8:00 pm	<b>AA</b> in Ellis Hall
Tuesday	<b>Christmas Eve</b> - Church Office Closed	
	5:00 pm	<b>Christmas Eve Service</b> in Sanctuary
	11:00 pm	<b>Christmas Eve Service</b> in Sanctuary
Wednesday	<b>Merry Christmas!</b>	
Thursday	<b>Church Office Closed</b>	
	8:00 pm	<b>AA</b> in Ellis Hall & <b>AI-Anon</b> in Back Parlor
Friday	<b>Church Office Closed</b>	

**GIFT CARD OFFERING FOR TURNING POINT ACADEMY:** On Epiphany Sunday (Jan. 5) 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.

**2024 DONATIONS:** The Office will be open Monday, December 30<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 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. By law, anything after that will be considered 2025 donations, even if the check is dated 2024.

**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 Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> 103 families have pledged \$515,636.00. 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 113 families pledged \$532,770.00. Thank you. – Stewardship Task Force

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER** (also see ongoing prayer list in newsletter) . . .

Our prayers and sympathies go out to Chandler and Lacey Chambless David and family in the passing of David's aunt, Della Marie Potter on December 12, 2024.

Our prayers and sympathies go out to the family of George Cribb in his passing on December 17, 2024. He was choir director of SPC for 21 years.

John Auten, Ed Blake, Sue Breen, Sid Bridges, Allen Callahan, JoAnn Callahan, Hannah Carpenter, Karen Carpenter, Myra Carpenter, Sandy Carpenter, Conway Carter, Betty Clark, Randy Derwin Clark, Kay Clark-James, Lou DuBois, Al Eatmon, Debbie Ferrell, Tim Hamrick, Ina Harrington, August Hohne, Scot Horton, Andi Houser, Joan Hunt, Kevin Jones, Chuck Laughlin, Cheryl Lutz, Brooke McCurry, Nancy Minor, Lisa Perkins-Dodrill, Pauline Persing, Tommy Price, Clay Pruett, Susan Reed, Dot Roark, Larry Stern, Bill & Patty Thorne, Linda Ware, Jackie Weathers, Jack Weller, Stephanie Williams, Teresa Wingo, and our homeless neighbors; the victims of natural disaster and war, including in Ukraine and Gaza; 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.

**SHELBY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OFFICERS**

**SESSION**

CLASS OF 2024

Susan Bell  
John Schweppe Jr.  
Steve Sisk  
Larry Wilson

CLASS OF 2025

Richard Dedmon  
Bill Jobe  
Laura Lampley  
Tom Martin

CLASS OF 2026

Carolyn Billings  
Mystie Brotherton  
Carolyn Jackson  
Dan McLaurin

**DIACONATE**

CLASS OF 2024

Fred Harrill  
Claire McCullough  
Jennifer Niblack  
Holly Petrilli

CLASS OF 2025

Debbie Hart  
Thomas Monroe  
Michelle Moser  
Trey Warrick

CLASS OF 2026

Mike Jackson  
Alison Moore  
Michael Pruitt  
May Reed

**SHELBY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF**

Pastor ..... Drew Mangione  
Minister of Christian Ed. & Families.....Carol Ann Hoard  
Director of Music & Organist .....Emily Monroe  
Choir Director.....Bruce Moser  
Church Administrator ..... Miranda Wood  
Bookkeeper .....Erin Borders  
Sexton.....Scott Bradford  
Office Assistant and Musician..... Sherry Thomas  
Nursery Director ..... Lilly Hamilton  
Nursery Assistants.....Maggie Hohne & Heather Johnson  
Director of Rainbow Connection ..... Abby Goins  
Church Telephone Number.....704-487-8503  
Rainbow Connection Telephone Number .....704-487-7075  
E-Mail Address .....info@shelbypres.org  
Web Site ..... www.shelbypres.org  
Facebook..... www.Facebook.com/ShelbyPres  
YouTube ..... www.YouTube.com/c/ShelbyPres  
Instagram ..... @Shelby\_Pres  
Office Hours.....9:00-4:00 Mon-Thurs; 9:00-12:00 Fri

**CANTATA OF CHRISTMAS**

**I. In the Beginning (John 1:1-14)**

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; in him was life, the light of all.

The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. Yet, to all who receive, to those who do believe his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**II. How Can This Be? (Matthew 1:20-22 and Luke 1:30-38)**

*Angel:* Mary, do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever. His kingdom will never end.

*Mary:* How can this be? For I am still a virgin.

*Angel:* The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Lord Most High will overshadow you.

*Angel:* Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

*Mary and Joseph:* How can this be? For I am (she is) still a virgin.

*Angel:* The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Lord Most High will overshadow you.

*Mary and Joseph:* I am the Lord’s servant. May it be to me as you have said.

*Angel:* Nothing is impossible with God.

### **III. Mary's Song (Luke 1:46-50)**

My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on, generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me!

Holy is the Lord. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

### **IV. Glory to God (Luke 2:10-14 and Matthew 28:5-6)**

Do not be afraid, for I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill to all!

Do not be afraid, for I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; he is risen.

**Stephanie Gray** is a Hickory native and holds a Master's of Music in Voice Performance from Florida State University. She is an accomplished mezzo-soprano who has been a guest soloist in J.S. Bach and Mozart masses and most recently performed several arias from Vivaldi's *Gloria*. She has performed in numerous operas and operettas as well as a few musical theater productions. She is an alto for the Blue Ridge Consort. Stephanie is a Music Instructor as well as a Choral Director at Catawba Valley Community College and Alexander Early College. In addition, she teaches private voice lessons.

**Justin Gray**, a native of Greenville, South Carolina, now resides in Hickory, North Carolina. Justin is currently the Director of Choral Activities at Hibriten High School in Lenoir, North Carolina. Justin also co-leads worship with his wife, Stephanie at Open Door Church in Long View, North Carolina. Justin holds a Bachelor of Science in Education as well as a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Western Carolina University. Justin is also an inaugural member of The Blue Ridge Consort.