

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
11:00 A.M.
Rev. Mark Piedmonte
Music Director – Gregory Fraser
* *Congregation will stand*

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE with SILENT PRAYERS: Bach Wachet Auf!
GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS - During Covid, masks are required. There will be no singing other than by the minister and organist. At this time there is no need to stand during designated hymns. Hymn lyrics are provided as inserts so you may participate spiritually. We do not touch hymnals, friendship pads, Bibles, or offering plates. Place offering in plate upon entrance or when exiting.

INTROIT: “Watchman, Tell Us of the Night” *(See Insert to follow along)*
*CALL TO WORSHIP (Leader/**People**)

Leader: Jesus says: I am coming soon.
All: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE
Leader: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.
As the Lord has promised, in days to come:
The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
**All: nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.**
(1 purple candle is now lit)

*OPENING PRAYER
Leader: Let us pray:
All: 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.

*HYMN: “The Angel Gabriel” *(See Insert)*
CALL TO CONFESSION
Leader: Surely God is our salvation. Trusting in God’s grace, let us confess our sin.
All: Wonderful God, we confess that we have not expected your kingdom. 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.

MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON
Leader: Every valley is lifted up; every mountain, made low. Now the glory of the Lord is revealed, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. Friends, hear this wonderful news again: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI
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.

*WORDS & GESTURES OF PEACE: *(turn to extend signs of peace to neighbors from a distance)*
Leader: The peace of Christ be with you. **All: And also with you.**

*SONG OF PRAISE: “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” *(See Insert)*
CHILDREN’S MESSAGE: “LOT’s to HOPE FOR!” Rev. Mark Piedmonte
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Leader: Let us pray, asking the Spirit’s guidance in understanding the Scriptures:
All: Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS
Isaiah 9:6-7 (responsive)
Leader: For a child has been born for us, **All: a son given to us;**
Leader: authority rests upon his shoulders; **All: and he is named Wonderful Counselor,**
Leader: Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.
All: He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Luke 1:26-33
Response to the reading of God’s Word:
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord! **All: Thanks be to God!**

ADVENT SERMON SERIES: “And He is Named Wonderful Counselor” Rev. Mark Piedmonte
*HYMN: “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” *(See Insert)*
AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles’ Creed (Traditional)

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.

SHARING OUR JOYS and CONCERNS
PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE (responsive)
Leader: God of our salvation; **All: hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

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.

OFFERTORY

*SONG OF DEDICATION: **(Doxology)** "Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost." Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Leader: The Lord be with you. **All: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts. **All: We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

SANCTUS

Leader: With saints, with angels, and with the whole creation, we join the ancient and eternal hymn:

(After the Words of Institution, the Leader says):

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

All: Christ has died; Christ has risen; Christ will come again!

COMMUNION SERVICE

COMMUNION MEDITATION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*CLOSING HYMN: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" **(See Insert)**

*BENEDICTION / RESPONSE: **O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

POSTLUDE: Handel Pastoral Symphony – *Messiah*

STATEMENT FROM SESSION RE: BPC's COVID-19 RESPONSE

The BPC Session is on top of the mounting concerns over rising COVID cases in MD and has the best interest of our church family at heart. We are committed to following MD state guidelines and will make any needed adjustments accordingly. For now, we will continue to meet in-person for worship with attendance at or below 50% capacity. We will also make every effort to assure services are taped and uploaded to Face Book and to the church website in a timely manner for folks who choose to worship from home instead. We will also limit indoor group gatherings. For now, let's do all we can to stay – and help others to stay – healthy and safe. Please, when on church grounds for any reason, wear masks, avoid physical contact, stay 6 feet apart and wash your hands often. And if you feel sick in any way – please stay home, see the doctor, and call Pastor Mark for healing prayers. 610-428-3135.

With God's help, and each other's, we will get through this!

BUCKINGHAM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

20 S. Main St., Berlin, MD 21811

Ph: 410-641-0234; Fax: 410-641-1959

E-Mail: info@buckinghampcusa.org

Web: www.buckinghampcusa.org



| ANNOUNCEMENTS | | TODAY, November 29, 2020 | 1 st Sunday of Advent |
|---------------|---|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 9:00am | CONTEMPORARY Worship Service – Taylor Hall Advent Readers/Candle Lighters – Thank you to the Woroniecki Family TRADITIONAL Worship Service – Sanctuary Advent Readers/Candle Lighters – Thank you to the Cook/Thomson Family | 11:00am | |

| THIS WEEK: November 30 – December 5, 2020 | |
|---|--|
| Monday, November 30 | Sharing & Caring 6:30pm |
| Tuesday, December 1 | Session Meeting 6:00pm |
| Thursday, December 3 | Bible Study 6:00-7:30pm |
| Friday, December 4 | Bible Study 10:00-11:30am; Tree Lighting & Movie on the Church Lawn 5:00pm |

| MARK YOUR CALENDARS – SEE ALSO “SCHEDULE OF EVENTS” | |
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| Sunday, Dec. 6 | Combined Worship Services 10am followed by Annual Congregational Meeting |
| Tuesday, Dec. 15 | Poinsettia orders due |
| Friday, Dec. 18 | Nativity Pageant on the Church Lawn 5:00pm |
| Sunday, Dec. 20 | Christmas Joy Offering; Christmas Dinner Pick-up or Delivery 4:00-5:30pm |
| Thursday, Dec. 24 | Christmas Eve Candle Light Service – More information forthcoming |

- **SHARE THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT!** Christmas Dinner Sunday, December 20th Drive-Thru Pick-up or Delivery. Please pre-order by calling or texting Debi Cook 410-430-9111; Cindi Pruitt 443-880-5502 or email info@buckinghampcisa.org. Provide name, number of meals, and whether you will pici-up or you would like us to deliver. Please order by December 16. Ham, Sweet Potatoes, Green Beans, Baked Pineapple & Dessert. Sign-up sheets are in Taylor Hall or Kortright Chapel.
- **SPECIAL THROUGHOUT ADVENT – SHEEP TRAIL!** Can you spot the sheep in our local stores? Between November 27 – December 25, local businesses will display sheep figures in their windows. Children will have a chance to find them scavenger hunt style for special prizes! How fun and what a great way for the community to feel blessed by a spirit of Christmas.!
- **ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS/ READERS NEEDED FOR ADVENT SERVICES AT 9 & 11AM** – These will be short and simple readings coupled with candle lightings each week. Dates **Dec. 13, and 20**. Who wants to help out? **See Pastor Mark**.
- **BLUE PIANO** – There is a Blue Piano and some old pews in the upstairs Sunday School rooms that Trustees have decided to confiscate. If anyone has an attachment them, speak up to any member of the Trustees before November 30th.

| STAFF HOURS: |
|---|
| Pastor: Tuesday 3-5pm, Wednesday 1-3pm, Friday 10am-Noon |
| Secretary: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10am – 3pm |
| Custodian: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday (hours flexible and as needed) |

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Schedule of Events

***Friday, December 4 – TREE LIGHTING & MOVIE – 5 PM on the church front lawn** - All are invited for an outdoor twist on our annual tree decorating and lighting. We will meet outside to decorate a beautiful tree. Then we'll light it up in anticipation of our celebration of the birth of Jesus, the light of the world. Stay for warm treats and the Christmas movie "The Star" to follow. The movie will be drive-in style outdoors, so come dressed nice and warm. **A free-will offertory of clean and gently used shoes for the *Got Shoes* program will be accepted.**

***Friday, December 18 – Nativity Pageant - 5 PM on the church front lawn** – In lieu of our annual play, all are invited instead for this special presentation as we place the figures in the creche while the story of Jesus's birth is read. Bring a chair and a blanket and come get ready for the most holy night of the year.

***Thursday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Candle Light Service** – More information forthcoming



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INTROIT: WATCHMAN, TELL US OF THE NIGHT

Watchman, tell us of the night, What its signs of promise are.
Traveler, what a wondrous sight, See that glory beaming star.
Watchman, does its beauteous ray news of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes—it brings the day, Promised day of Israel.

Watchman, tell us of the night; Higher yet that star ascends.
Traveler, blessedness and light, Peace and truth its course portends.
Watchman, will its beams alone Gild the spot that gave them birth?
Traveler, ages are its own; See, it bursts o’er all the earth.

Watchman, tell us of the night, For the morning seems to dawn.
Traveler, shadows take their flight, Doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, you may go your way; hasten to your quiet home.
Traveler, we rejoice today, for Emmanuel has come!

1ST HYMN: THE ANGEL GABRIEL

The angel Gabriel from heaven came
With wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame
All hail said he thou lowly maiden Mary
Most highly favoured lady. Gloria!

For known a blessed mother thou shalt be
All generations laud and honour thee
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold
Most highly favoured lady. Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head
To me be as it pleaseth God she said
My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name
Most highly favoured lady. Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say
Most highly favoured lady. Gloria!

SONG OF PRAISE: GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not. As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

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All I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

2nd HYMN: LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence, And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded, For with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth, Our full homage to demand.
2. King of kings, yet born of Mary, As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture, In the body and the blood;
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.
3. Rank on rank the host of heaven Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth From the realms of endless day,
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish As the shadows clear away.
4. At His feet the six-winged seraph, Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence, As with ceaseless voice they cry:
"Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

CLOSING HYMN: COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

1. Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, Let us find our rest in Thee.
2. Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.
3. Born Thy people to deliver, Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
4. By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit, Raise us to Thy glorious throne.



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The Christmas season will soon be upon us, and of course, that means it's time to start thinking of ordering the poinsettias that will beautify Buckingham's Sanctuary. This year, we will turn to Parkside High School for our poinsettias. It's a program for future farmers. The cost will be \$5.00 per pot and it will support their continuing education program.

Please complete the order form below and return it along with your check. You can either place the order & check in the offering plate, or mail to Buckingham Presbyterian Church P.O. Box 248 Berlin, MD 21811, or simply leave on the desk in the secretary's office. **Make your check out to Buckingham Presbyterian Church and be sure to designate on the check that it's for your Christmas flower order.** All orders must be in by Tuesday, December 15th, 2020.

I would like to order: _____ TOTAL @ \$5.00each \$ _____

Please dedicate your poinsettias as follows: (To be printed in the Bulletin & January Gram)

PLEASE PRINT -

IN MEMORY OF

IN HONOR OF

Will pick up poinsettia(s) following Christmas Eve Service (please check) _____

Your Name(s)

PLEASE PRINT SO INFORMATION IS RECORDED CORRECTLY

NOTE: Due to COVID, we had no in-house Easter services this year. If you donated money for Easter flowers in April, I will ascribe that donation to Poinsettias and unless I hear otherwise from you, I'll use the same dedication.



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Advent Wreath

1st CANDLE – (purple) **THE PROPHECY CANDLE or CANDLE OF HOPE** – We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. (Romans 15:12-13)

2nd CANDLE – (purple) **THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF PREPARATION** – God kept his promise of a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to “get ready”. Help us to be ready to welcome YOU, O GOD! (Luke 3:4-6)

3rd CANDLE – (pink) **THE SHEPHERD CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF JOY** – The angels sang a message of JOY! (Luke 2:7-15)

4th CANDLE – (purple) **THE ANGEL CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF LOVE** – The angles announced the good news of a Savior. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! (John 3:16-17)

5th CANDLE – (white) **“CHRIST CANDLE”** – The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth! (John 1:29)



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