



December 23, 2018

Sunday:

Worship: 8:00 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Bible Classes: 9:30 am

Wednesday:

Bible Classes: 7 pm

Shepherds:

elders@laurelchurch.net

Vaughn Harvey: 443-902-5460

Allen Pratt: 410-730-1075

Steve Thornton: 301-362-6785

Jody Venkatesan: 301-483-8390

Michael Wilkins: 410-480-4365

Ministers:

Ricky Cook
443-521-4307

Ricky.Cook@laurelchurch.net
Office Hours on Monday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Bren White
301-676-5420

Bren.White@laurelchurch.net
Office Hours on Wednesday, 12-6 p.m.

Tim Wood
308-765-8941

Tim.Wood@laurelchurch.net

Deacons:

Kwesi Asiedu	Joe Ford
John Birus	Eric Gilbey
Steve Brosey	Calvin Hunt
Kerry Clark	Steve Jones
Phillip Cummings	Del Meadows
Chris Forand	Brandon Porter

Secretary: Susan Ray
office@laurelchurch.net
410-608-1177

7111 Cherry Lane
Laurel, MD 20707
301-490-0777

www.laurelchurch.net

‘Tis The Season?

The title of this article comes from one of the many popular songs celebrating this holiday season. If I understand the message of this particular song, it declares that there is reason to rejoice and be happy because of the Yule-tide (an archaic term for Christmas) story and the approaching new year. Certainly, Christ being born into the world and all that this entails is reason to rejoice.

Many are the debates that have raged over the merit or fault of celebrating Christmas. However, there will be no ammunition provided for the “pro” or the “anti” in this article. In debating the merit or fault of celebration, perhaps a much larger consideration is overlooked. The fact of Christ’s birth is declared in scripture (*Matthew 1:18-2:12; Luke 1:26-28, 2:1-21*), the date of His birth is not. While many rejoiced at His birth there is no directive to the Church for any formal observance. Again, may we assert that to trade point and counterpoint is to in fact miss the point.

The apostle Paul declared, *“For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.” (1 Corinthians 16:9)*. Paul’s esteem of Christ Jesus and the message of salvation that is preached in His name was such that he looked for ways to turn any circumstance into an opportunity to declare the gospel. Whatever our individual convictions may be about the holiday season with all its pageantry and commercialization, there is a great door opened to declare the gospel.

As stewards of the grace of God we should always be about the Master’s business – *1 Corinthians 15:58*. As thankful recipients of God’s grace we should always praise God – *Colossians 1:12*. As citizens of the kingdom of God we should always walk worthy of our calling – *Ephesians 4:1*. Thus, we need not change who we are or what we do at any point. Yet, may we remember like the apostle to take advantage of every opportunity to spread the good news of our Lord and Savior. To God be the glory.

In Him,
Ricky Cook

Order of Worship

Welcome to Worship

8:00 AM:

Song Leader: Brent Smith

1018 Joy to the World

Call to Worship: Farin Crone

779 I Love You, Lord
— Revelation Song
S-109 Beautiful Lamb

Assistant 1: Eric Gilbey

Giving: Bob Ozomah

Bread: Paul Wharton

Fruit of the Vine: Calvin Mitchell

Assistant 2: Phillip Cummings

Assistant 3: Bryson Gilbey

— God of Wonders

Scripture Reading: 2 Tim. 1:1-12

Phillip Venkatesan

613 Hold to God's Unchanging Hand

Sermon: Ricky Cook

662 All to Jesus I Surrender

Prayer Requests/Announcements

610 I Love My Savior, Too

Closing Prayer: Kevin Caldwell

Our songs today are from Praise for the Lord and the Supplement.

10:30 AM:

Song Leader: Kwesi Asiedu

179 He is Lord!

153 Come, Let Us Worship and Bow Down

Call to Worship: Vaughn Harvey

470 Victory in Jesus

145 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

47 Holy, Holy, Holy

111 Grace Greater Than Our Sin

374 There is a Fountain

Assistant 1: Jason Kane

Assistant 2: Desmond Hunt

Giving: Calvin Hunt

Bread: Marvin Blye

Fruit of the Vine: Demetrius Morris

Assistant 3: Zane Huckabey

Assistant 4: Darius Alexis

Assistant 5: Ricky Cook II

226 Come, Thou Found of Every Blessing

Scripture Reading: 2 Tim. 1:1-12

Steve Koziol

S-91 In Christ Alone

Sermon: Ricky Cook

912 Burdens are Lifted at Calvary

Prayer Requests/Announcements

639 Rescue the Perishing

Closing Prayer: Wayne Dellinger

Our songs today are from Songs of Faith and Praise and the Supplement.

Guest Guide:

- Nursery and Training room are upstairs.
- Children's classes are downstairs.
- Looking for a church home? We'd love to tell you about this congregation.
- Please fill out a guest card and drop it in the collection basket.
- Personal sound receivers are available for hearing enhancement in all classes and services in the auditorium. Stop by the sound booth to get one.

Serving Next Week: December 23rd

8:00 AM Service

Brother of the Month	Farin Crone
Call to Worship	Farin Crone
Assist 1	Eric Gilbey
Giving	Bob Ozomah
Bread	Paul Wharton
Fruit of the Vine	Calvin Mitchell
Assist 2	Phillip Cummings
Assist 3	Bryson Gilbey
Scripture Reader	Phillip Venkatesan
Closing Prayer	Kevin Caldwell
Usher 1	John Landrum
Usher 2	Jack Birus

10:30 AM Service

Brother of the Month	Brandon Porter
Call to Worship	Vaughn Harvey
Assist 1	Jason Kane
Assist 2	Desmond Hunt
Giving	Calvin Hunt
Bread	Marvin Blye
Fruit of the Vine	Demetrius Morris
Assist 3	Zane Huckabey
Assist 4	Darius Alexis
Assist 5	Ricky Cook II
Scripture Reader	Steve Koziol
Closing Prayer	Wayne Dellinger
Usher 1	Jeff Ray
Usher 2	Charles Pratt

Others Serving this morning:

Ushers: (1) John Landrum,
(2) Jack Birus

Others Serving this morning:

Ushers: (1) Jeff Ray
(2) Charles Pratt



HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The elders have decided that there will not be any scheduled life

groups or evening services for tonight and next Sunday, December 30th. Please take this additional time to spend with your family and friends

Wednesday, December 26th

Devotional	Brent Smith
Singing	Calvin Hunt
Closing Prayer:	DuBois Murphy



Please remember to turn off, mute or set to vibrate all cell phones and electronic devices during services.