

<b>SERVING THE CHURCH</b> <b>This Week</b>	<b>SERVING THE CHURCH</b> <b>Next Week</b>
Liturgist: Jackie Koch Ushers: Jackie Koch	Liturgist: Linda Marshall Ushers: Sharon Flesch

**Elder of the Month**  
For December: Candie Vaitkevicius, 864-631-1010(H), 630-247-9507 (cell)

**SESSION MEMBERS**

<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>
Linda Stenhouse	Barb Daugherty	Bill Marshall PA
Jackie Koch	Bill Marshall NS	Candie Vaitkevicius
Candie Vaitkevicius	Linda Marshall	Jackie Koch
Linda Stenhouse—Clerk of Session		



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**Sunday, December 15, 2024**

**Simpsonville Presbyterian Church**  
Simpsonville, SC

*"Growing Together in Faith – Loving and Serving in the World"*



Office Hours: Mon.-Thur. 8:30-10:30 a.m.  
510 East Curtis Street \* Simpsonville, SC 29681 \* (864) 963-8854  
[www.simpsonvillepres.com](http://www.simpsonvillepres.com) E-mail: [office@simpsonvillepres.com](mailto:office@simpsonvillepres.com)  
Rev. Dr. Mary Anne Welch, Pastor  
Darrell Johnson, Pianist Jackie Koch, Office Administrator  
The WiFi Identity is FPCS-Guest and the password to connect is Grace4all.

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 15, 2024

Third Sunday of Advent

**Welcome, announcements**

**Prayers and Concerns**

**Rev. Dr. Mary Anne Welch has office hours on Tuesdays from 9 a.m.-Noon. Please call 864-963-8854 to make an appointment.**

**Please note that the wearing of masks during service and singing hymns is optional. NOTE: This service may be video recorded.**

**Please stand if you are able where asterisk.**

PRELUDE "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" arr. Purifoy

**\*OUR CALL TO WORSHIP** Jackie Koch, Liturgist

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord!

**People: Lift every valley, lift every voice.**

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord!

**People: And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.**

**\*OPENING HYMN #483 "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"**

**\*PRAYER OF ADORATION**

JOURNEY TO THE MANGER: Reading: Luke 2:8, Marnie Logan

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Sharon Stone & Sharon Flesch

**Response: Advent Song:**

***Light the Advent candle, three: Think of heavenly harmony;  
Angels singing "Peace on Earth" at the blessed Savior's birth.***

***Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;  
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light,***

CALL TO CONFESSION

**CONFESSION OF OUR SIN** (unison prayer)

**Great God, as we prepare to behold the birth of Jesus again, we are mindful of how we have failed to receive the fullness of that gift. The story points us to your glory, yet we struggle to join in the song of praise and thanksgiving. We are distracted and confused, so focused**

may be placed in the red box next to the Christmas tree in the Narthex by Dec. 22nd.

**CAROL SING!** Do you have a favorite Christmas Carol? Our worship on December 29th will be in the form of a carol sing. We would love to know your requests. Please submit your suggestion on the form provided in your bulletin and place it in the wooden church on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Requests must be turned in today.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMENS' DECEMBER MEETING and LUNCHEON:** After a short business meeting of the Presbyterian Womens' group on Thursday, December 19th, we will all meet for lunch at the Olympian Grill, 7 Five Forks Plaza Ct. off of Woodruff Road. All are welcome to both the meeting and lunch, but if you can only make it to the Grill, we should be finished with the meeting by 11:30 and you can either meet us at the Church or the Grill around 11:45. Hope to see you! If you have any questions, please contact either Sue or Candie.

**STEWARDSHIP UPDATE: 2025 PLEDGE CARDS** – You may return your pledge card by placing it in the offering plate or leave it in the Church Office with Attn: Bill Marshall - Stewardship Team. Thank you in advance for your pledge consideration.

**YEAR END GIFTING:** Reminder that gifts to the church for tax purposes, must be received by the Stewardship Team no later than Tuesday December 31. If you are considering gifting of stock, please contact Bill Marshall on the stewardship team (864)230-5268 as soon as possible. Additional steps and a longer timeline need to be considered with stock gifting.

**COMING NEXT SUNDAY:**

Scriptures: Micah 5:2-5a/Matthew 2:13-18

Sermon: The Other Christmas Tree: Joseph, the Husband of ...

**COMING CHRISTMAS EVE: 7 p.m.**

Scriptures: Luke 2:1-14//Isaiah 7:10-17

Sermon: The Other Christmas Tree: Mary, of whom Jesus was Born

**BIBLE STORY BAGS** are available for children during worship. See an usher if you would like one for your child to use. Please return the bag to an usher after worship.

**PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK:** Sue Seidel, Kitty Shealy

**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:** None

### LIFE IN THE CONGREGATION

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Jan Johnson; Lena Staschak, Donnett Hanson; Alice Grooms; Cory and children (friends of Brenda Stenhouse); Conner Dixon (friend of Jimmy Cheeks); Alysa Berdan (co-worker of Roger Pryor); the Powell family (friends of Jackie Koch); Sue Marshall's mother; Tina Minnich (daughter of Candie & Joe); Beverly Sullivan (friend of Jimmy Cheeks); Everett (sister of Donnett); Debra Datko; Lisa Shelf; Dixie Suit (sister-in-law of Kitty Shealy); Roger Edney (relative of Barb & Roger Daugherty). Do not hesitate to call or email the Church Office ([office@simpsonvillepres.com](mailto:office@simpsonvillepres.com)) about any pastoral concerns.

### SCHEDULES AND EVENTS

**FOOD PANTRY:** Your continued prayers and giving hearts allow us to keep this mission to our neighbors going. Suggestions for the month of December are flour and sugar. As always, we are grateful for all donations.

**VIDEO RECORDINGS:** Video recordings of services that have been previously recorded are available on the Church's website: [www.simpsonvillepres.com](http://www.simpsonvillepres.com). Click on "Videos" in the menu at the top or click on the picture of a worship service in the lower right.

**ADVENT DEVOTIONALS** are available on the table by the front door. Please take one if you wish.

As we celebrate this Advent Season, we need to be aware that there are others not as fortunate as we are. We have already received a donation of hats and gloves that will be given to Triune Mercy/ Miracle Hill as they assist the homeless and others in need. If you would like to contribute any hats, gloves, or blankets they will certainly be appreciated. Donations

**on things of little significance we overlook the good news of great joy that you have prepared. Tell us again that the Savior is born. Tell us again that we are forgiven. Tell us again that our lives can be abundant in faith, hope and love because of what you have given us in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: The angel tells Joseph that the child forming in Mary's womb is to be named Jesus.

**People: "Call him Jesus," the angel says, "For he will save the people from their sins."**

Leader: From his birth through his resurrection, from age to age, Jesus is about salvation.

**All: This is good news! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

**RESPONSE: "While We Are Waiting, Come"**

*While we are waiting, come  
While we are waiting, come  
Jesus our Lord Emmanuel,  
While we are waiting, come.*

SILENT PRAYER: A few moments of silent communication with God.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**LESSONS & CAROLS** (Sing verses 1 & 2 of each hymn)

Lesson One: Isaiah 40:1-8

Linda Stenhouse

**Carol: Hymn #15: "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"**

Lesson Two: Jeremiah 23:5-8

Jackie Koch

**Carol: Hymn #44: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

Lesson Three: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Linda Marshall

**Carol: Hymn # 38: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"**

Lesson Four: Micah 5:2-4

Barb Daugherty

**Carol: Hymn #5: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"**

Lesson Five: Zechariah 9:9-10

Gail West

**The power, and the glory,  
For ever and ever. Amen.**

**Carol: Hymn #50: "Rise Up Shepherd and Follow"**

Lesson Six: Luke 1:26-35, 38

Susan Medina

PROCLAMATION OF OFFERING AND PRAYER (the offering plate is located in the sanctuary just inside the back double doors.)

**Carol: Hymn #31: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"**

Lesson Seven: Matthew 1:18-21

Carolyn Dalton

OFFERTORY

"Away in a Manger"

arr. Page

**Carol: Hymn #9: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"**

**\*The Doxology**

***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.***

Lesson Eight: Romans 8:28-29

Marnie Logan

**Carol: Hymn #23: "Angels We Have Heard on High"**

Lesson Nine: John 1:1-14

Rev. Dr. Mary Anne Welch

**Carol: Hymn #1: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Carol: Hymn #56: "The First Noel"**

\*CLOSING HYMN #155 "Rejoice, the Lord is King"

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\*BENEDICTION

\*RESPONSE: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

***Come, Thou long expected Jesus  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in Thee.***

**Prayer of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

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,**

POSTLUDE

"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

Basque Carol

**WELCOME TO SIMPSONVILLE PRESBYTERIAN!** Whether you are a long-time member or first time visitor, we are glad you are here. If you would like to learn more about the Simpsonville Presbyterian community, we invite you to contact us through our website [www.simpsonvillepres.com](http://www.simpsonvillepres.com), or by calling the church office at (864)963-8854.

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS** today are our lovely poinsettias given in memory of or in honor of loved ones. A list of honorees will be in the Dec. 22nd bulletin.

**REFRESHMENTS** today are given by Carolyn Dalton. Thank you.