

# **Laurinburg Presbyterian Church**

600 West Church St. Laurinburg, NC 28352

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 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 20, 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

TRUMPET PRELUDE      *Westminster Carol*      Edwin Barnes  
Noah, Joshua, and Timothy Altman      arr. James Curnow

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES      John and Martha Olmstead

One: As we come to the last Sunday of Advent,  
we gather in the light of God's love.

We light the candle of Hope.

(Light the first purple candle)

We light the candle of Peace.

(Light the second purple candle)

We light the candle of Joy.

(Light the pink candle)

We light the candle of Love.

(Light the fourth purple candle)

One: God's love endures forever. In a world where peace among nations is often fragile, God's love is the one reality on which we can rely.

**All: Today we prepare for the greatest expression of that love, as we listen once more for God's Word amidst all our words.**

One: God's love endures forever. Through acts as simple and common as the birth of a baby,

**All: God transforms the world, and God's promises are kept.**

One: It is that expression of faithful love we anticipate and celebrate this day.

**All: It is that promise that brings light to our deepest, darkest night.**

One: As we wait in eager anticipation of God's greatest promise fulfilled, we come to worship in the light of God's love.

ADVENT RESPONSE HYMN 85 verse 4

**Light four candles to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
He is coming; tell the glad tidings.  
Let your lights be shining.**

PRAYER

One: Let us pray. Gracious God, at the end of our Advent journey, may we be resolute to know and show love.  
Love instead of anger,  
Love in the face of hate,  
Love above all else—Love.

**All: Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP from Luke 1:46-49

Heather Whistler

One: And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,

**All: and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,**

One: for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

**All: Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;**

One: for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

**All: and holy is his name."**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

\*HYMN 87

*Comfort, Comfort, Now My People*

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Hold us before you in judgment as well as grace, O God, until we are willing to serve instead of being served; until we are more concerned for justice than our comfort; until we walk the second mile and turn the other cheek; until we make right our wronged relationships. We confess how we run from the demands of the Gospel while expecting our own demands to be met. Forgive, O God, our cowardice in the face of injustice, our posturing on the issues instead of acting in faith, and our endorsement of pettiness instead of acting in love. Forgive us for all that is past and renew our discipleship that we may serve you in these dark and perilous days. 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 please meet your teachers at the back of the sanctuary to go the Sunday School.*

## **ORDER FOR THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

BAPTISM HYMN 486, verse 1

**Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign. With this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.**

## CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Minister: Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ: All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Hear also these words from Holy Scripture: As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. Let us remember and rejoice in our own baptism, as we celebrate this sacrament.

## THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

Minister: The Lord be with you.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**Congregation: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Minister: We give you thanks, Eternal God, for you nourish and sustain all living things by the gift of water. In the beginning of time, your Spirit moved over the watery chaos, calling forth order and life. In the time of Noah, you destroyed evil by the waters of the flood, giving righteousness a new beginning. You led Israel out of slavery, through the waters of the sea, into the freedom of the promised land.

In the waters of Jordan, Jesus was baptized by John and anointed with your Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection, Christ set us free from sin and death, and opened the way to eternal life. We thank you, O God, for the water of baptism. In it, we are buried with Christ in his death. From it, we are raised to share in his resurrection. Through it, we are reborn by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Send your Spirit to move over this water that it may be a fountain of deliverance and rebirth. Wash away the sin of all who are cleansed by it. Raise them to new life, and graft them to the body of Christ. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon them, that they may have power to do your will, and continue forever in the risen life of Christ. To you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, be all praise, honor, and glory, now and forever.

**Congregation: Amen.**

#### PRESENTATION OF BAPTISMAL CANDIDATE

*Elder Julian Butler presents Mason Jacob Woessner for baptism.*

Elder: On behalf of the Session, I present Mason Jacob Woessner, son of Christopher and Savannah, to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

*MINISTER addresses Parents:*

Minister: Do you desire that your child be baptized?

Parents: I do.

Minister: Relying on God's grace, do you promise to live the Christian faith and to teach that faith to your child?

Parents: I do.

*ELDER addresses the Congregation:*

Elder: Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Mason by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging him to know and follow Christ and to be faithful members of His church?

**Congregation: We do.**

#### THE BAPTISM and LAYING ON OF HANDS

Minister: O Lord, uphold Mason by your Holy Spirit. Give him the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## WELCOME

Elder: Mason is now received into the holy catholic Church.  
Through baptism God has made him a member of the household  
of God, to share with us in the priesthood of Christ.

**Congregation: With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you  
into Christ's Church to share with us in His ministry, for we  
are all one in Christ.**

*ELDER presents Sampler and Baptism Certificate.*

## THE PEACE

Minister: The peace of God be with you.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

## BAPTISM HYMN 486, verse 4

**Child of God, your loving Parent, learn to listen for God's  
call. Grow to laugh and sing and worship, trust and love God  
more than all.**

## PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL LESSON, part 1

Luke 1:26-38 NT 56

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

*Song of Mary*

Shepherd

GOSPEL LESSON, part 2

Luke 1:39-56 NT 57

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*Let It Be*

Neal Carter

\*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 sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.**

\*HYMN 100     *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING OF SELF AND SUBSTANCE

TRUMPET OFFERTORY     *In the Bleak Midwinter*     Gustav Holst  
arr. James Curnow

\*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)

**Thank you, God of Love, for the promise of this season. We are grateful for the generosity aroused in us by Christ's coming into the world. May these gifts represent a new spirit of joyous sharing among us, for the sake of all your children everywhere.**

\*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 110

*Love Has Come*

\*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.**

\*BELLS POSTLUDE *Christmas Medley: Hark the Herald Angels Sing,  
We Three Kings, and Joy to the World* arr. Larsen

*\*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 Neal in the church office 276-0831, ext. 302. If you would like to join, please let Neal know.

Being baptized today is Mason Jacob Woessner. Mason is the son of Christopher and Savannah, little brother of Colton, grandson of Mary Margaret and Randy Miller, and great-grandson of Clara and Julian Butler.

Next Sunday we will baptize Ezra Morgan Mejia, son of Mindy Morgan and Fernando Mejia, and grandson of Jim and Annette Morgan. We will also collect the 2 cents a meal offering for world hunger.

Today we receive the Christmas Joy Offering. During Advent, 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.

**Today, Sunday, December 20** at 5:45 Middle School and Senior High Youth will go Christmas caroling to shut-ins. José will lead us with his famous "Feliz Navidad." Sombreros are optional. After Christmas Caroling, we will return to LPC for fellowship and our meal. The LPC Basketball team continues to practice weekly. According to Head Coach Chip Wells, the LPC team is picked to win the league. Games are scheduled to start on January 4. We will resume our Sunday night schedule on January 10. CROSS mission trip to Charlotte January 29-31; Ski Trip March 4-6; Montreat (for rising 9th graders-graduating seniors) July 17-23

**Monday, December 21** 6 pm Session dinner and meeting with new Elders and Deacons for the Class Of 2018

### **Tuesday, December 22**

4 pm Communion, Lessons and Carols at Scotia MMEC

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  
The church office will be closed Thursday, Dec. 24 and Friday, Dec. 25*

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

5:30 pm Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols includes Candlelight and Communion. The earlier service is more family/ children oriented, and nursery will be provided. The 11 pm communion and candlelight service will include special music and a meditation by Neal.

**College Students: Help us stay connected!** We need email address, mailing address and cell phone number. Please email them to [laurinburgpres@bizec.rr.com](mailto: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?

**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. 5. The cost for the trip is \$100 per person. If you're interested but need financial support, please let us know. For more info on the event, go to: [montreat.org/college](http://montreat.org/college). Hope you can join us - contact Lyndsey McCall [mccallyndsey@gmail.com](mailto:mccallyndsey@gmail.com) to register by December 25.

**Payment and forms due by December 25.**

### **2016 Stewardship Update 12/17/15**

2016 Pledge Budget           \$453,214

2016 Pledges Received       \$371,579

2016 Pledges Needed         \$81,635

2016 Pledges Received = 82% 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—**

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

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

## **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**

Pastor	Neal Carter ext. 302; cell: 910-280-9688
Director Christian Ed.	Lyndsey McCall ext. 303; cell: 919-656-2718
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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