

Service of the Lord's Day

November 29, 2009

First Sunday of Advent



Waiting with Hopeful Expectation

*Serving All of Our Neighbors
for Over 60 Years*

Columbia Presbyterian Church

711 Columbia Drive • Decatur, GA 30030

Phone: 404-284-2441 • Fax: 404-284-1886

Email: columbiapresbyterian@gmail.com Website: cpcdeatur.org

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First Sunday of Advent

ADVENT (from Latin, adventus, meaning "coming towards")
is a four-week season of preparation for Christmas.

Congregation responsively reads lines in bold text.

† Those able, please stand.

As the Opening Voluntary begins, listen quietly as we prepare to worship the Lord.

GOD CALLS US TOGETHER TO WORSHIP AND PRAISE

CHIMING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

† GREETING ONE ANOTHER WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST is when we become the embodiment of the "peace of Christ" that is offered to us with the forgiveness of sins.

GATHERING SONG

Come and Fill

TAIZE COMMUNITY

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a - lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace, al - le - lu - ia!

CALL TO WORSHIP

The people are called to worship God. Words from scripture are spoken or sung to proclaim who God is and what God has done. We are thus reminded that our worship centers in God and not in ourselves. "Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth" (Ps. 124:8).

OPENING VOLUNTARY

People, Look East

arr. Sara Glick

Jim Van Duys, Devon Wilson, handbells

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE

Kurt and Tracy Wachholz

† CALL TO WORSHIP

† PRAYER OF INVOCATION

† HYMN 12 (Congregation Sings)

People, Look East

BESANCON

INVITATION TO CONFESSION OF SIN

SILENT CONFESSION

PRAYER OF
CONFESSION *is*
intended to
encourage people to
lay down any bur-
den of guilt or regret
or any sense of
failure and
inadequacy, and to
reaffirm their trust
in Christ's unfailing
love and forgiveness.

RESPONSIVE CONFESSION OF SINS *(Congregation Prays Together)*

It is never easy for us to confess to you, Waiting God. There are those things we have done that we would not like to remember; there are those people we have found so difficult to love; there are those we have found it all too easy to ignore and hurt.

Forgive us, God who comes toward us. Teach us your ways when we have lost ours. Lead us in humility to the streets of your kingdom. Teach us your truth, so we might be the ones who keep your words, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

† RESPONSIVE DECLARATION OF PARDON

God does not remember our sins, but does remember the promises which have been made. God does not shame us, but lifts us to new life.

Lead us in your truth, O God, and teach us your ways. For you are the God of our salvation. We wait for you all the day long. Amen.

† RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE *(Congregation Sings)*

FOREST GREEN

*In tender mercy, God will send the dayspring from on high,
our rising sun the light of life for those who sit and sigh.
God comes to guide our way to peace, that death shall reign no more.
Sing praises to the Holy One! O worship and adore.*

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

(Pew Bible, p. 738, Old Testament)

Jeremiah 33:14-16

One: This is the word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

The King Shall Come

Gilbert Martin

The King shall come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks;
When beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes.

The King shall come when morning dawns and earth's dark night is past;
O haste the rising of that morn, the day that e'er shall last.

Not as of old, a little child, to bear, and fight, and die, but crowned with glory like the
sun that lights the morning sky.

Then let the endless day begin, by weary saints foretold,

when right shall triumph over wrong, and truth shall be extolled.

The King shall come when morning dawns and light and beauty brings;

Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray, come quickly, King of Kings!

THE YOUNGER CHURCH

READING FROM THE GOSPELS

(Pew Bible, p. 85, New Testament)

Luke 21:25-36

One: This is the word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Hope in the Lord

Rev. Tom Hagood

SERMON

When the Bible has been read, its message is proclaimed in a sermon or other form of exposition of God's Word. The God who speaks in scripture speaks to us now. The God who acted in biblical history acts today. Through the Holy Spirit, Christ is present in the sermon, offering grace and calling for obedience.

† HYMN

God, You Alone Know What You've Planned

CAROL CMD

*God, you alone know what you've planned For earth and sky and sea.
Creation waits your loving hand To bring in what will be.
When things we trust in shift and shake And sorrows multiply,
We hear you calling, "Keep awake! Redemption is close by!"*

*O Christ, you taught us, "Watch the trees As seasons change each year,
For when they bud and grow new leaves You know that summer's near."
May we look round this changing earth And see with faith-filled eyes
Your signs of newness, life and birth That witness to the wise.*

*Though heav'n and earth will pass away, Your word will still be true.
O Son of Man, on that great day, We'll be secure in you.
For at the close of history When all that's past shall end,
The one who judges us will be No stranger, but a friend.*

*So by your Spirit may we share The life you're bringing forth:
May we seek justice, end despair, And work to heal the earth.
For there's a new day coming near With no more death or pain;
Till then, we'll seek to serve you here And welcome in your reign.*

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Congregation Affirms Together)

The Apostles' Creed

*The Nicene and Apostles' Creeds from the ancient church
come as close as any other confessional statements to expressing the faith of all Christians.*

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 catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

AFFIRMATION

OF FAITH is the response of the congregation to the proclamation and hearing of God's Word in Scripture and sermon and to affirm its faith in God and God's actions in Jesus Christ.

PASTORAL PRAYER

In response to the Word, prayers are offered. In these prayers, we acknowledge God's presence in the world and in daily life.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

PASTORAL PRAYER

A time of silence will be offered during the Pastoral Prayer in which you may lift prayer concerns. If you would rather not say your concern aloud, you may speak to the pastor or an elder following the service.

HOLY COMMUNION
is a sacrament that is seen as part of our response to the Word of God. It is an act of remembrance of Jesus, a moment of fellowship with God and with all the people for whom God cares. It is both an occasion for personal spiritual nurture and a challenge to commit ourselves to giving and service. Holy Communion is celebrated in obedience to the command of our Lord who said "Do this in remembrance of me."

THE OFFERING
is also a significant part of our response to the Gospel. As we present the money which represents our commitment to the work of the church, we resolve to maintain this community of worship, fellowship and service.

THE DOXOLOGY *is sung, ascribing glory to God. It usually reflects the Trinity — praising Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*

HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: This is the name by which we know you:
People: **The Lord is our creator.**
One: The sun, the moon, the stars were twinkles in your eye . . .
. . . So with all the saints, those in heaven and those around us, we lift our songs of joy to you:
People: **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of creation.**
All heaven and earth are filled with your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who teaches your way.
Hosanna in the highest!
One: This is the name by which we know you:
People: **the Lord is our Redeemer,**
One: eternal Word of the Holy God . . .
. . . as we prepare to celebrate his birth, we proclaim that mystery called faith:
People: **Christ was born, to show God's love;**
Christ died, to bring God's forgiveness;
Christ is risen, to demonstrated God's power;
Christ will come again, to fulfill God's promises.
One: This is the name by which we know you:
People: **The Lord is our Sustainer,**

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Congregation prays together)*

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.

BREAKING THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE WITH OFFERINGS OF BREAD, TITHES AND GIFTS

† **DOXOLOGY** *(Congregation Sings)* CRANHAM
What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part, yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

† PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

THE CHARGE

A charge to the people to go into the world in the name of Christ may be included. The charge renews God's call to us to engage in obedient and grateful ministry as God's agents to heal life's brokenness. By the power of the Spirit, we are to be in life and ministry what Christ has redeemed us to be. God calls the church to join the mission of Christ in service to the world. As the church engages in that mission, it bears witness to God's reign over all of life

CHARGE AND BLESSING

† HYMN

God, You Alone Know What You've Planned

CAROL CMD

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*O Christ, you taught us, "Watch the trees As seasons change each year,
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*So by your Spirit may we share The life you're bringing forth:
May we seek justice, end despair, And work to heal the earth.
For there's a new day coming near With no more death or pain;
Till then, we'll seek to serve you here And welcome in your reign.*

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Toccata on "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

John Behnke

WORSHIP LEADERS THIS MORNING:

Rev. Tom Hagood

Wendy Dewberry, Liturgist

David Flick, *Organist and Choirmaster*

Columbia Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir

Acolytes: AJ Durden and Jorge Lehman-Gonzalez

Thank you to Devon Wilson for drawing our Advent bulletin covers this season.

Music in the service reprinted and used with permission: CCLI# 823224

God, You Alone Know What You've Planned

Tune: Richard Storrs Willis, *Church Chorals and Choir Studies*, 1850.

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Confession and Prayer of Great Thanksgiving (c) 2009 Thom M. Shuman

This Week At Columbia Presbyterian Church

*Please remember to recycle your bulletin
in the recycle baskets in the narthex and breezeway entrance.*

Sunday, November 29

9:30 am Nursery opens
9:45 am Sunday School for all ages
10:30 am Chancel Choir warm-up
11:00 am Worship service

Tuesday, December 1

10:30 am Presbyterian Women
4:30 pm Kids Club
7:00 pm Taize worship

Wednesday, December 2

6:45 pm Chancel Choir rehearsal

Thursday, December 3

11:00 am Lunch at Blue Willow Inn
5:30 pm Gingerbread house preparation

Friday, December 4

8:00 pm AA meeting

Saturday, December 5

8:00 am Chancel Choir rehearsal
8:00 pm AA meeting

Sunday, December 6

9:30 am Nursery opens
9:45 am Sunday School for all ages
10:30 am Chancel Choir warm-up
10:50 am **Worship service / Music Sunday**
12:15 pm Worship committee
4:00 pm Advent Festival

Volunteers for this Week

Visitation Coordinator: Sharon Reardon

Ushers: Charlie Cromwell, Bob Reardon, Helen Woods, Kathy Woods

Sound System: Wesley Upshur, Arnie Van Wyk

Welcome! We are glad that you are here!

Columbia Presbyterian Church is a place where members and guests gather to worship and serve God in a caring, inspiring, mission-directed environment. We hope you feel a fresh expression of God's love for you here today.

- If you would like a large-print hymnal, please see an usher.
- Childcare is available in the nursery downstairs during worship and Sunday School.
- Children five and under may leave worship after Time with the Younger Church and go to the nursery. Children six and older are asked to stay for worship. Worship activity bags are available.

The youth are raking yards this afternoon on a contribute-as-you-can basis to raise money for Montreat Summer Youth and Middle School Conferences. If you have a yard to be raked, let one of us know, and we'll try to fit you into our schedule.

The gang eats at the Blue Willow Inn this Thursday, December 3. Call Kay Potter (404-299-1829) if you plan to go.

Gingerbread House Frame-making party: Join us for a time of fellowship and house-raising with graham crackers and icing Thursday, December 3, at 5:30 p.m. in the parlor dining room.

Next Sunday, December 6, is a big day here at Columbia Church! Our Chancel Choir and guest musicians present their special *Christmas music at the 10:50 a.m. worship service* here in the sanctuary. Then at *4:00 p.m., our Advent Festival* is in Hazelwood Hall, with crafts, a light supper, and worship. There are still opportunities to contribute to the festival. If you could staff a table, contact Wendy Dewberry. Needed items for crafts are pinecones; loaves of bread; hard, unwrapped candy; peanut butter and jelly; old Christmas cards; and old wreath forms. We look forward to seeing you at both special events!

Our youth are planning their progressive dinner for the evening of December 13. If you would like to host a group of fabulous (and polite!) young people for a course in your home, please contact Wendy Dewberry.

We are grateful to a group of students from the Waldorf School, who donated four huge bags of canned goods for our food pantry this week. The pantry was almost empty, as many hungry people had stopped by over the past few weeks to get bags of food. These students' generosity assured that we will be able to help people who come this week, and we thank them!

Our food pantry is running low on non-perishables again. Your contributions would be greatly appreciated: cans of hearty soup, chili, canned veggies, boxed cereal, spaghetti and sauce, medium-sized jars of peanut butter, tuna and salmon, canned meat, and other meal-in-a-can foods. Please, no items that need added ingredients to cook. Thank you!

CPC Prayer List		
The family of John Friese	Dorothy Gartrell	The Mulrine family (Gartrell)
Mattie Lathers	Bob and Helen Golden	Margaret Bloodworth
Eleanor Chambers (Woods)	Richard Feddern (Woods)	Eloise Jones (Woods)
Arkeya Harris	Gloria Williams	Rev. Thomas Livengood
Lloyd Grizzle (Wendy Dewberry)	Ruata's family	Michael Lacey's father Elton
Earl (Robin Upshur's father)	Diane (Russ Hiner)	Josh Wilhite (Afghanistan)
Bernie Granger	Laurel Stapinski	Tom Day (Kay Potter)
Terry Lochman (Dru Carter's daughter)	Jan Scalero (Marian Hassler)	Dr. Hubert Taylor
Sharon Reardon's mother	Earl S. (Sandy Love's brother)	Devon Wilson's mother
Carlos Cordoza-Orlandi's mother	Ruth Williams (Jerry Artopoulos)	Martha Clinkscales' mother
The Dois	Ricky Summers (Cromwells)	Seige Erikson
Teenie Peters	Earl Polk (Kay Potter)	Jean Phillips
Susan McKay (Hassler)	Sarah Jones (volunteering in India)	Ethan -15 year old with bone cancer
Worldwide missionaries	Rehoboth Presbyterian Church	Orlando Rachele
The McGills: Malawi	The Wellers: Ethiopia	Church session and staff