

REJOICE
Immanuel shall
Come to You

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

Third Sunday in Advent
December 16, 2018

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

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Organ Prelude and Lighting of Candles

Scripture Sentences

Chimes

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle: The Candle of Joy (pink)

Leader: Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near!

People: *Rejoice in the Lord always. I say again, rejoice!*

Leader: Do not be anxious about anything. With thanksgiving present your requests to God.

People: *Rejoice in the Lord always. I say again, rejoice!*

ALL: *And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Leader: Today is the third 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.*

Leader: 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 our Joy as we anticipate the coming of our Savior.

People: 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.

ALL: *We live in hope, and celebrate with joy God's promise of peace through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

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. 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 "Lift Up Your Heads" # 8 Blue

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

Prayer Concerns

Invitation to Prayer (unison) *(from Philippians 1: 3-11)*

The apostle Paul wrote these words to the church: "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." 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 lead us to seek the forgiveness, wholeness, and healing that can be found in the Lord.

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 *"O Come, Messiah, Come Again"* # 243
(Tune: O Come, O Come Emmanuel)

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Scripture Lesson John 3:7-18 page 1282

Special Music

Prayer for Illumination The Rev. Vernie Bolden, Jr.

Sermon

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*Hymn of Commitment *"While We Are Waiting, Come"* # 242

*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

"This Little Light of Mine"

1. *This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine*
2. *Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine*
3. *Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine*

*Those who are able may stand

+ Late worshipers seated



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

<u>Mr. Bob Hale</u> —Salem Health & Rehabilitation Center, 1945 Roanoke Blvd, Salem VA 24153	556-6680
<u>Mr. Jim Slaughter</u> —1219 Grayson Ave NW (24017)	366-0391
<u>Ms. Shirley Calhoun</u> —3087 Ordway Drive # J (24017)	362-0617

The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'" *(Luke 3: 5-6)*

Announcements & Celebrations

*Forming Faith Bible Study - Tuesdays at 6pm.
Come and grow with us!*

Our second annual **Blue Christmas** will be celebrated on Tuesday, December 18 at 6:30 p.m. Participation in the service shows our support for one another and is *not* just for those who are depressed or grieving. If the season is difficult or less than joyous for you or someone you know, we hope you will plan to attend.

The Pastor's Office hours are by appointment—contact 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)!

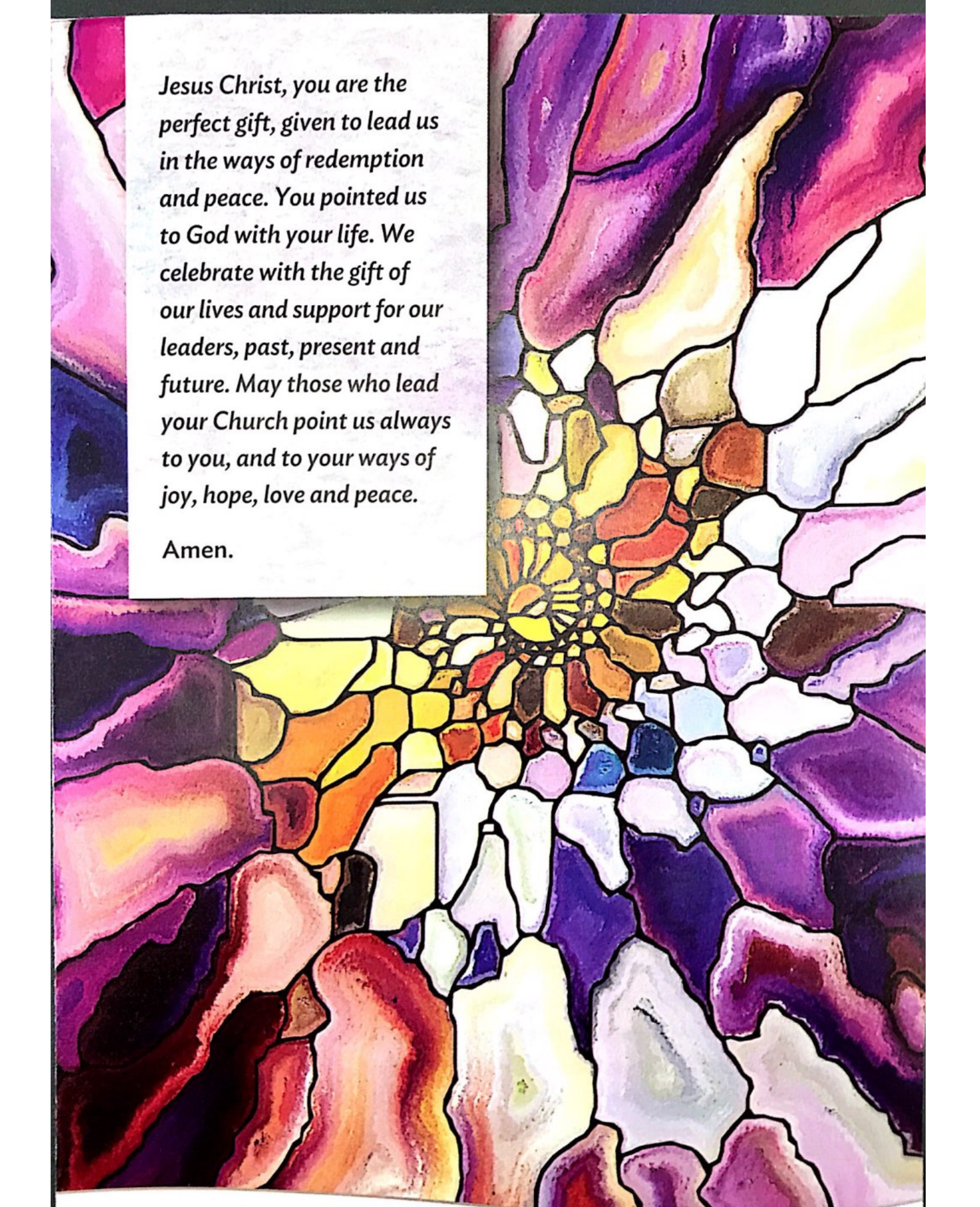
Remember: No one should have to choose between paying rent and feeding their family. Bring a food offering to share with those who need our help.



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.

Black Nativity by Langston Hughes will be presented by St. Paul United Methodist Church **today** at 5 pm. Call BJ Brown at 354-7025 for more information.

Joint Christmas Eve Service at Northminster Presbyterian Church



Jesus Christ, you are the perfect gift, given to lead us in the ways of redemption and peace. You pointed us to God with your life. We celebrate with the gift of our lives and support for our leaders, past, present and future. May those who lead your Church point us always to you, and to your ways of joy, hope, love and peace.

Amen.



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
reflects God's perfect gift to us,
through the Christmas Joy Offering.

 **SUPPORTING OUR PAST AND PRESENT LEADERS**



"It is wonderful that the church does not forget those who worked in Presbyterian ministries at home and abroad."

Rev. Ralph Hamburger
(Honorably Retired)
Pasadena, California

Ralph is grateful that he is able to stay with his wife in assisted living and that she is getting good care with her declining health.

By supporting the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, the Christmas Joy Offering honors the faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families in need. Thanks in part to support from this Offering, church workers can receive critical financial assistance to support them through life's challenging circumstances — whether it is a family emergency, a health care crisis or even assistance to pastors affected by natural disasters such as last year's Hurricane Maria. These generous actions bear witness to our faithful response to God's charge to care for one another.

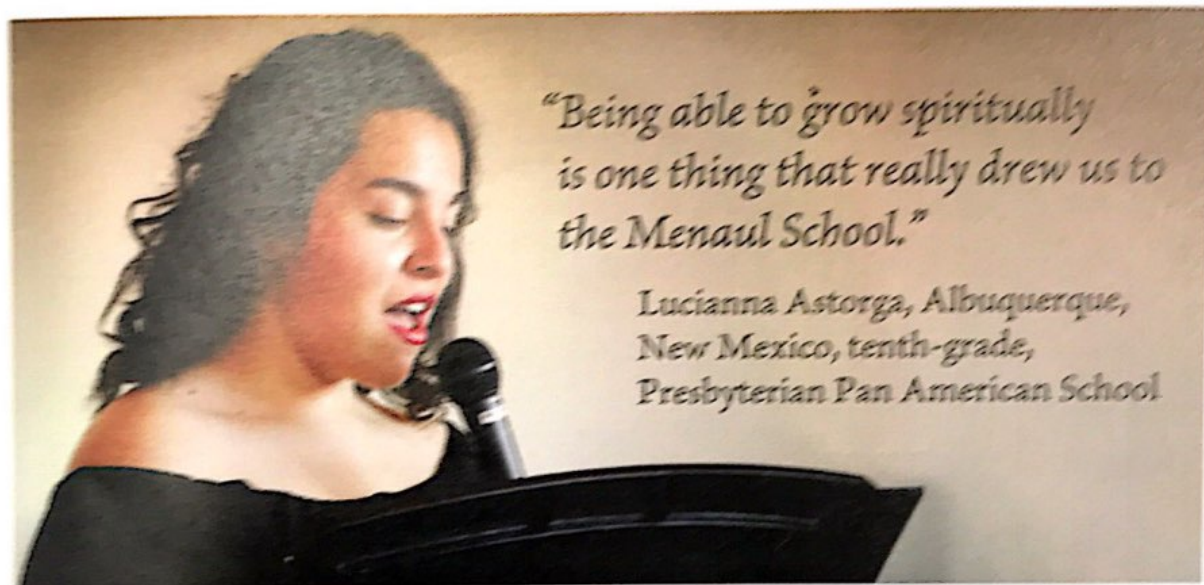
50%

of your gifts to Christmas Joy
provide assistance for current and retired church workers
and their families with critical financial need.

Please give generously.

IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.

 PREPARING THE WAY FOR FUTURE LEADERS



Luci received a scholarship but also works on campus during the summer. She aspires to either be a nurse or a teacher because it is important to her to be able to help people.

The PC(USA), with its historic commitment to higher learning, has long promoted education and leadership development through the establishment and support of schools and colleges. Our future church leaders of color can receive much-needed assistance while they discover and pursue their professional goals at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Your gifts allow these ministries to continue — sustaining a tradition Presbyterians have carried out for nearly 140 years.

50%

of your gifts to Christmas Joy make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color



CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) reflects God's gift to us, through the Christmas Joy Offering, with generous gifts supporting church leaders — retired, present and future — who have pointed us to God. Even as we support our current and former church leaders, God is calling new leaders for our Church and world, through the ministry of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color — offering students the means for a brighter future and enhanced opportunities to use their talents and skills to serve God, the Church and the world for years to come.



WAYS TO GIVE



Through your congregation



Text JOY to 20222 to give \$10



Online at presbyterianmission.org/give/christmasjoy



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission

The Christmas Joy Offering is one of four annual special offerings. The church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the twenty-first century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.