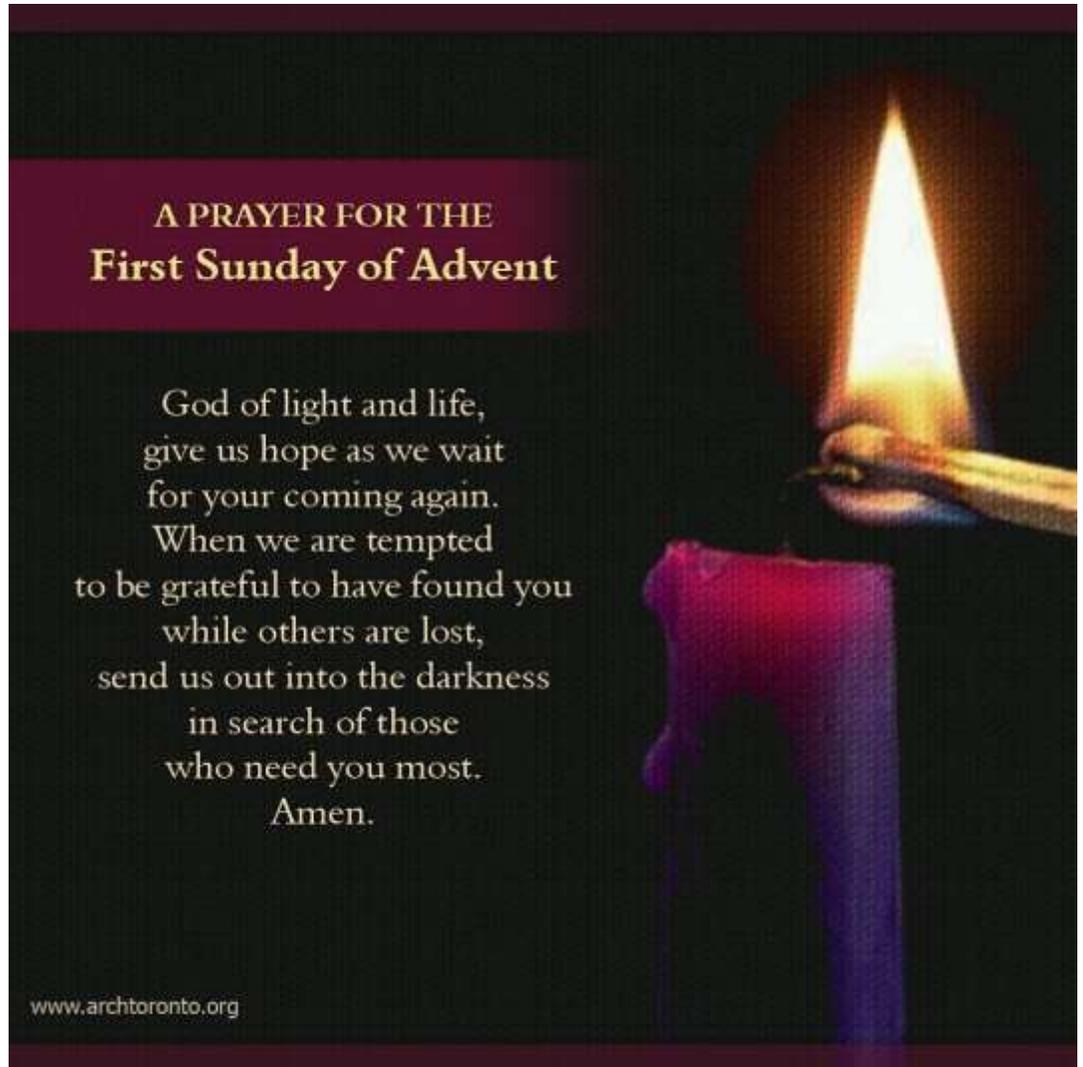


Rock Lake Presbyterian Church
Celebrating 72 years of “Shining Christ’s Light”

November 28, 2021
Email: rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com
website: www.rlpc.org



Due to recent CDC Guidelines, we strongly urge you to wear a mask whether or not you have been vaccinated.

Welcome to Rock Lake Presbyterian Church.
We are happy to have you worship with us.

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 hymns are available. See usher for information.

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021

Gathering

THE CHIMES CALL US TO WORSHIP
THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

"People Look East"

Arr. Robert Lau

OPENING OURSELVES TO GOD

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

As we light our first Advent candle,

We pray for holy hope of God

(Singing #92) **While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, or Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

When will God's promise be fulfilled?

The days are surely coming.

When will we be saved?

The days are surely coming.

How will we know the signs to take place?

**The days are surely coming when the branch from David shall
come forth to execute justice and righteousness in the land.**

What shall it be called?

The Lord is our righteousness.

Let us worship God.

*OPENING HYMN #82

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

*PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION:

Coming Christ, you may not find us as you hoped.

We've looked away from signs we do not wish to see.

We've stopped listening to distress we do not wish to hear.

We are numb to inconvenient truths.

Keep us alert, O God, to the needs of our neighbors.

Revive our hearts laden with compassion fatigue.

Sharpen our minds clouded by worries.

Sober our lives addicted to privilege.

**Show us the signs of your coming that we may stand before you, the Son of Man in whose
name we pray.**

(A moment of silent reflection)

And all of God's people said, **Amen**

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Believe the good news: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

*RESPONSE

“The First Noel”

**Now let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our life hath bought.
Noel, noel, noel, noel, born is the King of Israel.**

*PASSING THE PEACE

Sung Response #448

“Peace of God Be with You”
Repeat after soloist

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Jackie Thompson

JOYS & CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER/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.

Listening to the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴ “The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah. ¹⁵ “In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Savior.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Luke 21:25-26

²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. ²⁶ People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Expectant Hope”

Rev. Jim Robinson

Responding to God

*HYMN #378

“We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom”

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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.

Going Forth to Serve

*HYMN #384

“Soon and Very Soon”

*WORDS OF DISMISSAL

May the God of hope make you holy and the power of the Spirit sustain you until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Amen.**

*POSTLUDE

This service is recorded and broadcast under CCLI license #1738155 and OneLicense #A-734832. All rights reserved.

Church Notes

TODAY WE WELCOME REV. JIM ROBINSON as our preacher, while Pastor Sharon Gearing is recovering from pneumonia. Jim entered the ministry after a 20-year career as a Marine officer and pastored the Elk Hills Church for 14 years before retiring. He has served as Acting Stated Clerk of the Presbytery, Moderator of the Synod of the Trinity, on-call chaplain for CAMC, and is active in Habitat for Humanity. He and his wife Karen live in Charleston and have two daughters and three granddaughters.

LITURGIST

We welcome Jackie Thompson as Liturgist today.

USHER

Thanks to Sandy McNeely for being Usher this week.

JOYS AND CONCERNS FROM THE CONGREGATION

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.

ADVENT BEGINS TODAY, NOVEMBER 28

Today is the first Sunday in Advent. During Advent (which is the four Sundays before Christmas), we spend the time preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. For the second year we have prepared Advent kits for each family to help us prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of the Christ child. The Advent kits are ready to pick up today *before* and *after* worship. Our hope is that you not only take one for your family but also pick up one to deliver to a church member who is not able to attend. There are 35 Advent kits, and we hope all of the kits find a home.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated next Sunday, December 5. For those who will not be able to attend in-person worship, please take time during the coming week to prepare for the Sacrament. *"Each time they gather at the Table the believing community are united with the Church in every place, and the whole Church is present; join with all the faithful in heaven and on earth in offering thanksgiving to the triune God; renew the vows taken at Baptism; and they commit themselves afresh to love and serve God, one another, and their neighbors in the world."* Book of Order W-2.4006b.

LITURGISTS NEEDED

Now that we have returned to in-person worship, we need to re-populate our liturgist rotation list. If you are able to serve in worship this way, we have a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the Sanctuary.

BRIDGEVIEW FOOD PROGRAM

The Bridgeview Food program has started back up, and they are still looking for food items. At the end of each month, the food bags will be packed by church volunteers after worship service.

Food items can be dropped off at the church during office hours (9 until noon Monday through Friday).

HANDWORK FOR MISSION



The Handwork for Mission Group meets each Thursday at 1:00 pm in the Parlor. You are invited to join them for a time of fellowship and working together.

If you are interested, but do not know how to knit or crochet, lessons are available. If you are not into handwork but want to help, there is always a need for two-gallon Ziploc bags to help with the distribution. Just drop them off at the church office between 9 am and noon.

RLPC'S RETURN TO IN PERSON WORSHIP GUIDELINES

Due to recent CDC Guidelines, we strongly urge you to wear a mask whether or not you have been vaccinated.

We plan to continue streaming our worship through YouTube and Facebook for those unable to attend in person.

DO YOU NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH? If you need a ride to church, please call Ken Schmidt at 304-768-8565 (home), or 304-881-2408 (cell). Both numbers can record a message.

CAN YOU PROVIDE RIDES TO CHURCH? If you can provide rides to church, please call Ken Schmidt at 304-768-8565 (home), or 304-881-2408 (cell). Both numbers can record a message.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

A restroom is located in the parlor across from the sanctuary. It is handicap accessible. Additional restrooms are located downstairs and near the nursery.

A water fountain is available downstairs or cups of water are available in the parlor.

A note from your Nominating Committee...

We still seek two nominees for the 2024 session class, and a nominee for the 2023 session class.

Is the Holy Spirit's still, small voice calling you to get involved? Have you served on session in the PAST, but haven't recently? Or have you never served on session, but are being called now?

If the Lord is calling you to action, BE **BOLD!** Call one of the nominating committee members listed below for information.

If you have a person in mind who would be I-D-E-A-L, won't you share that name with us?

And please pray for those we have contacted, and for us as we seek to discern God's will for this part of Christ's body.

Your nominating committee,

Hilda Alsop 304-768-8496

Ron Rogillio 304-541-1243

Barb Clark 304-206-2131

Ken Schmidt 304-881-2408

2022 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

As of this writing (November 23, 2021), with 13 families responding, the 2022 total commitment is \$72,300. Of these families, 10 have increased their commitments from 2021!

Thank you to all members and friends who have returned commitment cards for 2022.

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 2022. If you need a commitment card, please call Ken Schmidt (304-768-8565 or 304-881-2408).

Please 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 9:30 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 have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Ken Schmidt, chair, Stewardship Task Force



Bluestone Camp Fundraiser

It's been another hard year for camps all across the country, and Bluestone Camp & Retreat is no exception. The Friends of Bluestone is working hard to create income to maintain the camp this year, and you can help! They have joined efforts with SaveAround Coupon Books for a win-win fundraiser -- you pay \$25 for a coupon book (good now through the end of 2022) and half goes to Bluestone. After you use 4-5 coupons, you've paid yourself back that \$25 investment, and from there on it's pure savings -- and you have the pleasure of knowing you also provided needed capital for Bluestone! What's not to love about that?

Best of all, individual books are available for Charleston and Huntington (including the areas between) and another 86 cities in 30 states. These books make great gifts for out-of-town friends, family, and, of course, Bluestone fans and supporters who no longer live close by. SaveAround Coupon Books have 260 valuable coupons for local businesses, including restaurants, services, retail, entertainment, recreation, and an additional 60+ coupons for national chains, all worth thousands of dollars in savings. Included in the cost is a downloadable app for smartphones, so you can redeem coupons with your phone rather than carry the book with you. In keeping with COVID concerns, restaurants are honoring coupons for take-out and curbside pickup as well as dine-in where that's available. Preview the Charleston, Huntington, or any other city books at www.SAPayNow.com/212394

Simply visit the link, select a state and a city, and preview the savings. Buying the books is easy: just fill in the requested information, including the seller or Scott Hamilton, wshamilton@yahoo.com. Want more than one? If for the same location, select number from the dropdown box. If for a different city, select "Add another book". They will all be sent to the same address. Choose "Ship book(s) - FREE SHIPPING" and you'll receive them sooner.

Ordering for out-of-town friends or relatives? Just fill in each of their addresses in additional orders. It's all contactless -- a simple process during the COVID pandemic. Would you like to be a hands-on seller? Please contact Scott Hamilton at wshamilton@yahoo.com or 304 553-8296 C. He will get a Charleston book with an order form to you to record your sales. For every five books you sell, you'll get a free book for your family.

Sales run through the end of November. We encourage you to share this information with families, friends, and neighbors using social media, email, or in person (socially distanced). If they're not comfortable ordering online, just record their purchases on the order form and collect payment from them before placing the order. If they order online, Scott will update you about your sales.

We hope you'll help Bluestone with this fundraising effort by being an official seller to our congregation plus friends and coworkers. If selling isn't your choice, we think buying a book for yourself and/or others as gifts is an awesome way to support this crucial and beloved camp during this challenging year!

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

Stephani Andrews	Bogan “Danny” Gumowski	Chris Rogillio
Merrily Bailey	Adilynn Hardin	Ritchie Rutledge
Day and Gene Bishop	Tre’ Hardin	Kevin Shaffer
Jennifer Fisher Braden	Brad Harkins	Michelle Smith
Nancy Bragg	Juanita Hefner	Susan Spurgeon
Keyleigh Caruthers	Amy Jo Hickey	Ike Taylor
Erin “Nikki” Childers	Carol Hill	Lauren Thomas
Barbara Clark	Joe Layne	Bill Wagner*
Amiel Cooper	Marcia Obukowicz	Mary Wagner*
Tory Fenniger	Jackie Pauley	Ellie Grace Washington
Sharon Gearing*	Joy Ratcliff	Johnny Witt

Prayers for our Military

Brett Baker	Brent Bishop	Evan Chaney
Jeff Barker	Steve Cash	

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 - Reva Asbury; Betty Berry, Edgewood Summit

Prayers for those at home - Jeanette Bates, Bonnie Cheely, Anita Wehrmann, Carmalee Litteral

Prayer List for Churches: Riverlawn Presbyterian Church, St. Albans; Village Chapel Presbyterian Church, Charleston; Kigogoini Church (Kay-go-go-EE’nay); Wandumbi Parish (Wah-DOH’bee)

*Added to Prayer List this week