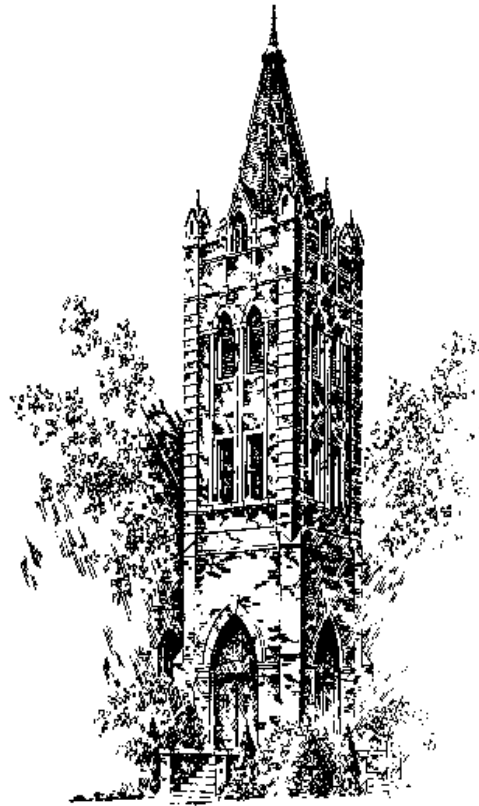


Laurinburg Presbyterian Church

600 West Church St. Laurinburg, NC 28352

First Sunday After Christmas – December 31, 2023

Our Mission: To Be The Word In Action



Founded 1859

Pastor John Stanley, CRE
Alex Bryant, Seminary Student
Dr. José Rivera, Director of Music
Lee Harris, Organist

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Eleven O'clock

***Welcome to Laurinburg Presbyterian Church this morning!
We are glad you are here! And we invite you to return as often as you wish so
that you will come to know the joy of being a part of the fellowship of God in
this place.***

***Please sign our pew pads so we can have a record of your presence today.
This will enable us to serve you better.***

***Here is a prayer that you can use to prepare your heart and mind for
worship:***

***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. (Book of Common Prayer – 1549ad)***

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Alex Bryant

Prelude

"Divinum Mysterium"

Richard Purvis

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Praise the Lord!

People: **Praise the Lord from the heavens!**

Leader: Praise God in the heights and the depths!

People: **Praise God, all creatures of earth and sky!**

Leader: Praise God, young and old, together!

People: **Let us praise the Lord and worship God's holy name!**

***Invocation**

***Hymn of Praise** #132 *"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"*

Call to Confession

Corporate Prayer of Confession

**God of grace and glory, we praise you from the heights and from the depths;
from the courts of power and from the sidewalks of our lives. Your splendour
shines from a manger, where the Light of the World was born for us. In fragile
flesh, you are revealed to us face to face reaching out to claim our love. And
so, we gather with those who have glimpsed that love to rejoice that you have
claimed us in Christ. We offer you our praise, Creator, Son, and Spirit; Source
of life, Glorious light, and Wisdom of the ages. Amen**

Assurance of Pardon

***Congregational Response #581** *“Glory Be to the Father”*

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

Time with Children

Hillary Sessions

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, your Word makes all things new. Send your Holy Spirit to refresh our minds and hearts, and embrace your truth revealed in Christ, your Word made flesh. Amen.

Lesson from the Old Testament

Isaiah 40:27-31

Anthem

Lesson from the New Testament

Luke 2:22-40

Commentary on The Word *“Waiting and Hoping”*

Pastor John Stanley

The Apostles’ Creed (pg. 35)

Hymn of Worship #145 *“What Child is This”*

An Invitation to Giving

Offertory

“Lullay, Thou Little Tiny Child”

English Carol

***The Doxology**

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

This offering is our most significant statement of faith, O God. We give because we believe this congregation is important, our ministry changes lives for the better, and we are part of something much larger than ourselves. Ultimately, we believe the church is our firmest link to your Reality. Use our time, talent, and treasure in ways that exceed our grandest design. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer and Our Lord’s Prayer

***Hymn of Parting # 134** *“Joy to the World”*

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

“Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts”

Camille Saint-Saëns
From Christmas Oratorio

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.

Monday 1/1	Happy New Year! Office Closed
Thursday 1/4	10:00 am Take Down Christmas Decorations
Sunday 1/7	9:45 am Sunday School for All
	11:00 am Worship Service
	5:00 pm Massey GRACE Group Gathering at Lynne and Fred Mabry's

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**, recovering from a heart attack.
- **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