

Laurinburg Presbyterian Church

600 West Church St. Laurinburg, NC 28352

Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2015



Founded 1859

Dr. Neal Carter, Pastor

Dr. José Rivera, Director of Music

Mr. Sean McDonald, Organist

Rev. Lyndsey McCall, Director of Christian Education

Supported Missionaries

Tim and Marta Carriker

Christopher McReynolds

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 13, 2015

Eleven o'clock

God of mercy, grant that the Word you speak this day may take root in our hearts, and bear fruit to your honor and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please print your name on the Friendship Pad found at the end of the pew, and return it to its starting place.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* arr. Caudill

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES Sis Thomas & Ramona Wright

One: Watch and wait for Christ's coming!

We light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love,
remembering the promises of God with prayer.

We light this candle in hope.

Light the first purple candle.

We light this candle for peace.

Light the second purple candle.

We light the third candle of Advent in joy.

Light the pink candle.

One: We look to John, the one you sent, to point us to your light. The light will come into our world and enlighten everyone. We have known people who have challenged us and called us into God's light. They seem, like John, called by God to prepare us for a deeper faith.

One: God sent John the Baptizer to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus Christ, the true Light of the World. John called for people to repent of their sins and to live faithfully. He baptized with a cleansing water and

proclaimed the new life that Christ, the one who would follow him, would bring. This Advent, we ask for God's mercy and a joyful new beginning.

All: Merciful God, we give thanks that you send messengers like John to call us to greater faith. We ask that in these days we prepare for you in prayer and acts of holy compassion. Forgive us and lead us to your light. Amen.

ADVENT RESPONSE HYMN 85 verse 3

Light three candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.

PRAYER

One: Let us pray, Faithful God, in the height of our Advent walk, grant us the courage to experience joy.
Joy in the face of apathy,
Joy in the face of sorrow,
Joy in the face of uncertainty.

All: Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Isaiah 12)

Jackson Purcell

One: I will give thanks to you, O Lord.

All: Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

One: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

All: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted.

One: Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.

All: Shout aloud and sing for joy, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious God, we often do not live in right relationship. We seldom offer you prayer and supplication. We worry about things of this world, and make ourselves the focus. Sometimes we are at “peace,” if we have what we want; yet, our sisters and brothers are in need. We are neither ready for nor concerned with judgment. Too often we foolishly rely on our “Christian” affiliation as our support. Our sin is before you Lord—save us! May our lives now carry the worthy signs of our honest repentance for the glory of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Silent Prayer

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Friends believe the good news of the gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

One: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 581 **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.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON for all children

Children will remain in sanctuary today.

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

EPISTLE LESSON

Philippians 4:4-7 NT 198

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 3:7-18 NT 60

One: The word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

DIALOGUE	<i>Christmas Gifts</i>	
ANTHEM	<i>What Shall We Give?</i> Children and Chancel Choir	O'Neill
DIALOGUE	<i>Mary and Joseph's Gifts</i>	
TRIO	<i>How Far Is It To Bethlehem?</i>	Chesterton
DIALOGUE	<i>Angels' Gift</i>	
*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN 113		
	<i>Angels We Have Heard On High</i>	
DIALOGUE	<i>Shepherds' Gift</i>	
ANTHEM	<i>Do You See the Star?</i>	Schram
MONOLOGUE	<i>Wise Men's Gift</i>	
ANTHEM	<i>Let the Earth Rejoice</i>	Berry
DIALOGUE	<i>The Gifts We Bring</i>	
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Congregational Hymn 144		
<i>In the Bleak Midwinter (verse 4)</i>		
What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.		
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE		
OFFERING OF SELF AND SUBSTANCE		
OFFERTORY	<i>Silent Night</i>	Clemson

*DEDICATION HYMN 606

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

We present to you, O God, our gifts. May they be used to make a difference in the lives of people where hope is scarce. May our gifts be a reminder, to those who receive them, of your love.

*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.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*HYMN 136

Go, Tell It On the Mountain

*BENEDICTION CHARGE AND BLESSING

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE HYMN 92 verse 1

While We Are Waiting, Come

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

*POSTLUDE

Postlude on Mendelssohn

Carr

**All who are able may stand*

Welcome to everyone in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. May each of us know the presence of the risen Christ as we worship and feel the warmth and love of the community of Christ here today. If you are searching for a church home, we invite you to join

us in the worship and work of Jesus Christ through the ministries of this congregation. If you would like to speak with Neal Carter or receive information about the life of this faith community, please mark the Friendship Pad or call the church office 276-0831, ext. 302. If you would like to join, please let Neal know.

This year's Christmas Program is adapted from "Gifts for Baby Jesus" by Deb Brammer. Visit <http://debbrammer.com/gifts-for-baby-jesus/> to see the original.

In order to minimize distractions during today's service, we have designated photographers who will take pictures while the program is under way. All participants will return to the chancel area at the end of the service so that their family members can photograph them.

Thanks to the participants in our Christmas Program: Annie Anderson, Max Anderson, Cole Broadbelt, Zoe Broadbelt, Claire Carmichael, Daniel Carmichael, Katie Carmichael, Taylor Carmichael, Emma Herr, Rowan McDonald, Sarah Beth McLaurin, Sumner McLaurin, Ella Kate Quick, Vivienne Rhue, Emily Sellers, Erin Sellers, Garrett Sellers, and Jackson Sellers.

Special thanks to the instrumentalists who shared their talents with us for today's service: Emily Womble, Bill Caudill, John Alec Caudill, Willow Holman, and Anna Ferguson.

Thanks as well to the parents of all our musicians and actors, to Lyndsey McCall and Debbie Carter for helping us record today's program, and to the Chancel Choir and Mabel Rivera for organizing snacks for the participants.

The Joyful Singers and the Joyful and Whitechapel Ringers will be participating in the Scotland County Memorial Library Holiday Party this Wednesday, December 16. Our performance will start at approximately 4:15 pm. Please join us and support our children as they share their talents with our community!

The Joyful Singers & Ringers will be testing a new rehearsal plan in the new year. Starting on Sunday, January 10, we will rehearse on Sunday mornings from 10-10:30 am in room 219. All kids in Kindergarten through Grade 8 are welcome to join us! We'll also have Wednesday evening music time from 6:30-7 pm between January 13 and February 17. These sessions will be geared toward younger kids (PreK-1st grade) and will focus on building rhythm skills, matching pitches, and finding our singing voices. Sunday morning rehearsals will be geared toward learning music for our worship participation dates: January 31, February 21, March 20, and April 24. Kids in the overlapping age range are encouraged to participate in both groups as often as possible. Talk to Jaime (jam6ah@gmail.com or 910-258-8459) if you have questions or concerns.

Whitechapel Ringers (Grade 6-Adult) will return to regular rehearsals in the new year! We will practice after worship from about 12:15-1 pm beginning on Sunday, January 17. Whitechapel Ringers will play for worship on January 31, February 28, March 27, and May 1.

CHRISTMAS CHEER GIFTS DUE - NO LATER THAN TOMORROW:

If you picked a tag from the Christmas Cheer tree, please purchase the gift, wrap it, attach the tag to the gift, and bring it to the church office no later than tomorrow Monday, Dec. 14.

Canned vegetables needed for Church Community Services. Baskets are located at the entrances for your contributions.

Our Advent devotional booklets are available at the entrances. Please pick up a copy for your family.

Today, Sunday, December 13

5:45 Middle School Youth annual Christmas party in the fellowship hall. Please bring a wrapped Christmas gift to exchange. The gift should be \$10 or less. We will have a great time celebrating the season.

5:45 Senior High Youth will be meeting promptly at the church today at 5:45 pm. We will depart for a mystery location! Dress for outdoor weather and wear shoes made for activity. This event is rain or shine. As part of our activity, you should bring along several small gift items. Ideas might be candy, toothbrush, gift certificates, games, drinks, socks, ear buds - any combination of items that total about \$10. Be creative! We think you will like this unique gift exchange. Come ready to play, eat and have fun!

Also the LPC Senior High Team has started basketball practices. Head Coach Chip Wells says he is excited about our upcoming season. The first game is scheduled for Monday, January 4th. Please plan to go to McColl and cheer for our team.

Tuesday, December 15

4 pm Advent Worship at Scotia Village
5:30 pm Childcare Advisory Committee

Wednesday, December 16

Last Wednesday Meal/Program of 2015

6 pm Fellowship meal - chicken and dressing with gravy, butter beans, squash casserole, tossed salad, tea, dessert. Adults-\$7 and Children under 12-\$3 Sign up today on the friendship pad. Please RSVP by 1 pm Wednesday.

6:30 pm Christmas Carol Sing with special performance by Whitechapel and Joyful Ringers in the Fellowship Hall
7:15 pm Chancel Choir rehearsal

Thursday, December 17

6 pm Childcare Center Christmas Program and reception in the fellowship hall

Saturday, December 19

9 am deliver Christmas Cheer to families

Tuesday, December 22

4 pm Communion and Lessons and Carols at Scotia MMEC

Tuesday, December 22

5:30 pm Healing and Wholeness Service - Join us for this special service where we renew and heal through words and music in the Chapel at Laurinburg Presbyterian.

Wednesday, December 23 & December 30 - no meal or activities

Christmas Eve at 5:30 pm and 11 pm Thursday, December 24

5:30 pm Christmas Eve Service Lessons and Carols including Candlelight and Communion. The earlier service is more family/children oriented. The 11 pm service also includes communion and candlelight and will be different from the earlier service. We invite you to join us for either service or both of them if you would like and invite a friend to join you.

College Students:

Help us stay connected! We need college students email address, mailing address and cell phone number. Please email them to laurinburgpres@bizec.rr.com or call the church office.

Interested in going to Montreat? We are looking for 1 or 2 people to help prepare meals/drive the bus for our group of students attending the Montreat College Conference. Are you just looking for an opportunity to get away January 2-5th? Have you always wanted to go to Montreat?

Interested in attending the Montreat College Conference? Do you know someone that might be? On Jan. 2-5, 2016 we gather members of our congregation and those in our community from different colleges to be united as one group to attend this powerful conference. We'll leave on Jan. 2 at 9 am from LPC and return around 5 pm on Jan. The cost for the trip is \$100 per person. If you're interested but would need financial support, please let us know. For more info on the event, go to: montreat.org/college. Hope you can join us - contact Lyndsey McCall mccallyndsey@gmail.com to register by December 25.

Payment and forms due by December 25.

Christmas Joy Offering - Promises Made. Promises Kept.

This Advent season, we reflect upon God's promise of salvation. Made to each of us, and kept with the birth of Jesus, this promise has changed countless lives. Through the Christmas Joy Offering we make and keep two promises of our own: to church workers through assistance in their time of need and to racial ethnic education and leadership development. Each of these promises is kept, equally by the gift you give, and each has the power to change lives. Help by giving to the Christmas Joy Offering.

2016 Stewardship Update 12/10/15

2016 Pledge Budget	\$453,214
2016 Pledges Received	\$358,549
2016 Pledges Needed	\$94,665

2016 Pledges Received = 79% of Goal

If you have not turned in your 2016 pledge card, please mail it or drop it off in the church financial office as soon as possible.

Thank you,
The Stewardship/Membership Committee

Please remember these in your prayers—

Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Candy Nichols in the death of her brother, Randy Bridges.

SMH: Georgia Dye; Continuing Concerns: Helen Baker, Lucile Bridgeman, Margaret Caudill, Marge Coughenour, Jacque Doubles, Nancy Ezell, Mary Sprouse Goodwin, Clark Hanmer, Connie Harris, Lynn Mabry, Ray McCormick
In Scotia Skilled: Evelyn Crossley, Edna Drake, Frances Hopkins, Virginia Johnson, Mackey McCormick; Special: Anne Collins, Reba Essey, Frances Haupt, Edna McKeithen; Assisted: Betty Wayne Cooley, Ann & Ervin Hill, Helen Middleton, Adell Page
At Scottish Pines: Katherine Edmund, Thelma Morgan

The Session

Moderator: Neal Carter

Class of 2015

Jacque Britt
Beth Elliott
Craig Ellis
Allen McLaurin
Celeste McRae
Lynn Massey
Bill Purcell, II

Class of 2016

John Baker
Julian Butler
David Harling
Bill Hill
Fred Mabry
Lynn Mason
Maggie Ratcliffe

Class of 2017

Anne Caudill
Mike Coughenour
Debby Holcomb
Edna Ann Loftus
Richard Massey
Larry Schulz
Clint Willis

The Deaconate

Moderator: Amy Sloop

Class of 2015

Doug Harris
Pat Hix
Randy Miller
Amy Sloop
Kevin Patterson
Jamie Synan

Class of 2016

Denise Herr
Kim Liles
Richard Mabry
Kaye McMillan
Don Ohl
Jimmy Stubbs

Class of 2017

Kitson Broadbelt
Chris Carmichael
Stuart Carmichael
Bill Loftus
Chris Rhue
Ellen Thompson

Presbyterian Women

Moderator: Carol Sellers

Vice-Moderator: Virginia Ann McCormick

Secretary: Beverly Bowling

Treasurer: Delia Muse

Historian: Lucy Sojka

Staff — Office 910-276-0831

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Director of Music	José Rivera ext. 305; cell: 414-218-2822
Organist	Sean McDonald
Business Manager	LeGette McLean ext. 304
Office Manager	Lu Kimrey Ohl ext. 301
Child Care Director	Priscilla Graham ext. 306

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