

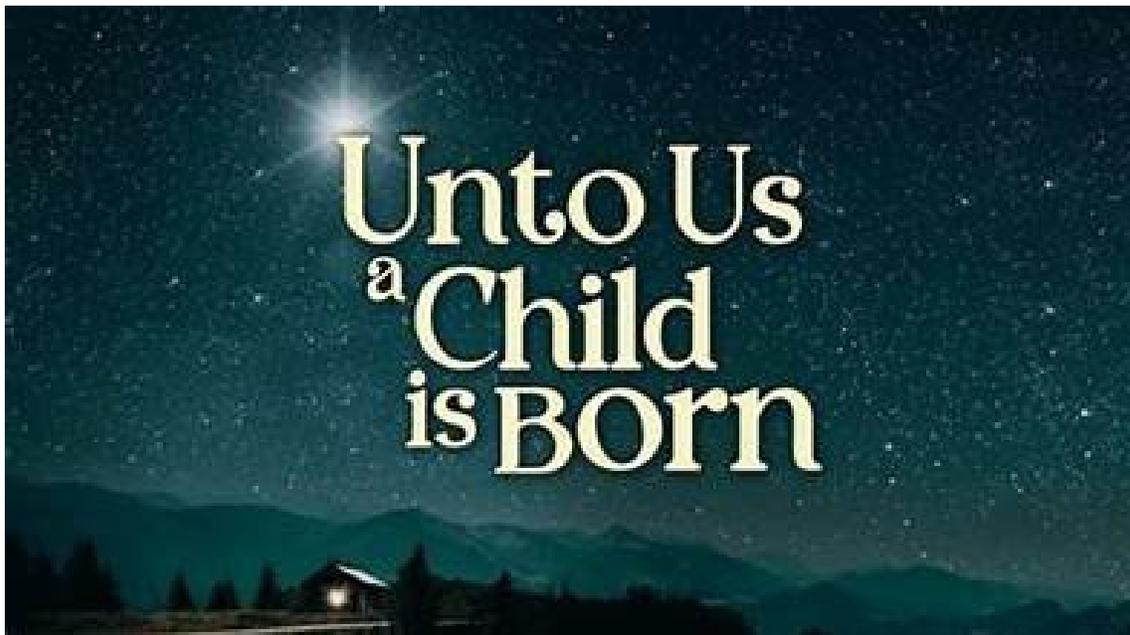
# **Laurinburg Presbyterian Church**

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

**Our Mission: To Be The Word In Action**

## ***Christmas Cantata***



Founded 1859

Rev. Rebekah Carpenter, Senior Pastor  
Holly Albrecht, Director of Christian Education  
Dr. José Rivera, Director of Music  
Lee Harris, Organist

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Eleven o' clock

*Please pass the Friendship Pad found at the end of the pew and return it to its starting place. If you are worshiping with us for the first time, we invite you to leave your contact information on the pad. This will give us the opportunity to share with you the work and witness of our community of faith—and to welcome you into our midst!*

### Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Rebekah Carpenter

### Minute for Mission

Christmas Joy Offering

Mission Committee

### Prelude

“O Come All Ye Faithful”  
Strings

arr. Lloyd Larson

### Lighting the Third Advent Candle

“Joy”

The Sessions Family

Leader: We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.  
In the Wilderness prepare the way of the Lord!

**People: Make a highway in the desert for our God.**

Leader: From ages of old, no ear has heard, no eye has seen one so glorious as the Lord our God, for whom we wait. Every valley shall be lifted, every mountain and hill made low; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed. God's anointed one is coming – to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and to announce the time of the Lord's favor. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

**People: those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.**

Leader: This morning we light three candles — the candles of hope, peace, and today, joy. This candle reminds us that we have reason to be joyful, even in the midst of strife. We remember that the angel proclaimed Christ's birth as "Good news of great joy, to all people."

### Candle Lighting

**Leader:** Please join together in singing the first, second and third verses of hymn #85, “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

**\*Hymn of Praise #106** “Prepare the Way, O Zion”

### \*Invocation

### \*Passing of the Peace

“May the peace of Christ be with you.”  
“And also with you.”

### Children's Message

Dr. Hillary Sessions

### Old Testament Reading

Psalm 150

### New Testament Reading

Colossians 3:16-17

Recitative: *“Comfort Ye My People”*

Aria: *Every Valley (from Messiah)* G.F. Handel

Joseph Ittoop, tenor

**Cantata: For Us A Child Is Born** (BWV 142)

Johann Sebastian Bach

Sinfonia

Chorus: *“For Unto Us Child Is Born”*

Aria: *“Lord, This Holy Day We Praise You”*

Bear Hughes, bass

Chorus: *“Glory To God”*

Aria: *“Jesus, Holy Child, We Adore Thee”*

Jamal Pass, tenor

Recitative: *“Emmanuel, the God and Savior of Us All”*

Aria: *“Zion Sing for Joy”*

Piper Pack-Smith, mezzo-soprano

Chorus: *“Alleluia”*

**Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer**

**An Invitation to Give**

**Offertory**

*“What Child Is This?”*

by Lani Smith

Jane McLaurin, flute

Lee Harris, organ

**\*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**

**\*Hymn of Parting** # 132 *“Good Christian Friends Rejoice”*

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

*“Hallelujah Chorus”* from Messiah

by G.F. Handel

Choir & Congregation

*(Why we sit for the Postlude- The Prelude and Postlude begin and conclude our corporate worship. The first allows us to meditate as we transfer from private worship to group worship, while the Postlude gives us the time and opportunity to translate what we have learned and*

*experienced in the church service into our private lives and plans for the week. If you must leave before it ends, please exit reverently.)*

*\*Those who are able are requested to stand.*

### **Guest Musicians**

Siana Wang, violin I  
Maria Manning, violin II  
Jacob Bandy, viola  
Cori Trenczer, cello  
Piper Pack-Smith, mezzo-soprano  
Joseph Ittoop, tenor  
Jane McLaurin, flute  
Lee Harris, Organist

### **LPC Chancel Choir**

Susan Williams	Alice Baldwin	Sheila Swift
Rebekah Carpenter	Olivia Aviles	Summer Bartholomew
Pat Ellis	Monica Hall	Bear Hughes
Jaime Martinez	Cindy Dewey	Martha Fulton
Virginia McCormick	Emily Womble	Priscilla Hooks
Stuart Carmichael	Jamal Pass	Larry Schulz
Ayden Bailey	Mac Doubles	Fred Mabry
Iverson Lomax	Skyler Long	

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Offering This Sunday to Support Choir Scholarships**

As is tradition on the Sunday of our Christmas Cantata, the loose plate offering today will be dedicated to supporting our choir scholarship fund. Your generosity helps nurture and encourage the next generation of church musicians. Thank you for giving as you are able!

### *Upcoming...*

#### **• December 21 – Fourth Sunday of Advent: “Love”**

**11:00 a.m.** – Worship Service and Service of Lessons and Carols

Through Scripture and song, we'll journey once more through God's story of redeeming love. (handbells, guest musicians, & congregational carols)

#### **• December 24 – Christmas Eve**

**5:30 p.m.** – Family Candlelight Service

A beloved tradition—gather as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, the Light who shines in the darkness.

## **GOD, STEWARDSHIP, AND YOU**

Stewardship is a way of life, a way that begins with acknowledging God as the creator and giver of all and responding with generosity and the responsible management of our resources. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are caretakers of all God has given to us. Our gratitude for these gifts and blessings is expressed in prayer, worship, tithing and sharing our gifts out of love for God and one another.

**SPY (Scotland Presbyterian Youth)** 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders will gather the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday each month for fellowship, study, worship, service and more. Next meeting is December 14<sup>th</sup> 4:30-6:30 pm at Church in the Pines. Wear your favorite Christmas attire or pajamas! Check your email for upcoming events hosted by Laurinburg Presbyterian and our sister churches.

**Peacemakers** for children through fifth grade will meet Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> 5:00-6:30 pm. Bring a friend for dinner, games, music, Bible stories, a special mission project and more! Peacemakers meets on the first Sunday of the month September – May.

**Volunteers Needed to Help Remove Christmas Decorations-** The Worship, Music, and Arts Committee is seeking volunteers to help **take down the Christmas decorations** throughout the church on **January 5th at 10:00 a.m.** If you're available, please join us for a morning of teamwork and good company as we wrap up the holiday season. Your help is greatly appreciated!

**Car Wash Tickets-** Boy Scout Troop 420 and Cub Scout Pack 420 still have car wash tickets for sale! Valued at \$30 but available for just \$10, these gift cards are a great way to contribute to the scouts' activities and adventures. Cards are good for use at the Tidal Wave Auto Spa in the Walmart parking lot or at any other Tidal Wave location. They make perfect stocking stuffers for the holidays or a gift all year long. You can pick up your gift cards from the church office – don't miss out on this great deal while helping a worthy cause!

**Sanctuary Committee Volunteers Needed-** The Sanctuary Committee is looking for additional volunteers to help prepare the sanctuary for worship each week. This is a meaningful behind-the-scenes ministry that helps create a welcoming and worshipful environment for our congregation. If you are already a member of the Sanctuary Committee and are willing to serve for an additional month during the year, contact Beverly Bowling.

**Food Donations Needed Year-Round-** We continue to collect food donations throughout the year for **Church Community Services** and for our on-site **Blessing Box**. Many households in our community face food insecurity, and your ongoing support helps ensure that neighbors in need have access to essential items. Donations can be dropped off anytime in the collection boxes located in the church office lobby. Thank you for helping us care for our community through your generosity!

**Volunteer Needed for Light Bulb Replacement-** The Building and Grounds Committee is seeking a volunteer who is comfortable safely using a ladder to help replace light bulbs in various areas of the church. Some of our current committee members are no longer able to do this type of task, and we would greatly appreciate an extra set of hands. If you are able to assist with this occasional maintenance need, please let the church office or a member of the Building and Grounds Committee know. Thank you for helping us keep our facilities bright and welcoming!

2025 Pledge Detail As Of 12/7/25

	Pledged	Actual	Difference	%
Annual	\$266,300	\$257,920	(\$8,380)	97
Monthly	\$122,085	\$113,042	(\$9,043)	93
Quarterly	\$17,420	\$13,565	(\$3,855)	78
Weekly	\$23,935	\$21,385	(\$2,550)	90
Total	\$429,740	\$405,912	(\$23,828)	95

**DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS**

**Deacon Greeters/Visitors**

- Nov 30-6 Carol Edwards
- Dec 7-13 Louise Mabry
- Dec 14-20 Hillary Sessions
- Dec 21-27 Debra Sutherland
- Dec 28- Jan 3 Chip Wells

**Usher Team:**

- \*Brian Bounds Charles Bounds
- David Bounds Turner Bounds
- Walt Bounds Eddie Carmichael
- Bob Dyer Hew Fulton
- Boyd McLaurin Jim Mason
- Ed O'Neal Bill Purcell, II
- Chip Wells

2026 Pledge Detail	
Proposed budgeted pledges for 2026	\$454,457
Currently 81 pledges received	\$422,815
Difference	\$31,642
% received	93%

**Bus Drivers:**

- Dec 7 Richard Mabry
- Dec 14 Richard Massey
- Dec 21 David Bounds
- Dec 28 Brian Bounds

**Sanctuary Committee:**

- \*Maggie Wells Carol Coughenour
- Meredith Bounds Susan Williams

**The FUN Adults Sunday School Class** meets Sundays at 9:45 am. For those who can not make it in person, the Zoom Meeting ID is 864 8139 8937 and the passcode is 945025.

10.12.25	REVISED Fun Class Schedule 2025 – 2026			
	NOTES	TITLE	THEME	SPEAKER
7-Dec		J to C #4 Paul vs. James vs. John: 30 AD to 325 AD	Bible	Rod Frohman
14-Dec		JC5 End of Christian Synagogue: 30 AD to 325 AD	Theology/Bible	Rod Frohman
21-Dec		Christmas Carol Singing	Music	Dwight Williams
28-Dec	No Class			
4-Jan		Jesus to Cpnstantine #6 Gnosticism: 30 AD to 325 AD	Theology/Bible	Rod Frohman
11-Jan		Gospel Comparison: What the Differences Mean	Bible	Bill Purcell, II
18-Jan		What we Know About Jesus before the Gospels Part 1	Bible	Bill Purcell, II
25-Jan	MLK weekend	What we Know About Jesus before the Gospels Part 2	Bible	Bill Purcell, II

**LPC Mission Committee** is Supporting Total Women’s Outreach Ministries in collecting coats for kids this winter. Please bring your donations of new coats of all sizes for local children to the church office.

## **GRACE Groups:**

- The Wayne and Debi Hobbs Grace group will be meeting on Sunday, December 14 at the home of Bob Dyer and Phil Eshleman from 4-6 p.m. Please bring a dessert or a light appetizer.
- The Fun Adults Sunday School Christmas get together will be on Tuesday, December 16 at the home of Bob Dyer and Phil Eshleman, starting at 6 PM. Please bring an appetizer or finger food to share.
- Hughes GRACE Group will meet December 17, at the Hughes home.
- Williams GRACE Groups – December 21 Christmas Caroling and Dinner- 4 pm

**Prayer List** (Names of those on the prayer list will remain for one month, unless a family member calls Lisa with an update, or the Pastor has visited the person. Thank you for the way you care for the Laurinburg Church family.)

- Barbara Salzlein, continuing health concerns. Currently at Pinehurst Nursing and Rehab Center.
- Gail and Goode Mobley, ongoing health concerns.
- Virginia Sessions, broken arm.
- Eleanor McRae, recovering from a fall.
- Judy Draper, recovering from knee surgery.
- John McRae- cancer treatment.
- Wayne Hobbs, ongoing health concerns.
- Carol Edwards, recovering from back surgery.
- Randy Miller, dealing with health concerns.
- Meredith Bounds, chemotherapy.
- Ashleigh Bailey & Family (Sutherlands) Deployed with the Military.

## **Friends of Congregation**

- John McLean, LPC Custodian, cancer treatment
- Dan Woerner, former member and administrator of the McKay Sisters Foundation, recovering from spine surgery.
- Jerrod Lowry, General Presbyter, (Colon Cancer, Stage 3, Chemotherapy)
- Janet McQueen, Mother of Alex Bryant, cancer treatment
- Sara Tezzi, granddaughter of Sammy and Linda Simmons
- Fletcher Kendall, Atlanta. grandson of Paul & Judy Rush, Leukemia
- Sammy Townsend, Liberty Commons Nursing, Sanford.

## **Scotia Village Skilled Nursing**

Anne Ramsay Melton, Elizabeth McIntosh, Goode Mobley (Memory), Bob Gordon

## **Scotia Village Assisted Living (Heather Glen)**

Daphne Gaw, John and Henrietta Carmichael, Jean Clansky, Sibyle Dulin

**2025 Laurinburg Presbyterian Church**

Clerk: Bill Purcell, II  
Moderator: Rev. Rebekah Carpenter

**ELDERS**

<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>
Brian Bounds	Bob Dyer	Pam Hill
Martha Fulton	Mike Edwards	Susan Hartwell
Bear Hughes	Bill Purcell II	Kirsten Dean
LeGette McLean	Emily Womble	Bradley Williams

**DEACONS**

<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>
Heather Bounds	Katherine Campbell	Debra Sutherland
Katie Clark	Carol Edwards	Miriam Bounds
Wayne Hobbs	Phil Eshleman	Fred Albrecht
Louise Mabry	Chip Wells	Hillary Sessions

**Presbyterian Women**

Moderator: Angela Purcell  
Vice-Moderator: Denise Herr  
Secretary: Chris Carmichael  
Treasurer: Delia Muse  
Historian: Dawn Sellers  
Moderator of Search Committee: Leslie Sellers