

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
4th Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

10:30 AM

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

GATHERING

Prelude "Joy To The World" (Larson) David Thompson

Call to Worship Becky Wheeler

God promised to save the world and God's people.

And the people believed.

God sent the prophets to remind them of the covenant of trust and love.

And the people believed.

In the fullness of time, God's promise became incarnate in the life of Mary.

And Marv believed.

Those who were the least and the lost received good news.

And they believed.

We are called to open our hearts, spirits, and minds to God's Good News

That, believing, we may be witnesses to God's great love.

Advent Candle #85 "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" (Verse 4)

Lighting the Advent Wreath Bob & Mimi McCully

***Hymn of Praise #113** "Angels We Have Heard on High"

***Call to Confession** Becky Wheeler

***Prayer of Confession**
Holy and loving God,
How often we prefer to live the life we know
rather than living the life you would have us live.
We are overly proud of our accomplishments
and too despairing of our limitations.
We use our lives to accomplish our own ends
rather than living to point other people to you.
Level out the mountains of our pride
and lift up the valleys of our faults.
Open a path in the wilderness of our lives
that we might find our way to you.
And hear, we pray, the sins we name silently...

***Assurance of Pardon**
Friends, believe the good news.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

***Assurance of Pardon Response #115**
*Be near me Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.*

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon on the Steps

Anthem "Love's Perfect Light" (Larson) Chancel Choir

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright,
so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to Thee.
Born to all that holy night, lead us to Love's perfect light.
As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly cradle bed,
there to bend the knee before Him whom heav'n and earth adore,
so, may we with willing feet ever seek the mercy seat.
Born to all that holy night, lead us to Love's perfect light
Star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.
As they offered gifts most rare at that cradle rude and bare,
so may we with joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ to Thee, our heav'nly King.
Born to all that holy night, lead us to Love's perfect light.
Lead us to Love's perfect light.

First Reading Malachi 3:1-4 (Pew Bible OT p.889)

Second Reading Luke 1:57-80 (Pew Bible NT p.57)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon from the Pulpit "John Waits" Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith**
**The people of God have often misused God's promises
as excuses for doing nothing about present evils.
But in Christ the new world has already broken in
and the old can no longer be tolerated.
We know our efforts cannot bring in God's kingdom.
But hope plunges us into the struggle
for victories over evil that are possible now
in the world, the church, and our individual lives.
Hope gives us courage and energy
to contend against all opposition,
however invincible it may seem,
for the new world and the new humanity
that are surely coming.
Jesus is Lord!
He has been Lord from the beginning.
He will be Lord at the end.
Even now he is Lord.**

***Affirmation of Faith Response #582**
**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son,
whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit,
whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen**

Prayers of the People concluding with the Lord's Prayer (page 35 in hymnal)

Service of Giving

Offertory "Still, Still, Still" (arr. Huisman) Jim Simmons

***Doxology #606**
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn #119** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

***Charge and Benediction** Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

***Postlude** "Angels We Have Heard On High" (Mansfield) Rita Harmon

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**\*Please stand, in body or in spirit.**

The flowers in worship today are given for the glory of God.

**Please remember in prayer:**  
Johnny Price; Rachel Hopper; Conway Saylor; Raymond Blanton; Mandy Minton; Jules, Julianne & Landen Tharpe; Kate Parthemos; Garrett Moss; Mary Aiken; Dallas Scruggs & Family; Lib Allen; Barbara Grinter; Patsy Spires; Kathy Miller Evans; Trish Tong; Hugh Fincher; Fran Ross; Buck Jolley.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Next week's lectionary readings are:**  
1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52.

**Monthly Giving Opportunity**  
The December giving opportunity is The Christmas Joy Offering. Please mark your checks "Christmas Joy" and place in the giving box or the offering plate.

**Bible Study**  
Join us for Bible Study at The Retreat this Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 10:00am.

**Christmas Movie Night**  
Friday, December 27 at 6:30pm.

**Soup Kitchen**  
We need your help to prepare food for the Soup Kitchen on Saturday, December 28. If you would be willing to help prepare a hot beverage, dressing, or dessert, please see Mimi McCully.

**Salvation Army Food Pantry**  
We are also collecting items for the food pantry. See the current needs listed here. Please bring all donations by Dec. 29.

**THE SALVATION ARMY**  
603 COLONIAL DRIVE  
GAFFNEY, SC 29340  
(864) 489-2530

**LOVE BEYOND HUNGER  
FOOD PANTRY**

Hours of Food Pantry:  
Monday - Friday  
9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.  
By Appointment only.  
Emergency Groceries  
Provided for Walk-ins

In 2023, we provided 4,576  
Boxes of Groceries.

**CURRENT NEEDS...**

UNEXPIRED & NON-PERISHABLE FOODS (Store Brands Acceptable...)

- Pop-tarts, Cereal, Grits & Oatmeal, Boxes of Macaroni & Cheese
- Assorted Canned Meats, Canned Pasta & Canned Vegetables, Soups
- Bottles of Juice

**PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS**

- Toothpaste, Shampoo & Conditioner, Body Wash

PLEASE CALL US (864) 489-2530 TO SCHEDULE YOUR FOOD PANTRY ITEMS TO BE PICKED UP.  
Food Pantry Donations Acceptable Year Round...

# CALENDAR of EVENTS

## THIS WEEK IN CHURCH HISTORY

**December 25, 336:** First recorded instance of Jesus' nativity celebrated as a feast on December 25, appears in the Calendar of Filocalus (or Philocalus).

**December 25, 508:** (or as early as 496) King Clovis, who united Gaul and founded France, is baptized by St. Remigius in the Cathedral of Rheims with three thousand of his warriors. His wife Clotilda was instrumental in "converting" him, although his understanding was low and his change of character minimal.

**December 25, 1821:** James Montgomery's Christmas carol, "Angels from the Realms of Glory," is first used in a public service, despite having been written in 1816. It is sung at the English Moravian center in Fulneck, Yorkshire, England.

**December 27, 537:** The Hagia Sophia, a cathedral designed by Anthemius of Tralles and Isidorus of Miletus, is consecrated by Patriarch Menas in Constantinople. The innovative design is not only original but beautiful.

### Praying for Our Congregation

We are praying for every member of our church family.  
Each week we invite you to pray for particular members.  
This week we are praying for:

**Joyce Infante**  
**Samuel Wyatt**  
**Will Spires**

### Sunday, December 22

9:45 AM Lectionary Bites – Parlor  
9:45 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
10:30 AM Worship – Sanctuary & via Facebook Live

### Tuesday, December 24

10:00 AM Bible Study at The Retreat  
5:30 PM Christmas Eve Service – Sanctuary

### December 24-26

Church Office Closed

### Friday, December 27

6:30 PM Christmas Movie Night – Parlor

### Saturday, December 28

10:30 AM Serving at The Soup Kitchen

### Sunday, December 29

9:45 AM Lectionary Bites – Parlor  
9:45 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
10:30 AM Worship – Sanctuary & via Facebook Live

### Upcoming

December 24-26 Church Office Closed for Holiday  
December 29 Food Pantry Items due  
January 1 New Year's Day Holiday  
January 5 CE committee meeting  
January 5 Put away Christmas decorations  
January 5 Yoga  
January 6 Fellowship/Congregational Care meeting  
January 7 Outreach committee meeting  
January 9 Grace Circle

## NEXT STEPS

- Pick up a hard copy of the LIMELight
- Bring donations for the Salvation Army Food Pantry
- Complete a Benevolence Preference Survey located on the Peggy Jolley Hub

## MEMBERS OF THE SESSION

| Class of 2024 | Class of 2025 | Class of 2026 |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Teresa Spires | Nancy McElroy | Robin Morris  |
| Dean Wyatt    | Mimi McCully  | Barbara Cope  |

## STAFF

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QR code for electronic contributions:



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**LIMESTONE**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PC(USA)

WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF A LOVING GOD,  
GATHERING, GROWING, GIVING, AND GOING TO SERVE,  
TOGETHER



"John Waits." 2024. Digital Art

God from the house of Israel a child of grace has given.  
A savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven.  
Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,  
the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.  
--Michael Perry