



MY SPIRIT REJOICES IN  
GOD MY SAVIOR

# Welcome !



We are so glad that you decided to share with us in worship today! Whether we are young or old, longtime worshipers or here for the first time, whether we come full of joy or confidence or doubts or sorrow, in this place,  
by the grace and mercy of God-in-Christ, we are family.

Feel at peace in how you express praise for the Lord! Whether quiet and reflective, clapping hands and stomping feet, shouts of praise and utterances to God, in this place, by the loving acceptance of Jesus, we are family. Please feel at home!

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.

*If we can assist you - through prayer, a phone call or a listening ear - please let us know what help we may provide. Call the church: 540.342.0264, or speak to one of us after worship.*

**May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
(2 Corinthians 13:14, NIV)**





## Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

301 Patton Avenue NW, Roanoke, Virginia 24016

Office Phone: 540.342.0264

<http://www.5thavepresbychurchroanoke.com>

*Historic Past - Contemporary Presence - Exciting Future*

### Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 23, 2018

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

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### WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

**Organ Prelude and Lighting of Candles**

**Scripture Sentences**

**Chimes**

**Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle: The Candle of Faith**

**Leader:** The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

**People:** *His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.*

**ALL:** *He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.*

**Leader:** Today is the fourth and final Sunday in Advent. The word "advent" means "coming". We are preparing for the coming of our Savior, both as we anticipate his birth at Christmas, and his Second Coming in glory.

**People:** *We light candles to remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World—the One sent by God to save us from our sin—the One who has the power to reconcile us with God and with one another through his love. And because we have faith in him, we live as His lights in the world.*

**Leader:** The circular wreath of evergreens reminds us that God's love has no beginning or end. God's love and forgiveness are for all people.

**People:** *The purple candles represent our self-examination and repentance in this time of preparation. The first two candles represent Hope and Peace. The pink candle is a symbol of Joy. The last purple candle represents Faith. Because we have the gift of Faith, we can live in trust that God always keeps his promises.*

**ALL:** *We live in faith, hope, and joy as we anticipate God's promise of peace through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**Prayer (unison):** Who are we, Lord God, that you should come to us? Yet you have visited your people and redeemed us in your Son. Help us to trust you with all our hearts and minds and strength! As we prepare to celebrate his birth, make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your Word, and move us by your Spirit to bless your wonderful works. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

**\*Gathering in Song**

*"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

# 145

### **Welcome and Recognition of Visitors**

#### **\* Passing of the Peace +**

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

**People:** *And also with you!*

**ALL:** *Let us now share the peace of God with one another.*

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

### **Announcements and Celebrations**

#### **Worship in Song**

*"Wonderful Counselor"*

The Choir

#### **Prayer Concerns**

#### **Invitation to Prayer (unison)**

*(Isaiah 12:2)*

The prophet Isaiah shared these words of encouragement: "Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid, for the LORD is my strength and my might; God has become my salvation." These words speak to us today as we try to live our lives, sometimes not knowing if we have done right or if we can live right. These words speak to us when we are hurting and feel as though we have no value to any one. These words speak to us when we feel isolated and afraid. These words remind us to trust God's promise of forgiveness, wholeness, and healing in Him.

## **Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

**Alt:** *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**     *"While We Are Waiting, Come"* (vs. 1)     # 242

## **WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

**Scripture Lesson**                     Luke 1:39-45                             page 1225  
**Special Music**                     *"Silent Night, Holy Night"*             Ja'da and Keely  
**Prayer for Illumination**                     The Rev. Vernie Bolden, Jr.  
**Sermon**

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**\*Hymn of Commitment**     *"Angels We Have Heard On High"*     # 132

**\*An Affirmation of Faith**                             ***The Apostles Creed***

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy universal church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

**\* Gloria Patri**..... *"Glory Be to the Father"* .....# 623

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.  
Amen.*

## The Offering of Our Tithes and Gifts

\* Offertory Prayer

The Rev. Vernie Bolden, Jr.

\* Choral Response

*All things come of Thee, O Lord; and of Thine own have we given Thee.*

## WE GO OUT TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

\*Charge and Benediction

The Rev. Vernie Bolden, Jr.

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



**Remember our Shut-Ins/Friends  
with a call, a card, a visit, your prayers**

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

Ms. Shirley Calhoun—3087 Ordway Drive # J (24017) 362-0617

**"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be our peace." (Micah 5:2, 4-5a)**

## **Announcements & Celebrations**

***Forming Faith Bible Study - Tuesdays at 6pm.  
Come and grow with us! NO Bible Study this week—  
Merry Christmas!!!***

We are receiving our annual Christmas Joy Offering today. See the insert for more information as we join with other Presbyterians across the country to support The Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions (church workers), Schools and Colleges Equipping Communities of Color, and Leadership Development for People of Color. Please give prayerfully as you are able!

The Pastor's Office hours are by appointment—contact [vernlee3@hotmail.com](mailto:vernlee3@hotmail.com), or call the office—540.342.0264

The Choir meets as announced. Come join the fellowship. New members are welcomed, young and old(er)!

**Remember:** No one should have to choose between paying rent and feeding their family. Bring a food offering to share with those who need our help.



**LAST CHANCE!!!** Donations are still being accepted for our holiday coat drive. Monetary donations or gift cards may be submitted to Angela or Cheryl. Please support and help keep our community youth warm.

**Joint Christmas Eve Service** at Northminster Presbyterian Church on Monday, December 24 at 4:00 pm.

**Next Sunday:** Friends & Family Day—bring somebody, and something to share for our potluck repast after worship!

December 20, 2009  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Seasonal Color: Purple

Lectionary Readings for the day:  
Micah 5:2-5a  
*Luke 1:47-55 or Psalm 80:1-7*  
Hebrews 10:5-10  
Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

## ***Luke 1:47-55***

And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”