

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!**

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Susan Bell

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Steve Sisk

FIRST SCRIPTURE: Malachi 3:1-6

ANTHEM: “We Wait for Thee” (Johnson) Directed by Zander Bryant
SPC Choral Scholar

Dark is the night and empty the sky as the ground lies still and cold.

We pause in solemn anticipation as we wait for the promise of old.

Come, thou Prince of Peace, come, great LORD of lords;

Come, and set Your people free. Come, Desire of the nations, come.

With joy and hope we wait for Thee.

Revive our hearts and renew our minds, come, and bring us peace to endure.

Wonderful, Counselor, Almighty God, Emanuel. God with us!

SECOND SCRIPTURE: Luke 3:3-14 Drew Mangione

SERMON “Peace Requires Reconciliation”

*HYMN OF RESPONSE: #82 “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

*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: “*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*” (arr. Moklebust) Handbell Choir

*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

*CLOSING HYMN: #102 “*Savior of the Nations, Come*”

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Drew Mangione

*CHORAL BENEDICTION: “*O Come Benediction*”

*CHIMING OF THE TRINITY Mills Bryant

*POSTLUDE: “Bell Peal on “*Hark the Herald*” (arr. Lamb) Handbell Choir

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

Sound Board: John Brotherton & Mike Jackson

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.**

THE ADVENT WREATH is placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in memory of Ferry E. "Ace" Richards by family and friends.

THANK YOU to the Handbell Choir for ringing to the glory of God and to lead in worship today: Julie Bryan, Catherine & Thomas Couch, June Hobbs, Anne Langley, Jennifer & Brett Niblack, Lori Wehmueller, & director Emily Monroe.

THE FRIENDLY BEASTS: SPC's Christmastime claim to fame – The Friendly Beasts – needs beasts!! We will do the show for Rainbow December 10th and during the 5:00 pm Christmas Eve service. No memorization is required, just the ability to speak/sing somewhat clearly and like an animal! Please be an equal opportunity puppeteer, no guarantees on which puppet you'll be. They're all fun! Contact Laura Wheeler if you want to make puppet magic, lauraew66@gmail.com or text 704-438-0513. To watch last year's beasts, go to: bit.ly/FriendlyBeasts23

THE ANGEL TREE FOR TURNING POINT ACADEMY: There are a few students left on our Turning Point Angel Tree - we have the opportunity to provide students in need with Christmas gifts which they would not otherwise receive. Located in the Narthex, the tree has information about the students and how you can go about participating. We are excited about the possibility of helping the school meet the needs of these young people, while bringing them some Christmas cheer at the same time! This is a special chance to choose and shop for a student as a family, a Sunday School class, neighborhood group, or on your own. Please prayerfully consider helping these students have a very Merry Christmas!

CALLING ALL BAKERS AND HOLIDAY TREAT MAKERS! We are making Christmas Cookie Treat Boxes for Turning Point teachers and staff. If you love to bake or cook, we'd love for you to share some of your favorite holiday treats with our Turning Point friends. Please call or text Molly Brownlee (704-477-8947) to sign up.

THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING will be collected next Sunday, December 15th. This offering supports both the Board of Pensions assistance program and several Presbyterian schools and colleges, which serve under-represented students to cultivate their gifts.

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.

THIS WEEK (DECEMBER 8 - 14, 2024):

Monday	9:30 am	Food Ministry in Ellis Hall
	1:00 pm	Clerk's Council in Pastor Study
	7:00 pm	Boy Scouts in Scout House
	8:00 pm	AA in Ellis Hall
Tuesday	10:30 am	Staff Meeting in Ellis Hall
	11:00 am	Friendly Beasts at Rainbow
Wednesday	11:00 am	Rainbow Committee in F3 room
	6:00 pm	Wednesday Night Supper & Caroling
	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal in Choir Room
Thursday	12:00 pm	Finance Committee in Back Parlor
	6:00 pm	Mission & Ministry in Back Parlor
	8:00 pm	AA in Ellis Hall & Al-Anon in Back Parlor
Saturday		Habitat for Humanity Women Build
	10:00 am	Back Parlor Reserved

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 5th 85 families have pledged \$433,636.00 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) . . .

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, Al Eatmon, Debbie Ferrell, Tim Hamrick, Ina Harrington, August Hohne, Scot Horton, Andi Houser, Joan Hunt, Kevin Jones, Chuck Laughlin, Cheryl Lutz, Claire Mangione, 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 Israel-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.



Christmas

SERVICES & FELLOWSHIP

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WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER & CAROLING - WEDNESDAY, DEC. 11

Join us at 6:00 pm for pizza, salad, and Christmas cookies.
After dinner we will load up the trailers and go caroling!

LONGEST NIGHT - SATURDAY, DEC. 21

On the longest night of the year, this 7 pm worship service is meant to acknowledge the grief, loss, stress, and pain that can make it hard to celebrate in this season. In prayer and reflection, with music and Scripture, participants will find a relaxed, friendly environment in Ellis Hall to pause and ask God's help and presence through the often unanticipated and unintended results of the holiday season.

CANTATA - SUNDAY, DEC. 22

Worship at 10 am will feature the SPC Choir singing a Cantata for Christmas which was composed by Choir Director Bruce Moser.

FRIENDLY BEASTS W/ CANDLELIGHT TUESDAY, DEC. 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE

Celebrate the birth of Jesus at 5 pm in the Sanctuary with the Friendly Beasts and a candlelight service.

CANDLELIGHT AT MIDNIGHT TUESDAY, DEC. 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE

Celebrate the birth of Jesus at 11 pm in the Sanctuary in a solemn service that will conclude close to midnight with candlelight caroling.