

Laurinburg Presbyterian Church

600 West Church St. Laurinburg, NC 28352

Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 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 6, 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

Hark the Glad Sound

Manz

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE Scott and Leslie Sellers family

One: Watch and wait for Christ's coming! Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God this Advent season.

We light this candle in hope. *(Light the 1st purple candle)*

We light this candle for peace. *(Light the 2nd purple candle)*

Hear God's promise of peace from Isaiah: A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

All: The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

One: The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

All: They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

ADVENT RESPONSE HYMN 85 verse 2

Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.

PRAYER

One: Let us pray, Faithful God, you are at work to restore all of creation in its intended harmony. Give us your peace that we may be reconciled to all enemies in the peace that passes all understanding through Christ Jesus our Lord. God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come.

All: Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Gibson McLaurin

One: The Reign of God is drawing near:

All: The prophet calls us to change our lives!

One: Prepare the way for the Lord:

All: A just and peaceful path!

One: Welcome one another, for Christ welcomes you:

All: For the glory of God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of mercy and love, breathe your grace into our lives.

Forgive our wandering ways, and guide us along your paths

of peace. When we lose our way, and forget the reason and

purpose of this season, carry us back to you. Lead us up to

that high mountain of faith and hope, that we might truly

proclaim: "Here is our God!" In your holy name, we pray.

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

One: Glory to God in the Highest.

All: And on earth peace and good will to all.

(Please be seated)

CHORAL RESPONSE *Gloria In Excelsis* Antonio Vivaldi

CHILDREN'S SERMON for all children

Children please meet your teachers at the back of the sanctuary to go to Sunday School.

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Malachi 3:1-4 OT 889

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

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *Angel's Carol* John Rutter

EPISTLE LESSON Philippians 1:3-11 NT 196

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

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *Christmas Lullaby* John Rutter

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 3:1-6 NT 60

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

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

On Christmas Day

Gustav Holst

Angela LeFlore, mezzo-soprano
Fabian Griffith, baritone
Tracy Thomas, soprano
Jaime Martinez, soprano

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from A Declaration of Faith)

Jesus, the long expected Savior, came into the world as a child, descended from David, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, a virgin. He lived as a Jew among Jews. He announced to his people the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth. We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child. In the person and work of Jesus, God himself and a human life are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated. The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule. Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection, he brings about the relationship between God and humanity that God always intended. Amen.

*HYMN 105

People, Look East

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING OF SELF AND SUBSTANCE

OFFERTORY

Laudamus Te

Antonio Vivaldi

Tracy Thomas, soprano
Jaime Martinez, soprano

*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)

With these gifts, dear God, accept the praise and thanksgiving of our hearts, which rejoice in your goodness and love. Let our gifts point to your presence in the world, and further your dream for the world through Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us.

*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 134

Joy to the World

*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

Carillon

Mulet

**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.

Thank you to our guest musicians: Paul Anderson, Taylor Graham, Daniel Jones, Carly Lewis, Huadong Lu, Peggy Marshal, Nikki Nall, and Lydia Short.

All loose offerings received today will go to the Gary Wright Scholarship Fund for funding music scholarship for students.

MISSIONS—OUTREACH: The Deacons ask for your help

Today **Calling all LPC Bakers!** The St. Andrews Final Exam “Cookies and Milk” Stress Buster event will be hosted by LPC on Sunday evening, December 6. **Please bring your cookies, or other goodies, to the church by 3 pm this afternoon, and leave them in the church kitchen.** Also, please include a note if they contain nuts or coconut. The LPC Deacons and St. Andrews students thank you!

Christmas Cheer - A few tags remain on the Christmas tree near the church office. Please pick a tag for a needy family. Purchase the gift, wrap it, attach the tag to the gift, and bring it to the church office by next Sunday, December 13.

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

Today, December 6 “Journey to the Manger” 3-5 pm

Join the CN&E Committee for a new family-friendly event that will walk you through the Nativity story. Crafts, snacks, a short Christmas video, a LIVE donkey and costumes for your family’s Christmas Nativity photo that would be perfect for your Christmas cards! Come experience the miracle of Christ’s birth with us this afternoon!

Also Today, Middle School Youth will meet at 4:30 Middle School Youth will “Journey to the Manger” then go out for an early dinner in Laurinburg. Please bring \$10-20. Youth will end after dinner so we will probably be back at the church around 6:30; 5:30 pm Deacons’ Meeting; 5:45 pm Sr. High fun with Amy! 7 pm Milk and Cookies at SAU

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

Monday, December 7 Presbyterian Women Circles meet
Circle 1 at 6:30 pm Covered dish at Clara Butler's house
Circle 2 at 4:30 pm at Ramona Wright's house
Circle 3 at Noon meet for lunch at Miyako restaurant
Circle 4 at 3:45 pm at Scotia

Tuesday, December 8
7 pm BEG Committee

Wednesday, December 9

6 pm Fellowship meal: Sliced Ham, roasted potatoes, collards, apples, mixed vegetable casserole, tossed salad, tea, dessert. Sign up today on the friendship pad. RSVP by 1 pm Wednesday.

6:30 pm Children's Choir/Chimes (in Sanctuary)

6:30 pm Don't miss "Away from a Manger" Fellowship Hall

A fun and interactive Christmas play with a "choose your own ending" for the audience. Characters of a church Christmas pageant are thrown into investigative turmoil as their "baby Jesus" nursery doll comes up missing after an untimely power outage. Accusations soar and secrets are revealed as the cast sets out to find the true "leading role" before the curtain opens!

7:15 pm Chancel Choir

Saturday, December 12 9 am - Noon OR Sunday, December 13

2-5 pm New Officer Training with Neal in the session room.

Sunday, December 13 during 11 am worship our Children's Christmas Pageant "The Gifts We Bring"

*Seeking Christmas Pageant Participants as we say at LPC, there's always room for one more! We'll practice on Dec. 9 at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary, and Dec. 13 at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary. Rehearsal CDs and song sheets are on the table outside the church office.

We could especially use a few older kids (3rd grade and up) willing to play speaking roles or read scripture passages. We would also love for some of our youth musicians to contribute to the service by playing a prelude or offertory. Parents, if you have a child or youth who would like to participate, please just show up for rehearsal or email Jaime at jam6ah@gmail.com by Dec. 7. We welcome your participation even if you don't email in advance, but it will help us to ensure sufficient costumes for everyone who needs one, and make sure we have all the parts covered, if you let us know ahead of time.

Wednesday, December 16:

4:15 pm Whitechapel, Joyful Ringers and Joyful Singers will participate in the Scotland County Memorial Library Holiday Party. We expect to perform at approximately 4:15 pm. Please join us and support our kids! We'll meet at the library at 4 pm, sing a few of our pageant songs, then travel to Scotia to sing in the dining room as people enter for dinner.

Wednesday, December 16

6:30 pm Christmas Carol Sing with Whitechapel and Joyful Ringers in the Fellowship Hall

Thursday, December 17

6 pm Childcare Center Christmas Program in the fellowship hall

Tuesday, December 22

4 pm Communion & 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 - 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 - typically the earlier service is more family/children oriented.

Thursday, December 24

11:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service.

This service will be different from the 5:30 pm service. We invite you to come to either service or both if you would like and invite a friend to join you.

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. The stories below - just two examples among thousands - attest to the power of the promises supported by the Christmas Joy Offering.

2016 Stewardship Update 12/3/15

2016 Pledge Budget	\$453,214
2016 Pledges Received	\$355,569
2016 Pledges Needed	\$97,555

2016 Pledges Received = 78% 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.

Continuing Concerns: Connie Harris, Helen Baker, Lynn Mabry, Clark Hanmer, Ervin Hill, Jacque Doubles, Sandra Hoffman, Mary Sprouse Goodwin, Margaret Caudill, Marge Coughenour, Lucile Bridgeman, Blossom Harris, 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 Hill, Helen Middleton, Adell Page

At Scottish Pines: Katherine Edmund, Thelma Morgan

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 26.

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

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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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