

Laurinburg Presbyterian Church

600 West Church St. Laurinburg, NC 28352

First Sunday after Christmas

December 27, 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 27, 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

PIANO PRELUDE *We Three Kings Of Orient Are* arr. Mayo

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 148

One: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!

All: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

One: Praise him, you highest heavens, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

All: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.

One: He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

All: Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

One: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

All: Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

One: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

All: Young men and women alike, old and young together!

One: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

All: He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the Lord!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN 147

The First Nowell

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Loving God, we confess that we do not always share the Good News. We have heard the message time and again and have let it grow stale. We know we need you, but we don't know how we need you. We want to turn away from empty phrases and worn-out platitudes, but we know in our heart that we need you. We need your salvation, redemption and healing in our lives from where we have gone astray and where we have been hurt. Help us to live into your full embrace, so that we can fully share your grace, healing and love with those who are hurt, those who have gone astray, those who feel so far gone from your love. Forgive us when we have closed off our hearts instead of allowing them to break. Forgive us when we have said nothing in order to avoid saying the wrong thing. Forgive us when we have been too afraid of being looked down upon instead of sharing the story of our faith. Guide us so that we are unafraid to praise you and to share the Good News of your Son, Jesus the Christ. 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 Annette Morgan presents Ezra Morgan Mejia for baptism

Elder: On behalf of the Session, I present Ezra Morgan Mejia, son of Fernando and Mindy, 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 Ezra 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 Ezra 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: Ezra 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

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON I Samuel 2:18-20, 26 OT 246
One: The word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 2:41-51 NT 59
One: The word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Growing Up Jesus* 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 115 *Away in a Manger*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING OF SELF AND SUBSTANCE

PIANO OFFERTORY

Rejoice

arr. Jim Morgan

*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)

King of Kings, we join the angels in singing your unending praise. You alone created the universe in all of its glory. We present these gifts knowing that they will be transformed into ministries of Good News. Bless this offering so our giving honors your glory. In the name of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, we pray.

*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 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*BENEDICTION CHARGE AND BLESSING

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE HYMN 136 refrain

Go, Tell It On the Mountain

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

**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.

Today we baptize Ezra Morgan Mejia, son of Fernando and Mindy Morgan Mejia. Ezra is the grandson of Jim and Annette Morgan who helped with Ezra's baptism today.

Thank you to Tracy Thomas for leading us in music today.

We collect the 2 cents a meal offering for world hunger today.

The Christmas Joy Offering: God's promise of salvation made to each of us, and kept with the birth of Jesus, 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.

Monday, December 28 Announcements for the January Messenger are due tomorrow. Please email the church office laurinburgpres@bizec.rr.com

Holiday office hours: The church office will be open in the mornings this week Monday, January 28 - Thursday, January 31 from 8:30 - noon. We will be closed Friday, January 1.

Wednesday, December 30 No meal or activities

Please keep in prayer our college students as they attend the Montreat College Conference January 2-5. Your help is needed too! We are still looking for a few people to help provide a dish/or crockpot recipe for our lunch and dinner meals. If you are willing to prepare something, please contact Rev. Lyndsey McCall at 919-656-2718 or email her mccallyndsey@gmail.com Students should be at Laurinburg Presbyterian at 9:00 am on Saturday, January 2nd to board the bus to leave for Montreat.

College Students: Help us stay connected! We need email address, mailing address and cell phone number. Please email them to laurinburgpres@bizec.rr.com or call the church office. PW are starting their Valentine candy list.

Please remember these in your prayers—

Georgia Dye (Wake Medical Center: Room 2D10
300 Newbern Ave. Raleigh, NC 27610)

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

Boy Scout Troop 420 will celebrate 85 years of Scouting in 2016. We want to invite all who have participated in the Troop to a celebration. If interested, please email your name and phone # to david@davidharling.com

Monday, January 4 - PW Circles meet

Tuesday, January 5 - 7 pm BEG meeting

Wednesday, January 6 is Epiphany. We will start back our Wednesday night meal at 6 pm and 6:30 pm Epiphany worship; 7:15 Chancel Choir rehearsal resumes

Thursday, January 7 starting at 9 am we will be taking the Chrismon trees down and putting away decorations. Please join us we're hoping we will have lots of good help!

Sunday, January 10 is Baptism of the Lord Sunday. We will observe communion and install the new Elders and Deacons for the Class of 2018.

Sunday, January 10 - 5:30 pm Deacons' meeting
(please note change not the first Sunday of the month)

Sunday January 10 Youth will resume their Sunday pm schedule. The LPC High School Basketball Team continues to practice weekly with Head Coach Chip Wells. Games are scheduled to start on January 4. Youth and parents please mark your calendar for these dates: CROSS mission trip to Charlotte January 29-31; Ski Trip March 4-6; Montreat (for rising 9th-graduating seniors) July 17-23

Tuesday, January 12 at 6 pm TOT returns

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

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

www.laurinburgpres.com email: laurinburgpres@bizec.rr.com