

ANNUNCIATION

And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

MATTHEW 2:6



The Advent Wreath

In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light. The church has Christianized that practice in the lighting of the candles on the Advent wreath. To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world.



Advent wreaths are attributed to Martin Luther. They are made of evergreen branches which form a circle, symbolizing the never-ending love of God and the promise of eternal life through Christ. Four candles, three purple and one pink, represent the four Sundays of Advent. The purple candles signify penance. The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday, interrupting our self-examination with a reminder of the joy we know at the coming of the Christ Child.

The white candle in the center of the wreath is lit on Christmas Eve as we celebrate his birth and is called the Christ Candle. We re-light this candle on the Sunday following Christmas as we celebrate the season of *Christmas* which ends on *Epiphany* (January 6).

"Advent" means *coming* or *arrival*. During the four weeks of this season, we celebrate Christ's coming in the world and watch with expectant hope for his coming again. It is a time for communal discernment and personal examination. We have been told through scripture to prepare so that we are ready for the Christ when he comes.

Until the dawning of that Great Day when Christ will return, we watch and wait for Christ's coming into the darkness of our world, lighting candles of hope, peace, joy, and love; and remembering the promises of God with prayer.

Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors!
that the King of glory may come in. (Psalm 24:7)



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

Second Sunday in Advent
December 10, 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)..... *"The Advent of Our God"* # 120

Welcome

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

Leader: Watch and wait, for Christ is coming! We light candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, remembering the promises of God with prayer. Today, we light the first candle in Hope. We light the second candle for Peace.

Hear Zechariah's song of hope for peace to the Christ child. Join me in the reading from Luke 1:76-79.

(Unison): *"You, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."*

Prayer of Preparation (unison): God of hope, Prince of Peace, you speak peace into the world in the Way of the Christ child. Help us embody your peace and live as peacemakers that we may called children of God. God of hope, God of peace, into our darkness come.

Chimes

* Call to Worship

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God!
People: *Every valley shall be lifted up, every mountain and hill made low;
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places will become a plain.*

All: *Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. Let us worship God!*

* Hymn of Praise..... "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"# 124

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..... "Come, Christians, Join to Sing"# 408

Invitation to Confession

from 1 John 1:5-7

Leader: "God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin." In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God. Let us pray.

Prayer of Confession (unison): God of all peoples, your servant John came baptizing and calling for repentance. We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart, mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors, and sometimes fail to love ourselves. Forgive us, and transform us we pray. Help us to hear John's voice of judgment, that we may also rejoice in his word of promise, and be found pure and blameless in that glorious Day when Christ comes to rule the earth as Prince of Peace.

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 (all)..... "While We Are Waiting, Come"# 242

We Proclaim God's Word

Scripture Lesson:

Mark 1:1-8

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Special Music

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon

The Rev. Vernie Bolden

We Respond to God's Word

* 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.*

* Invitation to Discipleship

The Rev. Vernie Bolden

* **Hymn of Commitment** "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" # 10 **Blue**
(tune: "Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak")

The Offering of Our Tithes and Gifts

Offertory Prayer (unison): God of our salvation, you straighten the winding ways of our hearts and smooth the paths made rough by sin. Keep our conduct blameless, keep our hearts watchful in holiness, and bring to perfection the good you have begun in us. We dedicate ourselves and our offerings to the service of 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.

* Choral Response

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

We Go in God's Name

Charge and Benediction

We Carry Our Light Into the World

1. This little light of mine... 2. Everywhere I go...

*Those who are able may stand

The Rev. Vernie Bolden
"This Little Light of Mine"

+ Late worshipers seated

Welcome Visitors!

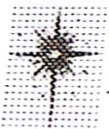
We are glad you have joined us in worship today. Please fill out the card that the ushers gave you at the door. We hope to see you here again soon. Anyone who is interested in joining this part of Christ's church should speak to the pastor or one of the elders.

+ Notes from the Pastor +

- Join us for Bible Study: "Forming Faith" on Tuesday evening at 6:00 p.m. This week (12/12): Birth Narratives of Jesus
- Office hours this week: by appointment—contact vernlee3@hotmail.com, or call the office—540.342.0264

+ Other Announcements +

- 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



The annual "Christmas Joy" Offering will be received on December 24, Christmas Eve. Please see bulletin inserts for more information throughout the coming weeks!

Remember our Shut-Ins and Members Away from Our Community

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

556-6680

Mr. Jim Slaughter—1219 Grayson Ave NW, Roanoke VA (24017)

366-0391

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

don.wahls@gmail.com

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 the families of Lois Hooks, William Copney, and Ralph Shepperson; for victims/families of attacks in Texas, Las Vegas, London, Charlottesville, Barcelona, Finland, and other victims of violence including in St. Louis (racial tension); mudslides in Sierra Leone, floods in China, of 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.**