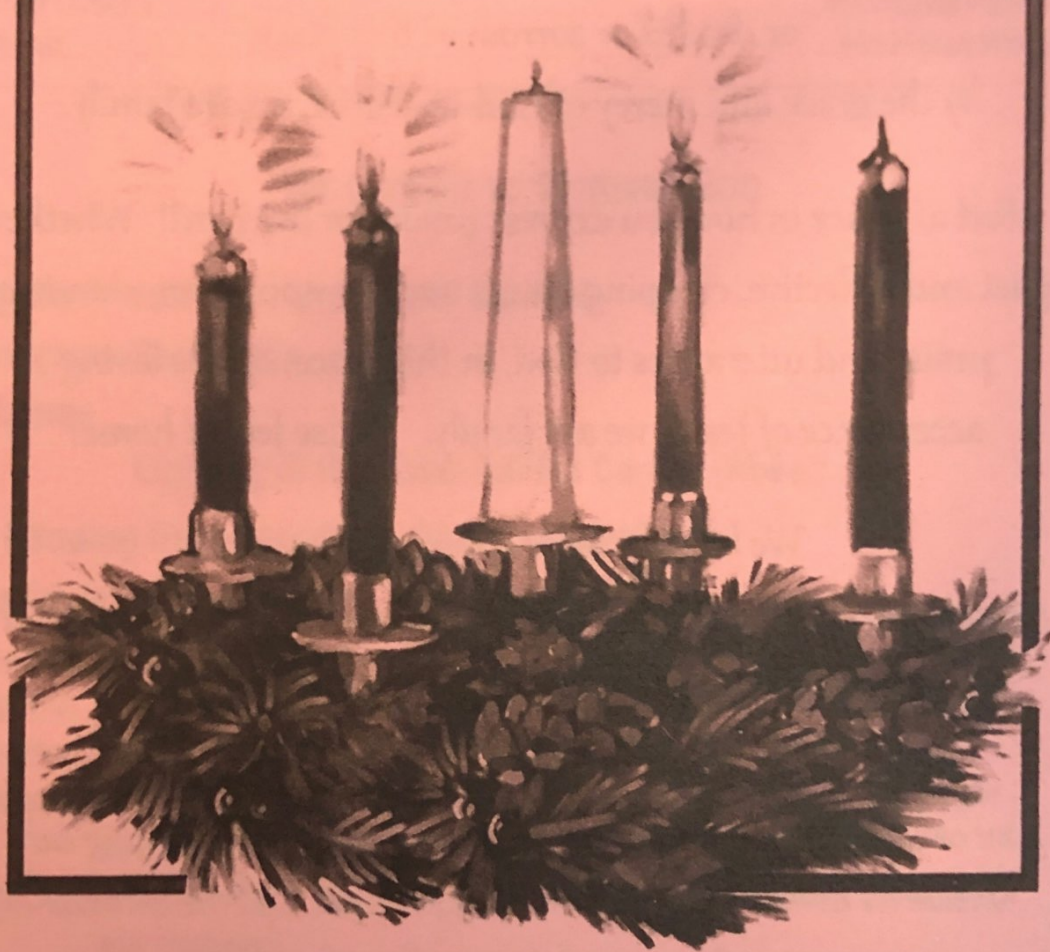


Joy



Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

301 Patton Avenue NW, Roanoke, Virginia 24016

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

Historic Past * Contemporary Presence * Exciting Future

Welcome !



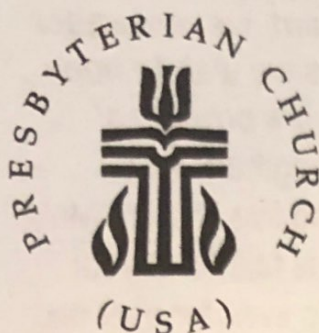
We are so glad that you decided to share with us in worship today! Whether we are young or old, longtime worshipers or here for the first time, whether we come full of joy or confidence or doubts or sorrow, in this place, by the grace and mercy of God-in-Christ, we are family.

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)



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Historic Past • Contemporary Presence • Exciting Future

Third Sunday in Advent

December 15, 2019

Pastor.....	The Rev. Vernie Bolden, Jr.
Organist.....	Mr. Frederick Bolden
Choir Director.....	Mr. Rayfus Parham
Pianist.....	Ms. Kimari Wright

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Organ Prelude and Lighting of Candles

Scripture Sentences

Chimes

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle (Rose): Joy

A Reading from Scripture: from Luke 1:46b-55

Call to Worship

Leader: Why are you here?

People: *We're looking for the Savior – the promised One of God.*

Leader: What is this Savior, this Messiah supposed to do?

People: *We're expecting him to change things – to make things right – to bring God's rule to the world.*

Leader: And what are you doing – to get ready, to prepare the way for his coming?

People: *We're praying for him to open our hearts, and the hearts of all people. We're re-examining our lives, and our priorities. We're confessing our sins, and asking God's Spirit to change us. We're receiving God's grace and mercy, and sharing it with others. We're rejoicing in God's gift of salvation.*

Leader: On this third Sunday in Advent, we light the candle of Joy as we prepare for the promised coming of a Savior.

ALL: *"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." On this third Sunday in Advent, we remember God's love and his promise of a Savior as we wait in hope, live in faith, and abide in joy. God keeps his promises!*

Prayer (unison): God of joy and exultation, you strengthen what is weak; you enrich the poor and give hope to those who live in fear. Make us grateful for the good news of salvation and keep us faithful in your service until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives for ever and ever. Amen.

***Gathering in Song** *"Watchman, Tell Us of the Night"* # 20 Blue
(tune: "Come, Ye Thankful People" 551)

Welcome and Recognition of Visitors

*** Passing of the Peace +**

Leader: 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 *"The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy"* (insert)

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 encourage us as we live our lives in joy & sadness, in frustration & hope, in faith & in fear, leading 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

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Scripture Lesson

Special Music

"Alleluia! Praise the Lord"

The Choir

Prayer for Illumination

The Rev. Vernie Bolden, Jr.

Sermon

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*Hymn of Commitment *"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"* # 128

*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

"While We Are Waiting" # 242

*Those who are able may stand

+ Late worshipers seated

Announcements & Celebrations

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

Our annual **Blue Christmas** service will be celebrated on Tuesday, December 17, at 6:30 pm. 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.

Save postage! The Youth will distribute our "in-house" Christmas cards next Sunday. A basket is available near the Christmas tree.

Youth Ice Skating Party: Monday, December 23

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.



**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	541-8898
<u>Mr. Jim Slaughter</u> —1219 Grayson Ave NW (24017)	366-0391
<u>Ms. Shirley Calhoun</u> —3087 Ordway Drive # J (24017)	362-0617

Why do we ring the chimes?

For centuries, churches have used bells to announce to the whole community that it is time for worship. Bells, or chimes, tell us it is time to cease our chatter so that we can focus on the reason we are here: we have come to worship a sovereign God who demands our full attention.

We sound our chimes three times, once for each member of the Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

PRAYER CONCERNS

- For our nation and its leadership**— for wisdom and compassion, for a spirit of cooperation; for a capacity to seek the greater good instead of personal or party gain - for the impeachment hearings: for truth & justice
- 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 all who mourn** the deaths of loved ones and friends: Russ Merritt & family; victims of violence: for people in our own Roanoke & SW Virginia region; **victims of terrorists** and mass shootings throughout the world; the families who have lost their homes and loved ones in the hurricane, in wildfires; survivors of natural disasters and manmade accidents, & for those who work to help them rebuild their lives; for those suffering from famine and hunger; **for refugees & families who are separated**
- For those battling cancer & other health and life-challenging issues, for those dealing with depression, with addiction, for those recovering from illness or surgery:** Shirley Calhoun, Robert Cole, Carnis Poin-dexter, Phillip Claytor, Shannon Pendleton, Priscilla Preston, Terry Campbell, Audra Williams, Ernestine Johnson, Sondra Harris, 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 (Parkinson's); Robert Woodworth; health care workers and researchers; **for the elderly**
- 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.**
- For broken hearts and broken relationships; for those absent from our fellowship for any reason.**
- For our enemies,** both personal and national, including terrorists
- For the leaders of other countries, and the efforts of all who seek to bring peace to the world**—for the Kurds; for Russia; for Venezuela; for North and South Korea; for Iran; for Israel/Palestine; for Syria; for The Congo
- 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



Lighting the Advent Candles

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 the birth of our Savior, 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).

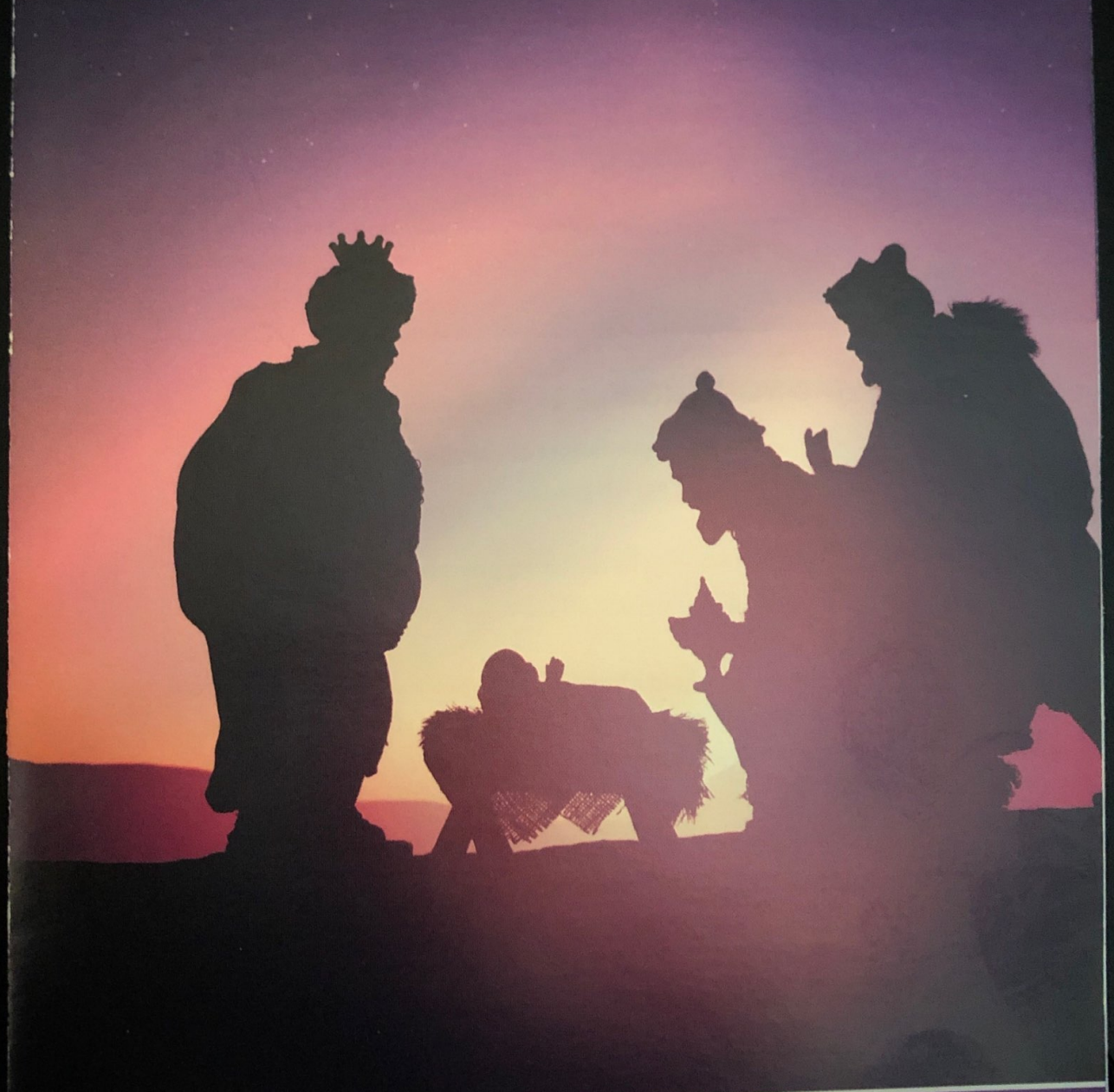
"Advent" means *coming* or *arrival*. During the four weeks of this season, we celebrate Christ's coming in the world and watch with expectant hope for his coming again. It is a time for communal discernment and personal examination. We have been told through scripture to prepare so that we are ready 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, faith, joy, peace, 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. (*Psalms 24:7*)

A GIFT RECEIVED.

Honor the wondrous gift to the world with a gift of your own. Please support the Christmas Joy Offering.



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

THE GIFT OF OPPORTUNITY



Mariposa Duran came into the world under difficult circumstances. Her mother was unable to care for her and as a baby Mariposa was adopted by her grandmother. Her grandmother made a promise to God that she would care for Mariposa and raise her with positive values and opportunities.

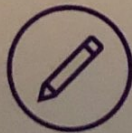
As middle school approached, one such opportunity appeared—the chance to attend Menaul School, one of the Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges supported by the Christmas Joy Offering.

Thanks in part to the Christmas Joy Offering, Mariposa can take advantage of all that Menaul School has to offer—studying, playing sports, and dreaming of what she wants to do for a career (she'd like to be a family court judge).



DID YOU KNOW...

- One of the best **predictors of college readiness is academic achievement by 8th grade.**¹
- The number of **jobs requiring postsecondary education has doubled** over the last 40 years.²
- People who hold a **bachelor's degree earn 65% more** over the course of their working lives than high school graduates.³ They are also **twice as likely to be employed.**⁴
- College **graduation rates** for Latino, Native American, and African American students have **improved** in the last decade.⁵ But there is still a **14% gap between white and minority students'** graduation rates.⁵



"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." —Matthew 2:6

Menaul School also provides a richer experience for Mariposa. She explores her faith and is part of a multicultural student body where she learns much about diversity and inclusion. The Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges supported by the Christmas Joy Offering also prepare students like Mariposa for college. Mariposa is looking to a future where she can apply the lessons of her faith in service to others.

When asked about what other students would think if they had the chance to attend Menaul School, Mariposa says, "There's diversity like they have never experienced in any other school. Overall, it's wonderful."

Your gift to the Christmas Joy Offering supports Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges where students like Mari learn to lead with faith in their lives and work.

About the institutions supported by the Christmas Joy Offering



Menaul School

- Day and boarding school for grades 6-12
- Offers individualized attention with a student-teacher ratio of just 9:1



Stillman College

- Liberal arts college with rich history of excellence
- 84% of faculty hold terminal degrees



Presbyterian Pan American School

- International college-preparatory boarding school
- 100% of students are accepted into colleges or universities



Help give young people the opportunity to learn while growing their faith and leadership skills at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. ***Please give generously.***

A GIFT OF FAITH. A MESSAGE OF HOPE.

When you give to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor the wondrous gift of Jesus by nurturing the faith we have in God and one another. The Christmas Joy Offering supports the development of the future racial ethnic leadership of our church and aids church workers and their families in times of need, answering a faithful call to enrich lives and ease burdens.

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY.



Through your congregation



Text JOY to 20222 to give \$10



presbyterianmission.org/give/christmasjoy



Resources:

1 "The Forgotten Middle: Ensuring that All Students Are on Target for College and Career Readiness before High School." ACT, 2008. Web.

2 Carnevale, Anthony P., Nicole Smith and Jeff Strohl, "Help Wanted: Projections of Jobs and Education Requirements through 2018." *Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce*. June 2010.

3 "Education Pays 2013 – The Benefits of Higher Education for Individuals and Society." The College Board. Oct. 2013.

4 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Web.

5 Camera, Lauren. "Despite Progress, Graduation Gaps Between Whites and Minorities Persist." *U.S. News & World Report*, 2 Dec. 2015. Web. 10 July 2016.

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