



Keep

*Awake*

for you do not know  
on what day your Lord is coming



# 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.*

The Peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord:  
and the Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.



## 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*

### First Sunday in Advent

December 2, 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 First Advent Candle: The Prophets' Candle—Hope

Pastor: 'The days are coming,' declares the Lord, 'when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah.'

People: *'In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land.'*

**ALL: *In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Savior.'*** (Jeremiah 33:14-16)

Pastor: Today marks the beginning of the Advent season, and a new year in the Christian calendar. We are preparing for the coming of our Savior, both as we anticipate his birth at Christmas, and his Second Coming in glory. The word "advent" means "coming".

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.*

Pastor: The circular wreath of evergreens reminds us that God's love has no beginning or end. God's love is for *all* people.

**ALL: *On this first Sunday in Advent, we remember God's love and his promise of a Savior as we live in hope.***

**Prayer (unison):** God of grace, ever faithful to your promises, the earth rejoices in hope of our Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts to receive him when he comes, for he is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

**\*Gathering in Song**     *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*     # 124

### **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**

#### **Call to Confession**

**Pastor:**    **By grace we have been saved through faith;**

**People:**   *and this is not our own doing; it is a gift from God.*

**All:**        ***Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.***

**Prayer of Confession (unison):** God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.

#### **Silent Confession**

#### **Assurance of Pardon**

**Pastor:**    Even when our cups run dry, God's grace overflows.

**People:**    *Even when our plates are empty,*

*God's generosity overflows.*

**All:**        ***And even when our hearts feel barren, God's love overflows.***

**Pastor:**    Friends, we have been called and claimed by the God of all creation; and by the abundance of God's grace, and by the power of God's love, our sins have been forgiven.

**All:**        ***In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.***

***Thanks be to God!***

## 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                      *"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"*                      # 614

## WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Scripture Lesson                      Luke 21 25-38                      page 1269

Special Music

Prayer for Illumination                      The Rev. Vernie Bolden, Jr.

Sermon

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

\*Hymn of Commitment                      *"Guide My Feet"*                      # 354 Blue

\*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.*

## Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Praise

Words of Institution

Partaking of the Bread and Cup

Hymn: "Let Us Break Bread Together" # 323

**Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison):** Strengthen us, O God, in the power of your Spirit to bring good news to the poor and lift blind eyes to sight, to loose the chains that bind, and claim your blessing for all people. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory, and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

## WE GO OUT TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

\*Charge and Benediction

The Rev. Vernie Bolden, Jr.

**We Carry Our Light Into the World**

*"The Advent of Our God" # 120*

\*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**

## PRAYER CONCERNS

**For everyone affected by the hurricane; for emergency responders**

**For our nation and its leadership**, for our state and local officials, and those elected to national office— **for wisdom and compassion, for a spirit of cooperation**; for a capacity to seek the greater good instead of personal gain; for families who are separated

**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 Iran; for Israel/Palestine; for Syria; 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 Audra & Ray Williams and family*; for victims of violence: *for people in our own Roanoke & SW Virginia region*; victims of mass **shootings** throughout the world; those battling **wildfires** and the families who have lost their homes and loved ones; survivors of **hurricanes & floods** and manmade accidents, & for those who work to help them rebuild their lives; for those suffering from famine and hunger

**For those battling cancer & other health and life-challenging issues, for those dealing with depression, with addiction; for those recovering from illness or surgery**: Carnis Poindexter and family; Priscilla Preston, Terry Campbell, Audra Williams, Ernestine Johnson, Pat Brown (Ruth's sister), Carolyn Coleman (cousin of Joyce & Fred), Rev. Dusty Fiedler, Anita Pendleton, The Roberson family, Ruth Hilton, Brenda Williams, Jackie Manns, Harold Robertson, Paul Witting (with Parkinson's); 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** and their families

**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.**

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life. (*Revelation 22:17, NIV*)

## Announcements & Celebrations

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

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

Today we will celebrate **The Lord's Supper**. It is also the **First Sunday in Advent!** Break out your purple Sunday best for the next four weeks! We will also receive our additional first Sunday offering to assist neighbors in need.

**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.

**The Rev. Kevin McNeil**, who regularly served in our pulpit in the past, will be installed as the Pastor of Bethany Christian Church today at 3pm.



Donations are now 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



December 2, 2007  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Seasonal Color: Purple

Lectionary Readings for the day:  
Isaiah 2:1-5  
*Psalm 122*  
Romans 13:11-14  
Matthew 24:36-44

## ***Matthew 24:36-44***

But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.