
ADVENT

Hope. Peace. Love. Joy.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 22, 2019

GATHERING

WELCOME

Dr. Jay Howell

INTROIT

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

GERMAN CAROL

Breyon Ewing, tenor (8:30)

SHPC Chancel Choir (11:00)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCIPLESHIP

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: THE CANDLE OF JOY

8:30 A.M. Joe and Helen Bruner; Beth Sterchi

11:00 A.M. Ben and Megan Landers

* HYMN #23

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*in unison*)

Rev. Rachel Hamburger

**Wondrous God, as we sing of the newborn King,
we confess all the ways we are blind to your coming,
and to your great love for us!**

**In this Advent time, forgive us our failure
to respond as we should.**

Come to us anew, and help us to receive you

with joy, as the shepherds;

with gratitude, as Simeon;

with obedience, as Mary;

with love, as you have loved us.

Even so: come, Lord Jesus.

* SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* ACT OF PRAISE #9 (Congregation sings.)

VENI EMMANUEL

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer

Our spirits by Thine advent here;

Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,

And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

Shall come to thee, O Israel!

* PASSING THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

THE WORD

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (11:00)

(The congregation will sing as the family comes forward.)

Child of blessing, child of promise, Baptized with the Spirit's sign, with this water, God has sealed you unto love and grace divine. Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God's you are, from God you came. Back to God we humbly give you: Live as one who bears Christ's name.

(Following the Baptism, children ages four through first grade meet their greeters for Children & Worship. Children should be picked up below the Sanctuary after the service.)

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to Him belong, they are weak, but He is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

(8:30) Joe Bruner

(11:00) Betsy Child

NEW TESTAMENT Matthew 1:20-23

Pew Bible, p. 1

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

* HYMN #36

In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM

OLD TESTAMENT Psalm 137

Pew Bible, p. 576

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Hope: Remembering

Dr. Jay Howell

HYMN #322 (seated)

Spirit of the Living God

LIVING GOD

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me;

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

RESPONDING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Mark Lampley

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.

THE OFFERING

*Attendance registers are in the pews, next to the center aisle.
Please sign and pass them on to the person sitting next to you.*

OFFERTORY

“Comfort Ye, My People” from Messiah
Breyon Ewing, tenor

G.F. Händel

* DOXOLOGY (*Congregation sings.*)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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

SENDING

* HYMN #58

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

WINCHESTER OLD

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

arr. Lani Smith

*Prayer is available after worship at the front of the Sanctuary
and in the Chapel.*

Large-print bulletins, Bibles, hymnals, and assisted-listening devices (Bluetooth and t-coil compatible) are available upon request.

*Lightweight shawls are hanging on the coat rack for
anyone who would like a little extra warmth.*

*Ushers are available to assist you with these items.
Please let us know how we can further assist you.*

If you feel the Spirit of God moving you to affirm your faith in Jesus, please speak to a pastor following the Service or contact one this week at the church.

May applause resound in our hearts as we ascribe to the Lord the glory of His Name.

** Please stand if you are able.*

CALENDAR

TODAY

- 8:30 A.M. - Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 9:30 A.M. - Sunday School
- 10:15 A.M. - Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 11:00 A.M. - Worship Service (Sanctuary)

MONDAY

10:00 A.M. - Staff Meeting (Fowler Conference Room)

TUESDAY

4:30 P.M. - Communion (Chapel)

5:00 P.M. - Lessons & Carols (Sanctuary)

9:00 P.M. - Candlelight & Communion (Sanctuary)

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY— OFFICE CLOSED

FRIDAY

7:00 A.M. - Men's Bible Studies (various locations)

9:00 A.M. - Beginner's Tai Chi (Barron Hall)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ARE YOU A VISITOR WITH US TODAY? We are delighted that you are here. If you would like more information about Sequoyah Hills Presbyterian Church, please speak to an usher or visit our website at www.sequoyahchurch.org.

INTO THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH: During the 11:00 Service today, **William Davis Broome**, son of John and Ann Louise (Ellis) Broome, will receive the Sacrament of Baptism. Elder and proud grandmother Jan Broome will represent the Session.

POINSETTIA AND CHRISTMAS FLOWERS BROCHURES are available in the pew racks.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP includes 4:30 P.M. Communion in the Chapel preceding the 5:00 Lessons and Carols Service in the Sanctuary, and the 9:00 Communion and Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary. At 5:00, children should come dressed as an angel, barn animal, shepherd, or wise man. The church office will be closed from noon on Tuesday, December 24 through Thursday, December 26.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE: As John Compton shared on Commitment Sunday, "What difference can a difference make?" So far, 229 pledges have been received totaling \$1,700,440, of which 98 are new or increased pledges over last year. Thank you and praise God! We are already ahead of last year's pace. 44 households that pledged in 2019 have not yet pledged for 2020. If you have not yet pledged for 2020, please prayerfully discern how God is leading you to commit to our church's ministry in the coming year. Pledge cards are available in the pews and in the back of the Sanctuary, in addition to a confidential online option on the church website. Thank you for your generosity!

NEW SERMON SERIES: "Real" begins on January 5 and continues through January 26. What is true fellowship and what keeps us from it? What walls do we put up around ourselves that keep us from truly knowing the Lord and each other? Our pastors will lead us in exploring what Scripture has to say.

FISH CHRISTMAS CARDS are now available in the church office (in the end table drawer beside the main door).

A NEW PROCESS FOR FISH DONATIONS: Beginning next year, every family will be asked to bring a monthly item for FISH. In January, those who are able are asked to bring a 4-pack of toilet paper (double roll) to the church office. Thank you for your help with our FISH ministry.

YOGA CLASSES will resume on Monday, January 6, at 10:15 A.M. (note the new time) and Thursday, January 9, at 10:00 A.M. (time change for Mondays only) in The Loft.

WEDNESDAY DINNER AND PROGRAMMING RESUMES ON JANUARY 8.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, taught by the pastors, will be offered after Wednesday night suppers beginning January 8. The course is open to all ages and covers the highlights of the gospels, Paul's letters, epistles, and Revelation over 12 weeks. Curriculum is the Bible and a brief commentary guide. This Fast Track Disciple small group runs 6-7:00 P.M. in Spitzer Education Building, Room 322. RSVP to mlampley@sequoyahchurch.org by January 2.

THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY LUNCHEON on Thursday, January 9, at noon in Barron Hall with speaker Jay Howell and the program "A Preacher's Life." Please call the church to make your reservation for a boxed lunch by Tuesday, January 7. The cost for lunch is \$5. Invite a friend to join us in the new year!

A NEW BIBLE STUDY FOR MEN in their 20s, 30s, and 40s begins on Thursday, January 9, from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. in the Study Room at Chick-fil-A (Homberg). Curriculum options will be discussed at first gathering. Interested? Contact Mark Lampley via text at 771-5044 or email MLampley@sequoyahchurch.org.

THE SHPC WOMEN'S RETREAT is one of the highlights of the year! The 2020 Retreat is February 28 – March 1 at RT Lodge with guest speaker, Laura Strunk. Laura and her husband David live in Maryville with their three children ages 9, 6, and 3. Laura worked for 10 years with Young Life in Denver before moving to Tennessee. She is currently going through training in Spiritual Direction, a practice which helps people grow in awareness of God's presence in their everyday lives and invites them to live out of that awareness in ever deepening ways. Laura will be focusing on how we as women can truly thrive in the midst of the many transitions in our lives. Registration forms coming soon!

SHPC IS GIFTING each of the fifty-three backpack families at Pond Gap School a canned ham for Christmas. If you would like to donate toward the purchase of these hams, you may do so by writing a check to SHPC (note Pond Gap hams in the memo line), on the church website using the "Online Giving" button or by using the SecureGive Vision phone app (put amount under Pond Gap and designate hams).

SHPC YOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL LOCK-IN begins on January 24 at 8:00 P.M. in The Loft. Play all night. Sleep all day. Cost \$45. Brochures are available on Laura's office door or check out the link on our website.

THANK YOU TO JOHN LUTTRELL AND KENT KOEBKE, who traveled on December 2 to observe another one of several 2019 water installations performed in middle Tennessee. Those interested in learning more about this type of installation are encouraged to sign up for a free training class being offered starting the evening of March 6 and the morning of March 7. Contact Merrill White at jcandpm@yahoo.com or Dan Gaubas at dangaubas@gmail.com to sign up, as space is limited.

INTERESTED IN JOINING SEQUOYAH HILLS PRESBYTERIAN? There will be a visitors class offered Sunday, January 19, between worship services. The class is not required, but it is encouraged.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WALK ALONE: Do you or someone you know need prayer? After worship, there is a Deacon both in the Chapel and at the front of the Sanctuary available to talk with you or to pray with you. All prayers are held in confidence. You may also fill out the "prayer request" form found in our pews and place it in the offering plate. You will be prayed for!

Stephen Ministers and Deacons also stand ready to offer support in any way. Call Sis Mitchell (584-8447) for Stephen Ministry or Cathy Henry (898-9131) for Deacons.

If you have a joy or concern you would like to add to our prayer list that goes out to many "Pray-ers" in our congregation, email Pam Fritts at fritts1971@gmail.com.

THE CHRISTIAN FORMATION COMMITTEE encourages Sunday School class members to invite a friend to Sunday School from now through December. If you'd like to belong to a class or you'd like to reconnect with one, pew rack brochures give updates of offerings.

TRY A SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS. You are welcome to attend any class at any time: (1) Chapel – The Book of Acts, (2) Room 232 – Christmas studies from Matthew and Luke, (3) Spitzer Room 317 – Message, Faith, and Spirit, (4) Spitzer Room 320 – The Book of 1 Peter, and (5) Spitzer Room 322 – Adam Hamilton’s *Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White*.

THIS SUNDAY’S VOLUNTEERS: Greeter – Sandy Gillespie; Ushers – Ned Babb, Joe Bruner, Sandy Gillespie, Beau Hannifin, Lee Hyde, Vance Link, Jim Mitchell, Jerry Sinclair, Judd Spitzer, and Beth Sterchi. November Flowers – Helen Bruner, Kathryn Callaway, Cammy Glover, Florence Johnston, Cheryl Kershaw, Judy Luttrell, Adrienne McPeake, Linda Raulston, Tamara Warner, and Cathy Youmans.

IN THE NURSING HOMES AND ASSISTED-LIVING CENTERS: Arbor Terrace – Donna Stevens; Little Creek – Bobbie Congleton; NHC Farragut – Barbara Patterson; Northshore Senior Living – Phyllis Marks and Margaret Rodgers; Park Place of West Knoxville – Jim Patteson; Westmoreland – Betty Benson and Pat Gray.



Rev. Dr. Jay Howell, Senior Pastor
Rev. Mark Lampley, Associate Pastor
Rev. Rachel Hamburger, Associate Pastor
Andrew Skoog, Director of Music
Dr. Eunsuk Jung, Organist/Pianist
Mary Emily Morris, Director of Children’s Ministries
Laura Cutter, Director of Youth Ministries
Laurette Beekman, Parish Nurse
Katie McHargue, Business Manager
Dr. William Barron, Pastor Emeritus

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