

Entrance

Gathering (As we gather to worship please greet those persons sitting around you.)

Prelude (Please use this time to prepare yourself for worship.)

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence - arr. L. Smith

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen - arr. L. Larson

Chiming of the Hour

Greetings and Welcome (During this time please pass the pew pads.)

Time of Centering Chris Dodson, organ

Prelude on Divinum Mysterium - arr. D. Dahl

Lighting of the Altar Candles

*Call to Worship

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the King?

People: With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the eternal Christ?

People: With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of our Savior?

People: With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of his passion, death, and resurrection.

Leader: How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Son of God?

People: By hearing again the words of the prophets, who foretold the saving work of God.

Leader: For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.

People: Glory to God in the highest!

*Changing of the Paraments

*Invocation

*Opening Hymn

No. 213

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 2:1-6

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Hope Candle

Leader: Advent is a season of waiting.

People: We wait in hope for a dawning light that will dispel the darkness of our lives.

Leader: Advent is a season of waiting.

People: We wait in hope for a new day.

Leader: Advent is a season of waiting.

People: The end of the wait draws nigh.

Leader: This morning we light the first candle on the wreath. This candle reminds us of a hope grounded in the grace of God that will never leave us to face the darkness alone.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Response (sing twice in unison)

**We'll walk in the light, beautiful light,
Come, where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright,
O, shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus, the light of the world.**

Proclamation

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Children's Time (Children age 4 - Kindergarten may leave for children's church.)

"The Advent Wreath"

Old Testament Lesson

Ruth 1:15-18

Advent Meditation

Rev. Jay Minnick

Response

Joys and Thanksgivings/Prayer Concerns

Silent Prayers/The Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (please pray in unison)

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

Offering of Our Gifts

Offertory

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel - arr. B. Austin
(8:30 a.m. - Coffee Chorus; 11:00 a.m. - The Chancel Choir)

*Doxology (sung in unison to the tune "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel")

**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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O
Israel.**

Thanksgiving and Communion

Sacrament of Communion

All who worship with us today are invited to participate with us in the celebration of the sacrament of the Eucharist or Holy Communion. This is a celebratory act of our community in which we give thanks for the ever-abiding presence of God's spirit and the all-inclusive reach of God's grace. The Sacrament is a mystical reality in which the presence of Christ is made real to us, and by God's grace it

forges us into one body so that together we can extend the merciful touch of Christ into the world. Welcome to the table.

In an effort to meet the needs of the gathered community it is our goal to have gluten free bread available for Communion. Please notify your server when you come forward to receive the Sacrament.

The Great Thanksgiving

Clergy: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Clergy: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Clergy: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Clergy: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, almighty God.

People: For you are the creator and sustainer of our lives.

[The rehearsing of the tradition]

Clergy: Let us pray. Loving and gracious God, in remembrance of these your grace-filled acts, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving.

People: Thanks be to God!

Clergy: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and cup. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

*Reception of the Bread and Cup

Closing Prayer

Sending Forth

*Closing Hymn

No. 196

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

*Pastoral Benediction

*Postlude

The Angels' Gloria - arr. M. Ham

Advent at Pleasant Grove

Sunday, December 8, 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.:

Choir & Orchestra Cantata

Tuesday, December 10, 7:00 p.m.:

Contemplative Christmas Service

Sunday, December 15:

Children's Choirs Performance, 11:00 a.m.

A Cappella Holiday Concert, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 19, 6:30 p.m.:

Bonfire, Brass Band, & Carols

Sunday, December 22, 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.:

Christmas Hand Bell Music

Christmas Eve:

Family Service, 5:00 p.m.

Candlelight Communion Service, 7:00 p.m.

Today we are participating in a special offering for United Methodist Student Day. Gifts to this special offering support scholarships and loans for students attending United Methodist and other accredited colleges and universities. Please make checks payable to PGUMC and specify *Student Day* on the memo line. Special offering envelopes for cash donations are located in the pew notebooks.

Sponsor a light on the Chrismon Tree in honor of or in memory of a loved one. Light Lights order forms are located in the pew notebooks. Please place completed order forms with payment in the offering plate.

Parents, do you need time to shop for Christmas gifts or time for self care? Our High School Youth Group will provide childcare with snacks at the church for children aged 2 - 5th grade next Sunday, December 8, from 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$10 for one child and an additional \$5/child for families with two or more children. Please let Ashley Yohman know if you plan on participating for planning purposes. Payment will be collected at drop-off/pick-up.

The Young Disciples 4th and 5th grade Sunday school class are collecting donations for the Robeson County Christmas Store after the worship service today. The Robeson County Church and Community Center provides qualified families the opportunity to shop for gifts at their Christmas Store. Please make checks payable to PGUMC and specify *Robeson County Christmas* on the memo line. If you'd rather shop for toy donations yourself, you may drop off new, unwrapped toys in the Welcome Center no later than noon on Sunday, December 8. Thank you for your support!

Please join us on Sunday, December 15, at 6:30 p.m. for our annual PGUMC Concert Series holiday event, the Triadic Vocals Holiday Concert! They will be joined by their guests Catch 22 and Theory. This evening of pop holiday a capella vocal music is family friendly! Invite your friends and neighbors - all are welcome!

In lieu of Salvation Army stockings and angel tree gifts this year, the Outreach Committee is helping families in Western NC devastated by Hurricane Helene. Ten families will be helped through a program called Family 2 Family. Additionally, we will be helping two other families. One family has requested gas cards or Walmart cards. The other family has requested financial assistance in relocating. Checks may be made payable to PGUMC with *Western NC Christmas* specified on the memo line. For more info, please contact Kim Grimes at piratefan619@gmail.com or Lucinda Sullivan at lucindasull@aol.com.



Financials

(July 2024 - June 2025)

Giving Received Last Week: \$8,915.54

Giving Received YTD: \$268,777.54

Giving Needed Each Week: \$13,181.38

Giving Needed YTD: \$276,808.98

Church Ministry Team

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Give to PGUMC Here!

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**WE EXIST TO BE THE
BODY OF CHRIST**

1st Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2024