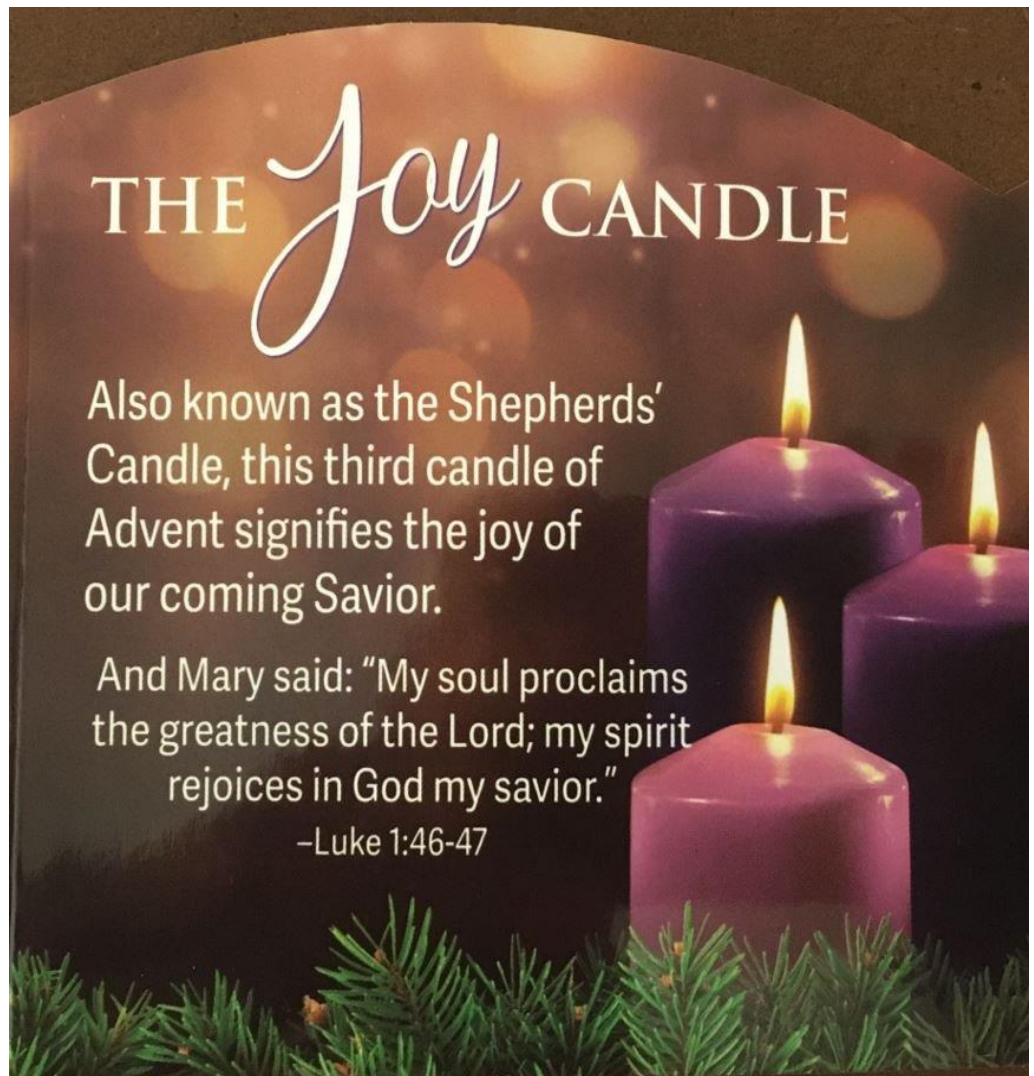


Rock Lake Presbyterian Church
Celebrating 75 years of "Shining Christ's Light"

December 15, 2024
Email: rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com
website: www.rlpc.org



Welcome to Rock Lake Presbyterian Church

Here are a few tips to help you participate:

"*" Invites all who are able to stand.

Bold type invites reading or singing by the congregation.

Italic type invites silent reading by the congregation.

Large print hymnals are available from the usher.

Please return hymnals after the service.

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

Gathering

THE CHIMES CALL US TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Arr. Robert Lau

WELCOME AND THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, came into the world.

We light this candle as a symbol of JOY, that the Lord, our Light, will come again soon.

Come, Emmanuel. We are waiting.

(Singing)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart.

*HYMN #82

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

...we come rejoicing as we greet your new day. **Amen.**

OPENING OURSELVES TO GOD #466

"Come and Fill Our Hearts"

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and loving God, your will is that no one shall hurt or destroy, yet your world is filled with violence and hatred. We cry out to you in longing and hope.

The world is at war. The need for domination and power motivate world leaders, and your people are killed and maimed. We feel helpless in the face of so much bloodshed and destruction.

God of mercy, God of peace, come and establish your peaceful kingdom.

Desperate people flood our borders seeking a better life. We are torn between compassion and the need to protect our towns. We are overwhelmed and feel helpless in the face of so much need.

God of mercy, God of compassion, come and open our hearts to receive the stranger.

We claim to be loving Christians, yet we too often demean and mistreat those who are different from us, those who love differently, look different, have different values, worship differently.

God of mercy, God of love, help us to remember that all people are your beloved children.

O God, hear the prayers of our hearts and renew our spirits with your Spirit.

*Silence for personal confession. God's people say **Amen.***

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Emmanuel is coming, God-with-us. In Jesus, God reclaims, redeems, and restores all of creation. Through this grace our sins are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

“God So Loved the World”

John Horman

God so loved the world that to us a son was given.
And whosoever believes in him shall live forevermore.

Listening to the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Shine upon us, God of glory, and by your Spirit reveal to us the grace and truth of Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

John 1:1-18

Pew Bible, New Testament, page 91

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“No Angels, No Shepherds, No Star”

The Rev. Dr. Patricia Jarvis

Responding to God

*HYMN #108

“Of the Father's Love Begotten”

Stanza 1 – Choir

Stanzas 2, 3 and 6 – All sing

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The one sufficient revelation of God is Jesus Christ, the Word of God incarnate, to whom the Holy Spirit bears unique and authoritative witness through the Holy Scriptures, which are received and obeyed as the word of God written.

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.27

JOYS & CONCERNS

If you would like to share a Joy or Concern, we would like to hear it. In order to hear it, please raise your hand, and a microphone will be brought to you.

PASTORAL PRAYER and LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Going Forth to Serve

*HYMN #92

“While We Are Waiting, Come”

*BENEDICTION

Go in peace. May the love that made the stars be your guiding light. May the love revealed in Jesus be your hope and inspiration. And may the love of the ever-present Spirit give you courage, joy, and hope, now and forever. **Amen.**

*DEPARTING SONG #113, refrain Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Greet one another in peace as you depart

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Church Notes

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgist: Jackie Thompson
Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Patricia Jarvis
Music Director: Marilyn Padon
Organist: Pam Ferrell

WEE PEOPLE: Mary and Joseph continue to journey toward Bethlehem, just as we journey through Advent to Christmastide. We see that the shepherds are also beginning to enter the journey. And who are those people we see at a distance? They look like Persians, and they keep looking up to the sky. Maybe they're astrologers.

DEVOTIONALS FOR ADVENT are available for you to pick up on the table inside the Sanctuary.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE – Wednesday, December 18 at noon – for many people, the approaching Christmas holiday does not bring with it the joy and happiness that is advertised on television or in greeting cards, you may be facing a holiday after the death of a loved one or after a divorce. Perhaps you have been unable to have a child or have suffered through an emotional trauma or illness or perhaps you feel pressured and overwhelmed by holiday preparations. This service is for you. Please join us.

THE SHEPHERD'S RUN – We will be thanking our fire and police and hospital workers again this year with cookies delivered on Christmas Eve morning. We need cookies donated Sunday, December 22. At that time, we will package them to be delivered to those folks that keep us safe during the holidays. Please remember to bring cookies. We will need 5 volunteers to deliver cookies to local fire, police, and hospitals. A sign-up sheet will be posted at the entrance of the Sanctuary.

2025 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

As of this writing (December 8, 2024), with 16 families responding, the 2025 total commitment is \$85,572.

Of these families, 7 have increased their commitments from 2024!

Thank you to all members and friends who have returned commitments for 2025.

If you have not yet responded, won't you please take a few moments to prayerfully consider how you can help Rock Lake Church *Shine Christ's Light* by supporting our ministries!

Returning your commitment card will reduce the number of follow-up contacts which the Stewardship Task Force must make. We need to hear from all our members and friends so we can plan for 2025. If you need a commitment card, please call Ken Schmidt (304-768-8565 or 304-881-2408).

Commitment cards are also available on the Sanctuary offering tables.

We invite you to join us in worship each Sunday in the Sanctuary.

If you cannot attend in person, subscribe to Rock Lake Presbyterian Church on YouTube. Worship each Sunday is at 10:00 am ET.

If you need a printed bulletin, call the church office at 304-768-4141 Between 9:30 and 11:30 am ET, Monday through Friday.

And may God bless you this Advent season!
Ken Schmidt, Chair, Stewardship Task Force

Prayer List

To add/remove/correct names on the prayer list,
please call the church office (768-4141) or email rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com

Prayers of Joy

Prayers for Concerns – Our friends and neighbors and their families

Don Anderson	Walter Hardin	Reid family
Stephani Andrews	Brad Harkins	Jackson Rice
Bob Benning	Teresa Hart	Ritchie Rutledge
Susan Booher	Dr. Richard Hayes	Wanda Rybolt
Jennifer Fisher Braden	Amy Jo Hickey	Kevin Shaffer
Nancy Braenovich	Ravi Isaiah	Daris Shamblin
Keyleigh Caruthers	Jim Kendall & Family	Ryan Slaughter
Erin “Nikki” Childers	Doug Lathom	Bradley Smith
Connie Dent	K C Lovin	Michelle Smith
Jeff Dent	John Mawyer	Steve Smith
John Dlugog	Diane Lynn McClure	Howard Swint
Richard Edwards	Carl McCormick	Ike Taylor
Tory Fenniger	Mike McDougle	Tory Terry
Mary and Larry Graham	Rick McGuire	Lauren Thomas
Jennifer Haynes Greene	Bob Miller	Ed Thompson
Margie Gumowski’s unnamed friend	Paula Miller	Mary Wagner
Adilynn Hardin	Marcia Obukowicz	Vernell Williams
Judy Hardin	Joy Ratcliff Parsons	Johnny Witt
Tre’ Hardin	Jackie Pauley	
	Joyce Perry	

- We pray for peace including the Gaza strip conflict and the hostages and their families.
- We pray for peace in the Ukraine/Russia conflict and the hostages and their families.
- Climate change as evidenced by more severe and deadly storms, fires, floods, and prolonged heat waves locally, nationally, and globally. These events are causing large numbers of injuries and deaths of people, disruptions of food supplies, and many animal & plant species to greatly diminish and even go extinct

Prayers for our Military

Brett Baker	Brent Bishop
Jeff Barker	Evan Chaney

All who are serving, who have been injured and the families who have lost someone in combat; those who live and serve on the Korean Peninsula and other nations in that region of the world; our troops facing terrorist attacks.

Prayers for those in Senior Residential Centers - Betty Berry, Edgewood Summit; Jackie Pauley, Valley Center

Prayers for those at home –Donie Argento, Bonnie Cheely, Barbara Clark, Willie Haynes, Betty Oakes, Anita Wehrmann

Prayer List for Churches: First Presbyterian Church, Whitesville; Highlawn Presbyterian Church, St. Albans; Philip Nganatha Memorial Church (GAHN’ah-thah) ; Wandumbi Parish (Wah-DOH’bee)