

EXPECTATION

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.

ISAIAH 9:6





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

First Sunday in Advent
December 3, 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 First 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. Hear God's promise of hope as we read together from Jeremiah 33:14-16, page 935. *(The scripture is read in unison.)*

Prayer of Preparation (unison): Faithful God, out of darkness you bring light, and out of death you bring life. Renew us in hope, that we may be alert to the flourishing of Christ's advent among us. God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come. Amen.

Chimes

* Call to Worship

Leader: The word of God is calling;

All: *Let us worship in spirit and in truth.*

* Hymn of Praise.....*"O Come, Let Us Adore Him"*.....# 82

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..... *"Tell Me the Story of Jesus"*# 172

Invitation to Confession

Leader: 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 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. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.

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 13:32-37

page 1215

Special Music

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon

"Watch Out!"

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 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" # 123

The Offering of Our Tithes and Gifts

Offertory Prayer (unison): Eternal God, you have taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand. Keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom, and make us strong in faith, so that when Christ comes in glory to judge the earth, we may joyfully give him praise. We dedicate ourselves and our offerings to the service of the One who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

* Choral Response

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

Celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Praise

Words of Institution

The Rev. Dr. Dusty Fiedler

Partaking of the Bread and Cup

Hymn:

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

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Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison): Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this Sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal kingdom. 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 in God's Name

Charge and Benediction
We Carry Our Light Into the World

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

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

*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 +

- Join us for Bible Study: "Forming Faith" on Tuesday evening at 6:00 p.m. This week (12/5): Birth Narratives of Jesus
- Office hours this week: by appointment—contact vernlee3@hotmail.com, or call the office—540.342.0264

+ Other Announcements +

- We celebrate the *Sacrament of Holy Communion* as part of our worship this morning Lois Bruer & Katrine Cole will serve.
- 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!

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 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.

Mr. Bob Hale—Salem Health & Rehabilitation Center,
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Mr. Jim Slaughter—1219 Grayson Ave NW, Roanoke VA (24017)

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