

SERVING THE CHURCH Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Liturgist: Linda Stenhouse
Ushers: Bill & Linda Marshall

Elder of the Month

For December: Candie Vaitkevicius, 864-631-1010(H), 630-247-9507 (cell)

SESSION MEMBERS

Class of 2024

Linda Stenhouse
Jackie Koch
Candie Vaitkevicius

Class of 2025

Barb Daugherty
Bill Marshall NS
Linda Marshall

Class of 2026

Bill Marshall PA
Candie Vaitkevicius
Jackie Koch

Linda Stenhouse—Clerk of Session



Office Hours: Mon.-Thur. 8:30-10:30 a.m.
510 East Curtis Street * Simpsonville, SC 29681 * (864) 963-8854
www.simpsonvillepres.com E-mail: 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.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 24, 2024

Simpsonville Presbyterian Church

Simpsonville, SC

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

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 24, 2024

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

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 "Still, Still, Still with Silent Night, Holy Night" arr. Herbster

***OUR CALL TO WORSHIP**

Linda Stenhouse, Liturgist

Leader: A child has been born for us.

People: A great light shines in the middle of our darkness.

Leader: A child has been born for us,

People: establishing God's justice and breaking every yoke.

Leader: A child has been born for us,

People: whose reign will have no end.

Leader: A child has been born for us and we worship him together.

All: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Hallelujah!

***OPENING HYMN #25 "Away in a Manger"**

***PRAYER OF ADORATION**

JOURNEY TO THE MANGER:

Reading: Luke 2:6-7, Sue Marshall

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE:

Jackie Koch & Linda Stenhouse

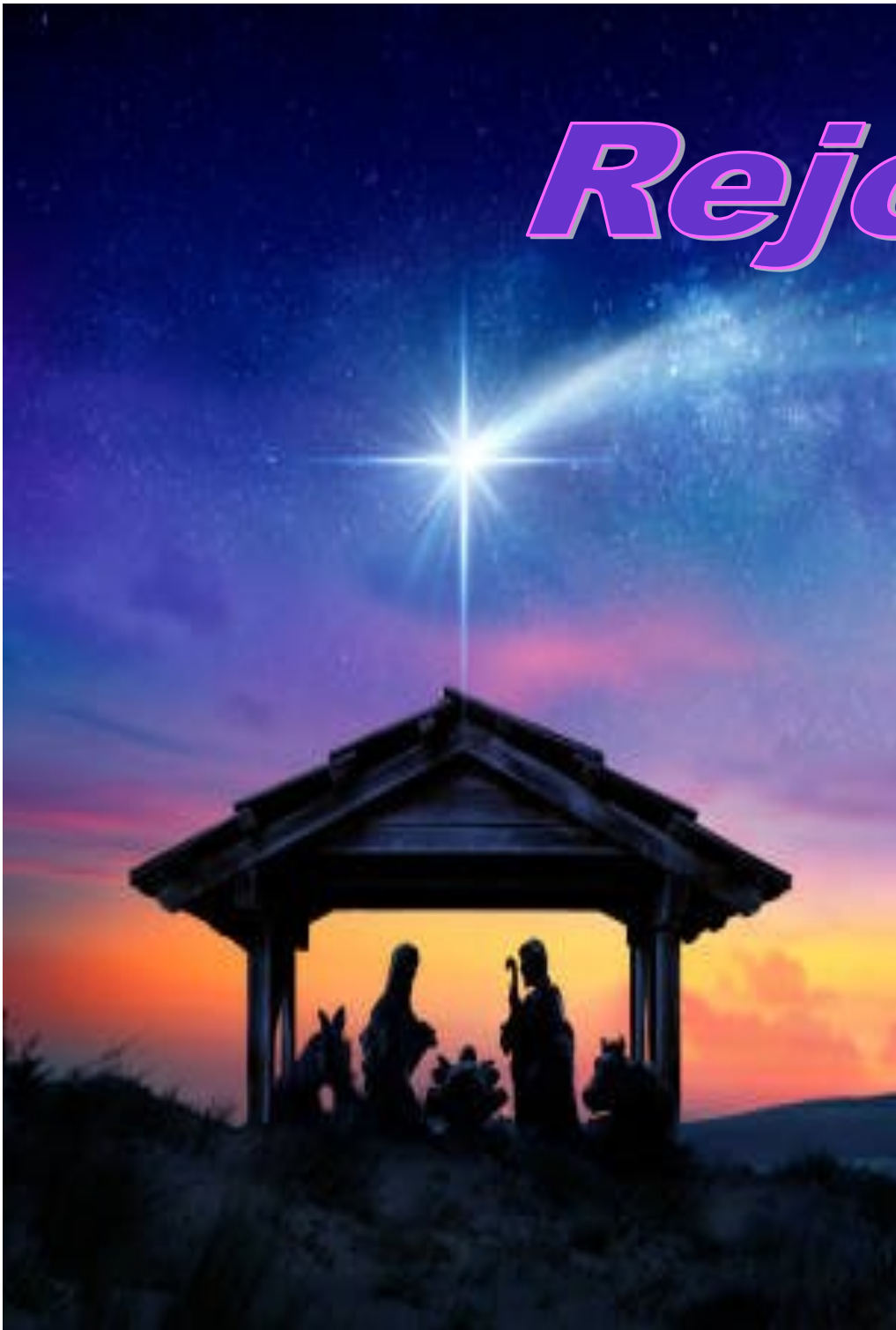
Response: Advent Song:

***Light the Advent candles now: now sing of donkey, sheep and cow;
Birthday candles for the King, let the al-le-lu-ias sing.***

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

CALL TO CONFESSION





CONFESSION OF OUR SIN (unison prayer)

God incarnate, who dwells among us, your life and birth make new worlds possible. Yet so often we fail to follow you into them. Forgive us for the ways we fail to make room for you. Forgive us for making money from and sanitizing your birth. Forgive us for silencing the prophets in our midst. Forgive us for following the logics of Empire and the violence of Herod. Forgive us for not receiving and believing your witness. Teach us to live as your beloved children, so that we might recognize and receive your continual arrival in our lives and in our world. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The God who formed us and keeps us in love has chosen to come close, has pitched a tent among us.

People: **May you rest in this promise: nothing in all of creation can separate you from the love of Christ.**

Leader: You are already forgiven.

All: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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.*

Hymn # 53 "What Child is This?"

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

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

SERMON: "The Other Christmas Tree: Mary, of whom Jesus was Born
Rev. Dr. Mary Anne Welch

*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.

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN "Silent Night" (bulletin insert)

*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.*

POSTLUDE "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night"

Parry

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, 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. Those who indicated they want to take their flower(s) home may do so after this service.

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.

VIDEO RECORDINGS: Video recordings of services that have been previously recorded are available on the Church's website: 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.

COMING NEXT SUNDAY:

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26/Luke 2:41-52

Sermon: Carol Sing