



WHEN THE FULFILLMENT
OF THE TIME CAME,

GOD

sent his Son...



Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church
301 Patton Avenue NW, Roanoke, Virginia 24016
www.5thavepresbychurchroanoke.com
Historic Past • Contemporary Presence • Exciting Future

First Sunday after Christmas

December 31, 2017

Organist..... Mr. Frederick Bolden
Pastor..... The Rev. Vernie Bolden, Jr.

We Assemble in God's Name

Organ Prelude and Lighting of Candles

Gathering in Song (seated).... "O Little Town of Bethlehem"# 141
(vss. 1, 3, 4)

Welcome

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Leader: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. To all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God. The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.
(John 1:9, 12, 14)

All: *And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.* (1 John 3:23)

Prayer of Preparation (unison): Almighty God, through your Word you wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature. You have shed upon us the new light of your incarnate Word. May this light, enkindled in our hearts, shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Chimes

*** Call to Worship**

(from Isaiah 60:1, 2; Titus 2:11)

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come

People: *and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.*

Leader: Nations shall come to your light

People: *and rulers to the brightness of your rising.*

All: *The grace of God has dawned upon the world
with healing for all humankind. Let us worship God.*

*** Hymn of Praise..... "Joy to the World!"# 125**

Announcements and Celebrations

Welcome of Visitors

*** Passing of the Peace +**

Leader: May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all!

People: *Peace be with you! Let us now share the peace of God with
one another.*

(Congregation greets one another, exchanging words of peace.)

Hymn..... "Rise Up, Shepherds, and Follow"# 50 Blue

Invitation to Confession

from 1 John 1:5-7

Leader: Jesus said: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God. Let us pray.

Prayer of Confession (unison): God Most High, your only Son embraced the weakness of flesh, to give us power to become your children. Your eternal Word chose a dwelling among us, that we might live in your presence. But we do not always trust in your power to transform. We do not behave as though we understand that you know every thought and word and action in our lives. Forgive us, Lord. As you have led us in days past, so guide us now and always, that our hearts may learn to choose your will, and new resolves be strengthened; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: Hear the good news! God so loved the world that he gave his Only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

People: God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel,

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

Prayer Concerns

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

All: 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.

Prayer Response "Silent Night" (vs 1 & 3)..... #147

We Proclaim God's Word

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Scripture Lesson: | Galatians 4:1-7 | page 1418 |
| Special Music | "Amen!" | The Choir |
| Prayer for Illumination | | The Rev. Vernie Bolden |
| Sermon | | "New Year, New You" |

We Respond to God's Word

***Invitation to Discipleship**

*** An Affirmation of Faith**

Philippians 2:5-11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.

***Hymn of Commitment**..... "As With Gladness Men of Old" ... # 163

The Offering of Our Tithes, Gifts & "Christmas Joy Offering"

Offertory Prayer (unison): Almighty God, you have filled us with the light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. As we dedicate ourselves and our offerings, let the light of faith shine in all that we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Leader: Glory to God in the highest!

All: *Alleluia! Amen!*

We Go in God's Name

Charge and Benediction

The Rev. Vernie Bolden

We Carry Our Light Into the World

"Go, Tell It On the Mountain" (chorus only, x 2) # 138

*Those who are able may stand

+ Late worshipers seated

Welcome Visitors!

We are glad you have joined us in worship today. Please fill out the card that the ushers gave you at the door. We hope to see you here again soon. Anyone who is interested in joining this part of Christ's church should speak to the pastor or one of the elders.

+ Notes from the Pastor +

- Start the New Year off right with Bible Study! *"Forming Faith"* meets Tuesdays at 6 pm here at the church. Come for study, stay for fellowship, continue for growth! On January 2, we begin a four-session study of "Who is God?"
- Office hours this week: Tues. Jan. 2, 4 pm-6 pm, or by appointment—contact vernlee3@hotmail.com, or call the office—540.342.0264

+ Other Announcements +

- If you missed the opportunity to make a Christmas Joy Offering last Sunday, there are envelopes available
- We will celebrate the *Sacrament of Holy Communion* next Sunday as part of our worship. Lois Bruer & Katrine Cole will serve.

continued >

- The Adult Choir meets as announced. Come join the fellowship. New members are welcomed.
- *Remember:* Children are back in school and need good food in their tummies to help them learn! Bring a food offering to share with those who need our help.
- Check out our web page: www.5thavepresbychurchroanoke.com

**Remember our Shut-Ins
and Members Away from Our Community**

Mr. Bob Hale—Salem Health & Rehabilitation Center, 556-6680
1945 Roanoke Blvd, Salem VA 24153

Mr. Jim Slaughter—1219 Grayson Ave NW (24017) 366-0391

Mr. Don Wahls—138 Whaley Rd, Raeford NC 28376

Email: don.wahls@gmail.com

The Christ Candle

The Christ candle in the center of the wreath is lit on Christmas Eve as we celebrate Jesus' birth. It is white, to symbolize purity and joy. We re-light this candle on the Sunday following Christmas as we continue to celebrate the *Season of Christmas* which ends on *Epiphany* (January 6).

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds. (Titus 2:11-14)

Congregational Prayer and Pastoral Concerns

For our nation and its leadership, for President Trump; for our state and local officials, and those elected to national office— for wisdom and compassion, for a spirit of cooperation and the overcoming of barriers; for a capacity to seek the greater good instead of personal gain

For the leaders of other countries, and the efforts of all who seek to bring *peace* to the world—for North and South Korea; for Israel/Palestine; *for The Congo*

For our enemies, both personal and national, including terrorists

For our pastor and his family; for our ministry together

For unity in the Church, cooperation among denominations, for people of other faiths and for those who have no faith

For all who mourn the deaths of loved ones and friends: for victims of violence; victims of *NYC apartment fire, California wildfires, the Mexico earthquake, victims of Hurricane Harvey, Irma, Jose, Maria, Nate* & other tropical storms, dealing with the aftermath of both natural disasters and manmade accidents & for those who work to help them rebuild their lives; for those suffering from famine and hunger; for people in our own Roanoke & SW Virginia region

For those battling cancer & other health and life-challenging issues, for those dealing with depression, with addiction; for those recovering from illness or surgery: Bob Hale, Terry Campbell, Audra Williams, Pat Brown (Ruth's sister), Carolyn Coleman (cousin of Joyce & Fred), Rev. Dusty Fiedler, Anita Pendleton, Jim Slaughter, The Roberson family, Betty McFadden (Russ' mother), Cynthia & Nat Harris, Ruth Hilton, Brenda Williams, Jackie Manns, Harold Robertson, Paul Witting (with Parkinson's); Todd Moorman; Thom Witting; Robert Woodworth; health care workers and researchers; for the elderly

For our children and youth; for their teachers & school staff; for those in our neighborhood; for those who work with young people and seek to bring them to Christ and to nurture their faith in him

For our service men and women stationed around the world and their families, including Kevin & Bryan Preston.

For those who seek employment, for the under-employed, for the homeless, for those who are in fear of losing their homes or their jobs; for those under stress at work and at home.

January 1, 2012
Holy Name
Seasonal Color: White

Lectionary Readings for the day:
Isaiah 61:10—62:3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40

Galatians 4:4-7

I'm saying that as long as the heirs are minors, they are no different from slaves, though they really are the owners of everything. However, they are placed under trustees and guardians until the date set by the parents. In the same way, when we were minors, we were also enslaved by this world's system. But when the fulfillment of the time came, God sent his Son, born through a woman, and born under the Law. This was so he could redeem those under the Law so that we could be adopted. Because you are sons and daughters, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba, Father!" Therefore, you are no longer a slave but a son or daughter, and if you are his child, then you are also an heir through God.