

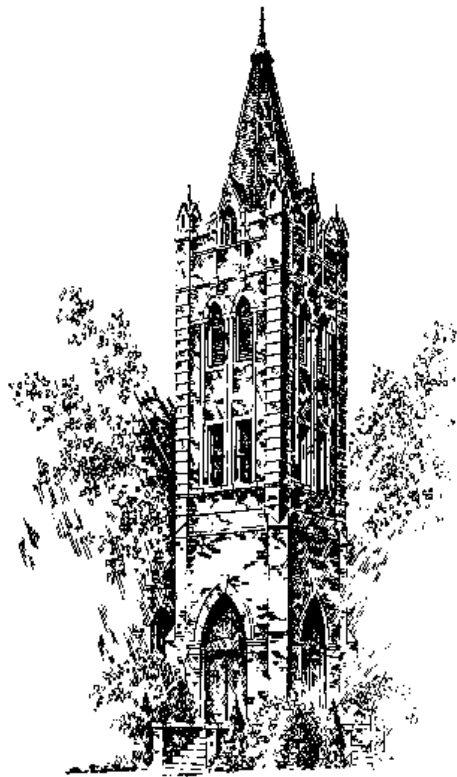
Laurinburg Presbyterian Church

600 West Church St. Laurinburg, NC 28352

Fourth Sunday of Advent-CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING

December 24, 2023

Our Mission: To Be The Word In Action



Founded 1859

Rev. Robert (Bob) E. Button, Interim Pastor

Pastor John Stanley, CRE

Dr. José Rivera, Director of Music

Lee Harris, Organist

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Eleven o' clock

The French Carol proclaims: *Love has come a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.* Martin Luther's great carol tells us: *From heaven above to earth I come to bring good news to everyone. Glad tidings of great joy I bring to all the world, and gladly sing.* And from the African American slave experience comes this wonderful hymn: *Jesus, Jesus, O what a wonderful child; Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek and mild. New life, new hope the child will bring. Listen to the angels sing: Glory glory, glory! Let the heavens sing.* No matter what the source of the carol, they all proclaim that God has intervened in our world through the birth of Jesus. We welcome each and every one of you to this worship this morning. Your presence is an affirmation of the Grace of God that has sustained His Church down through the ages. Please know that the Christ Child has come and lives in each of you.

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor John Stanley

Prelude

"Twas in the Moon of Wintertime"

Dale Wood

*Call to Worship

from: Refreshing Rains of the Living Word

Pastor: Break forth together into singing,
for God has visited and comforted God's people.

People: **In many ways God spoke to our ancestors,
most profoundly in the person of Jesus.**

Pastor: How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of one who brings good tidings.

People **We rejoice in the One who publishes salvation
and carries to us good news of peace.**

Pastor: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth.

People: **The Word was light and life to all,
and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Pastor: Come to share the joy
and give honor to God's name.

People: **Amen!**

*Invocation

Pastor John Stanley

*Hymn of Praise #133 *"O Come All Ye Faithful"*

Lighting the Fourth Advent Candle

"Love"

The Bartholomew Family

Invitation to Confession

Pastor John Stanley

Corporate Prayer

Gracious God, whose visitation to our planet is celebrated in the birth of a child, we long to experience once again the awe and wonder of the Christmas story. We welcome our Savior, the gift of your goodness and loving-kindness. Our deeds have not warranted the outpouring of your mercy. Yet you have rescued and defended us and made us heirs in hope of eternal life. Grant us the inner conviction of your presence within and among us as we sing the carols and rejoice in our salvation. Amen.

***Passing of the Christmas Peace:** “May the peace of the Newborn baby be with you.
“And also with you.”

Time with Children

Prayer for Illumination

Comforting and challenging God, speak to us again through the Child who lived your Word in action beyond words. We need the good tidings of your reign among us, of light that no darkness can quench, of grace and truth that empowers us to live as your children. Amen.

A Lesson from the Old Testament

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Anthem

“Angel’s Carol”
Jaime Martinez, soloist

John Rutter

A Lesson from the Gospels

Matthew 2:1-12

Commentary on The Word

“The Other Wise Man”
With Thanks to Henry Van Dyke

Rev. Robert E. Button

***Affirmation of Faith**

We proclaim Jesus Christ to be the Son of God,
Born of a woman, fully human;
By the power of the Holy Spirit, fully God,
Being of the same substance as The Creator;
He proclaimed good news to the poor and oppressed, fed the hungry
Healed the sick, raised the dead, cured the lame, ate with sinners,
And gave his life willingly on The Cross for the sins of the world.
He died, was buried and rose on the third day and lives in God’s Kingdom.
We believe that this Christ, born a babe, will some day return to claim
Those who believe in him and serve him during their life journey.
We proclaim this in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

An Invitation to Giving

Rev. Bob Button

Offertory

“Go, Tell it on the Mountain”

Paul Manz

***The Doxology**

***Prayer of Dedication**

We seek to make your name known to the ends of the earth, O God of all our beginnings. We want the whole world to hear good news of peace. Bless and multiply our offerings that they may bear witness to the light. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Bob Button

***Hymn of Parting** #134 *"Joy To the World"*

***Charge and Benediction**

Rev. Bob Button

Pastor: Whatever burdens you carried to this worship,
leave them behind, to face the world anew.

People: **Timeless truth has broken into our earthly days,
so many of our worries can be discarded.**

Pastor: Whatever sadness envelops you in this season
is being transcended and turned to good ends.

People: **We have known the comfort of God's presence
And the healing touch of God's grace.**

Pastor: Whatever doubts have held you captive
and cut off your encounter with the Eternal,
surrender to the One who is ever the same,
and makes all things new.

People: **All the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.**

Pastor: Carry forth into the world and into coming days
the joy and peace of Christmas.

People: **We seek to be light-bearers
amid all the shadows along life's pathways.**

All: **Amen.**

Postlude

"Joy to the World"

David Cherwien

(We have been blessed with wonderful organists over the years, so it has become a tradition at Laurinburg Presbyterian to remain seated for the Postlude and continue to worship and listen for God through music. If you need to leave before it ends, please do so reverently.)

*Stand as you are able

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR "Kirkin' o' the Tartan service to be held on January 28th. Please contact Emily Womble if you are available to carry a tartan for the service. We will have small flags for our younger folks to carry.

Email wombleemily@gmail.com

Text or call 910-610-5283

BLESSING BOX

Remember to bring items to add to our Blessing Box. Suggested donations include non-perishable food items like canned goods, boxed meals, canned proteins, pasta, vitamins, canned or boxed milk, peanut butter, cereal bars, granola bars, oatmeal, grits, baby food, bottled water, etc. Hygiene items like toothbrushes, toothpaste, feminine products, soap, cleaning supplies, deodorant, Q-tips, toilet paper, diapers, tissues and band aids are also great donations. There is a box in the lobby vestibule by the church office to drop off your items, as well as a box to leave items to donate to Church Community Services.

The Worship Committee invites you to help take down the Christmas decorations in the church on Thursday January 4 at 10:00 am.

Tonight 12/24 5:30 pm Christmas Eve Family Service (Bus will pick up from Scotia)
11:00 pm Midnight Candlelight Service

Monday 12/25 Merry Christmas!

Mon 12/25-Tues 12/26 Office will be closed (Lisa will not be in the office 12/25-1/2)

Sunday 12/31 9:45 am Sunday School for All
11:00 am Worship Service

Monday 1/1 Happy New Year! Office Closed

Thursday 1/4 10:00 am Take Down Christmas Decorations

JANUARY VOLUNTEERS

Deacon Greeter/Visitation:

Dec 31-Jan 6	Becca Hughes
January 7-13	Kim Liles
January 14-20	Scott Sellers
January 21-27	Poppy Bounds
Jan 28-Feb 3	Jane McLaurin

Sanctuary Committee:

*Sis Thomas	Edna Ann Loftus
Miriam Bounds	

Usher Team 3:

*Allen McLaurin	Hal Jernigan
Philip Eshleman	John McLaurin
Penny McLaurin	Gus Purcell
Jackson Purcell	Gus Purcell, II
Gray Sellers	Anne Sprouse
Clifton Buie	Jimmy Stubbs, Jr.
Clint Willis	Jackson Medlin

Bus Drivers:

January 7	Jimmy Stubbs
January 14	Earl Bowling
January 21	David Carmichael
January 28	Jamie Sutherland

2023 Stewardship Update

Budgeted Pledges 2023	\$359,425
Total Pledges Received Thru 12/17/23	\$343,326
Pledge Difference Thru 12/17/23	\$16,099
Percent Received	96%

PEOPLE TO HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS

- **John Clark**, being treated for a reoccurrence of cancer.
- **William Carmichael**, being treated for a heart attack at Scotland Memorial Hospital.
- **Richard and Louise Mabry, Stella and Sawyer**, upon the death of Katherine Mabry.
- **Charles and Miriam Bounds and Family**, upon the death of his brother C.D. Bounds.
- **The Caudill Family**
- **Sara Tezzi**, granddaughter of Sammy and Linda Simmons; a titanium rod from a previous surgery on her back broke. She is awaiting a new surgery.
- **Baxter Lee**, recovering at home.
- **Sammy Townsend**, friend of the congregation, at Duke Medical Center after having a stroke.
- **Barbara Salzlein**, continuing concerns.
- **Catherine McLaurin**, recovering at home.
- **Philip Bower**, brother of Rev. Sue Hudson, recovering from open heart surgery.
- **Hiram Jones**, brother of Connie Jones Button.
- **Kathleen Purcell**, recovering at home after a stroke.
- **Marty Sutherland** welcomes prayers.
- **Ramona Wright**, at a skilled nursing facility in Cary.
- **Mark McCanna**, brother of Joel McCanna, who has been diagnosed with cancer.
- **Mary Margaret Miller** welcomes our prayers.

Scotia Village Skilled Nursing: Mackey McCormick, Anne Ramsay Melton, Marie Love, Doug Hix, Elizabeth McIntosh, Lou Presler

Scotia Village Assisted Living (Heather Glen): Daphne Gaw

Scottish Pines: Marty Sutherland