Grace Lutheran Church

3020 Grace Church Rd. Salisbury, NC 28147

(704) 857-8641 www.grace-salisbury.com



1st Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026

+ Ministers: The People of Grace +

+ Pastor: the Rev. Joshua Copeland +

gracepastor.salisbury@gmail.com (704) 245-2875

+ Director of Youth & Family Ministries Sarah Stirewalt +

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+ Bookkeeper/Treasurer Anita Miller +

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+ Secretary Terri Brown +

gracesecretary.salisbury@gmail.com (704) 213-4202

+ Director of Music Lynn Lippard +

+ Director of Children & Youth Choirs Angela Lippard +

+ Accompanist for Children & Youth Teresa Yost +

+ Accompanist for Chancel Choir Becky Lippard +

+ Pastor Emeritus Rev. Gene C. Bost +

+ Those who are able please stand.

(Congregation responses are printed in bold type)

GATHERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

+ CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

In the name of God, who has come among us in Jesus Christ, whose Spirit meets us in the meantime, and who promises to make all things new.

Amen.

We live in a world marked by sin and brokenness, yet God has promised to make all things new. We stand in the space between the world as it is and the world God has promised. In the meantime, as we wait for all things to be made new, we come before God to confess our sins, trusting in God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of promise,

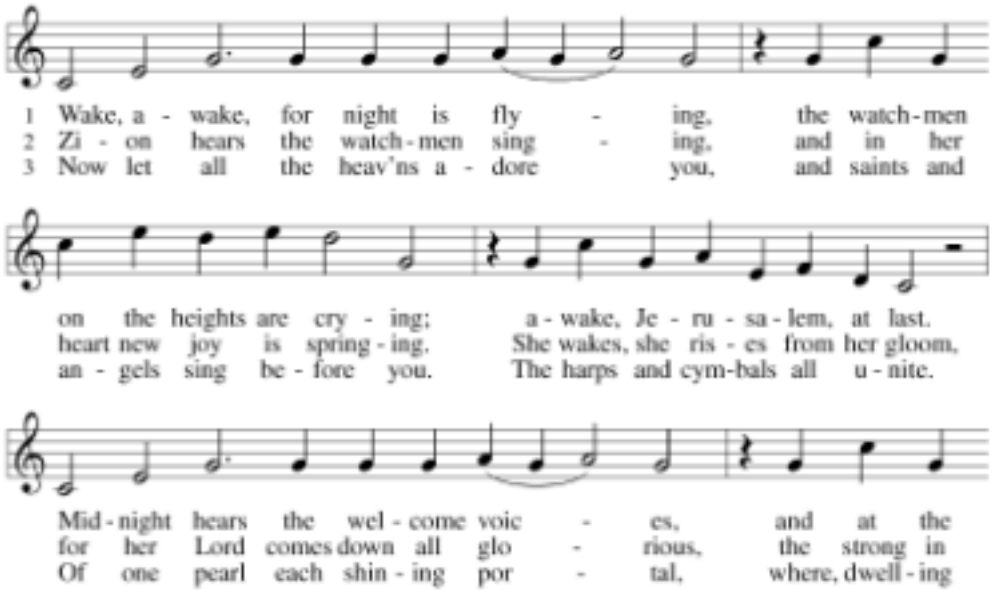
we confess that waiting does not come easily to us. We grow impatient when answers do not come, afraid when we cannot see what lies ahead, and are distracted by things that promise quick comfort. We try to force what we cannot control and lose sight of how you are already at work among us. Forgive us when we fail to trust your promises. Turn us again toward you. Open our eyes to your presence, shape our lives by your hope, and teach us to wait with faith for the world you have promised and are bringing into being.

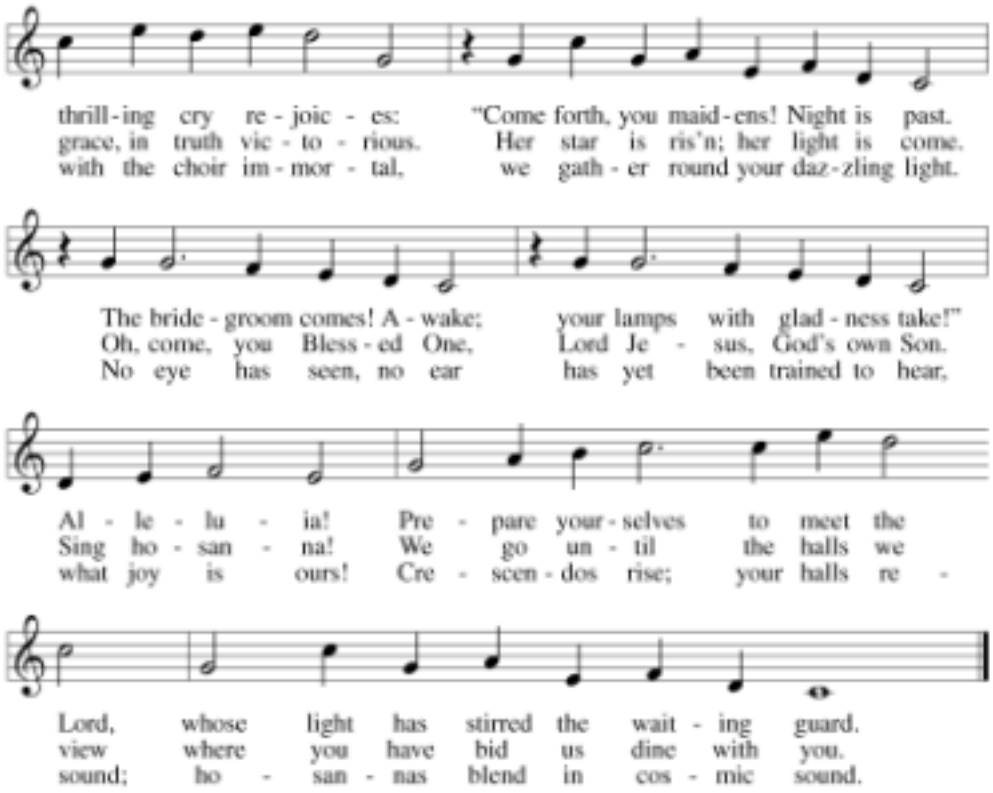
Amen.

Hear the good news: The God for whom we wait has not forgotten us. In Jesus Christ, God has drawn near and meets us with mercy, grace, and steadfast love. By the ☩ grace of God, your sins are forgiven. You are set free to live in hope, to love and serve your neighbor, and to watch for the ways God is already making all things new.

Amen.

+ GATHERING HYMN "Wake, Awake, For Night is Flying" LBW#31





+ GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

Week 1 – Keep Awake

We know what it is like to wait. We wait for answers, healing, change, and a world that still does not look like the world God has promised.

Yet Jesus reminds us that waiting does not mean looking away. "Keep awake," he says. Pay attention to what is happening around you. Watch for signs of God's presence, and trust that ever when we cannot see what comes next, God is still at work. Jesus' words invite us to live differently as we wait, with our eyes open to God's presence and the world around us.

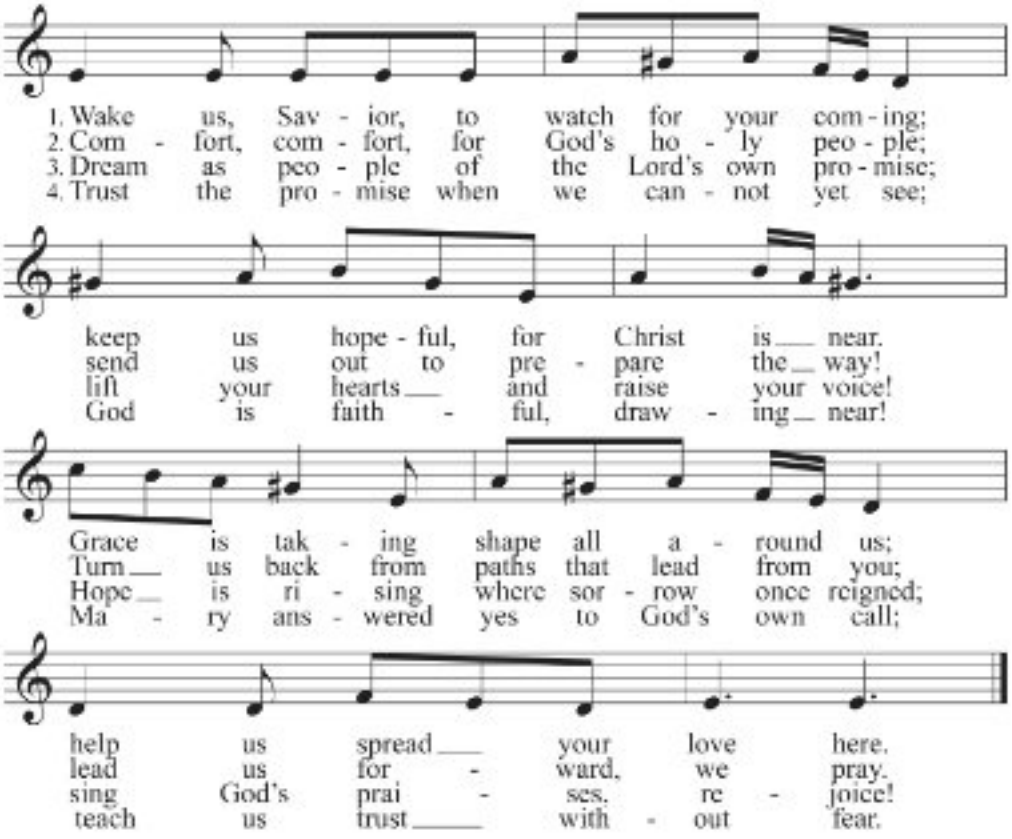
So what do we do in the meantime?
We keep awake. We watch with hope. We look for God among us.

Today we light the first candle of our Advent wreath, a light shining in the darkness and a reminder to keep watch for the One who is coming.

The first candle is lit.

As this light burns, may it awaken us to the needs of our neighbors and to the movement of God in our world. May it remind us to pay attention, to keep watch, and to live with hope as we wait for Christ to come.
Come, Lord Jesus. Meet us in the meantime and awaken us to your hope. Amen.

ADVENT HYMN **Verse 1**



Text: Joshua Lewis Copeland 1995-
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish Folk Tune

+ SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together ...

God of promise, wake us from all that keeps us from seeing you at work. Open our eyes to your presence, make us attentive to the needs around us, and teach us to watch with hope for the coming of Christ; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would
quake at your presence—2 as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to
make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your
presence! 3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down; the
mountains quaked at your presence.4 From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no
eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. 5 You meet those
who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we
sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. 6 We have all become like one who is
unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our
iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

7 There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you, for you have hidden
your face from us and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. 8 Yet, O Lord, you are our
Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. 9 Do not be
exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all
your people.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80: 1-7, 17-19

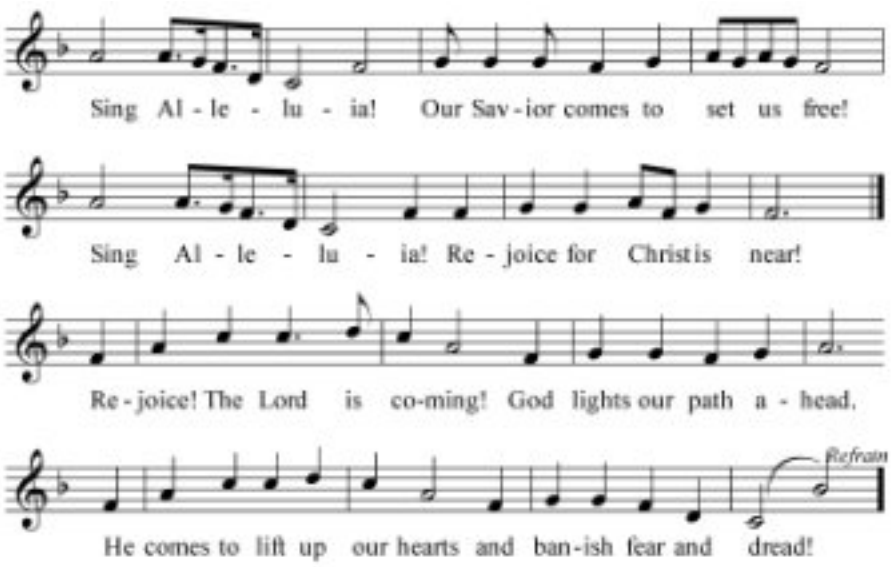
1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned
upon the cherubim.
2 **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come
to help us.**
3 Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
4 **O Lord God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
6 **You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
7 Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
17 **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong
for yourself.**
18 And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.
19 **Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 4 I give thanks to my
God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in
every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—6 just as the
testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—7 so that you are not lacking in any gift
as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end,
so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom
you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

+ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



+ GOSPEL Mark 13:24-37

The holy gospel according to Saint Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

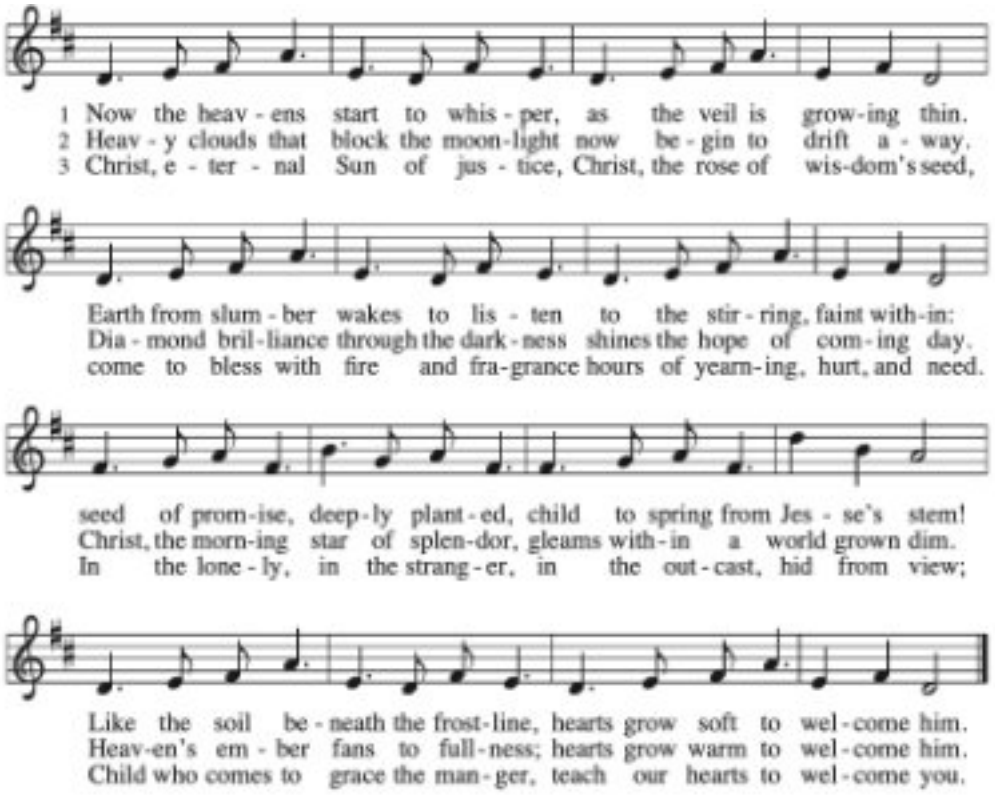
[Jesus said:] 24 "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,
25 and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. 26 "Then they will see
'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels and gather the
elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. 28 "From the fig tree learn its lesson:
as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when
you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation
will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will
not pass away. 32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only
the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a
journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper
to be on the watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in
the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.
37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

+ HYMN OF THE DAY



+ APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

+ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

+ SHARING THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

+ OFFERTORY SONG (WOV 725 TUNE)

A world in need now summons us
to labor, love, and give;
to make our life an offering
to God, that all may live.
The church of Christ is calling us
to make the dream come true:
a world redeemed by Christ-like love;
all life in Christ made new.

+ OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together ...

God of promise, all that we have comes from you. Receive these gifts and use them to bring hope, healing, and love to a world still waiting to be made new. In the meantime, make us generous with all you have entrusted to us, that our lives may bear witness to your coming kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

+ GREAT THANKSGIVING (Melody: O Come All Ye Faithful!)

The Lord be with you.
And with you, his servant.
Oh, come, let us lift our hearts unto the Lord.
With hearts uplifted,
Thanks to him we render:
With joy we come before him
In gratefulness implore him
With thankful hearts adore him,
Evermore!

+PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Long ago you spoke promises to your people and met them in seasons of waiting, reminding them again and again that they were not forgotten. Through prophets and messengers you called them to watch, prepare, dream, and trust. In the fullness of your time, those promises took flesh in Jesus Christ, who came to dwell among us and draw near to a world still waiting to be made new. In him, we see your promises already taking shape, even as we continue to wait in hope for their fullness. And so, trusting in your faithfulness and rejoicing in the hope you have given us, we join our voices with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, praising your name and singing their unending hymn:

THE SANCTUS (Melody: Hark, the Herald Angels Sing)

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of Hosts, by heav'n adored!
Heav'n and earth cannot contain
All the glory of your name!
Hail, Hosanna, God most high!
Blest is He who now draws nigh!
In the name of God the King
Halleluias glad we sing:
Hail, Hosanna! Praises due
Be forever, Lord, to you!

+WORDS OF INSTITUTION

+ LORD'S PRAYER (Melody: It Came Upon a Midnight Clear)

O Father, Lord, on Heav'n's high throne
Most holy be your Name.
Your Kingdom come. Your will be done.
On earth, in Heav'n - the same.
Give us this day the food we need;
Forgiven may we be
Into temptation do not lead;
In grateful love we bow;
And yours the pow'r, Lord, let us view
Your gracious presence now.
The glory yours; Your praise be sung
By angel hosts and then
In ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue
Forevermore! AMEN.

+ INVITATION TO COMMUNION
Taste and see that the Lord is good.
Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD (Melody: Away in a Manger)

O Lamb of our Lord God, most holy and true,
This world longs for mercy, compassion from you.
Draw near to your people; bring freedom and peace.
Have mercy upon us; let all conflict cease.

O Lamb of our Lord God, most holy and bright,
You came to our darkness and led us to light.
Have mercy upon us and shine on our way,
And grant to the whole world your peace, Lord, we pray.

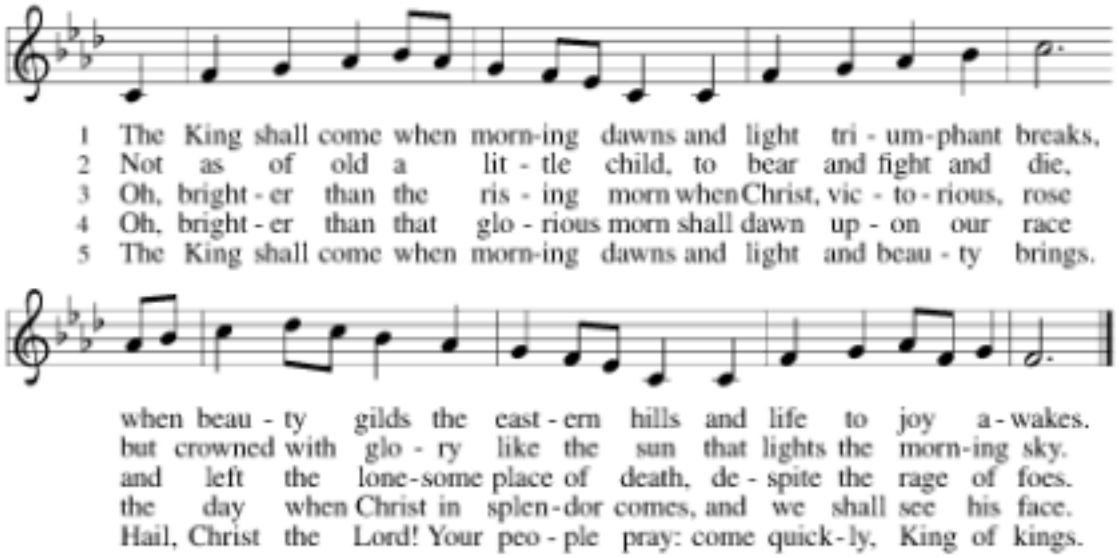
DISTRIBUTION – All baptized children are welcome at the table for communion. Come forward in two lines to receive the bread from the pastor and wine/grape juice from a communion assistant.

+ TABLE BLESSING
The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you always in his grace.
Amen.

+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Let us pray together ...
Faithful God, in this meal you have nourished us with the gift of your grace. Strengthen us as we wait, keep us steadfast in hope, and send us to live as signs of the world you have promised and are bringing into being; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

+ BLESSING
May the God of promise meet you in the waiting, fill you with hope for what is yet to come, and give you courage to live faithfully in the meantime. And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, ✢ Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and always. **Amen.**

+SENDING HYMN **"The King Shall Come"** **LBW#33**



+ DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live faithfully in the meantime.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Setting 4 ELW

Music: All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-723066

Serving 11/29/2026	
Organist	Teresa Yost
Children's Sermon	Paisley Miller
Advent Wreath & Lector	Sonny Pope Family
Communion Assistant	Sheila Basinger, Dan Roseman
Acolyte	Clara Linker
Security Team	Ted Lotti, Bobby Roberson
Sound System	Cody Ritchie
Teller Team	Alex Storey, Tara Mills, Mary Sloop
Ushers	Michael & Kristi Miller, Cooper & Olivia

Serving 12/6/2026	
Organist	Teresa Yost
Children's Sermon	Angela Lippard
Advent Wreath & Lector	Travis Nolan Family
Communion Assistant	Greg Hartsell, Pam Roseman
Acolyte	Olivia Miller
Security Team	Duane Nolan, Randy Basinger
Sound System	Kurt Weddington
Teller Team	Kristina Martin, Sheila Basinger, Patsy Parnell
Ushers	Randy Basinger, Lynn Aldridge, Mike Stout, Donnie Stout

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jimmy Miller by Irene and children.

PRAYERS & PRAISES baskets are located in the Narthex and at the front of the Sanctuary for anyone who would like to submit a Praise or Prayer to be read during the Prayers of the People. They will be taken to Pastor Josh at the Children's Sermon.

SHUT-IN CHRISTMAS BAGS should be returned by December 6 or take to your shut-in.

POINSETTIAS will decorate the church on 12/20 through Christmas Eve. They can be in memory or in honor of loved ones. Cost is $15.00 each. Indicate on the Poinsettia Order Form, which are located in the narthex.

LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY will meet on Wednesday at Noon in the Parish Hall. Readings for next week are Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 85, 2 Peter 3:8-15, Mark 1:1-8

CHRISTMAS TREE COMMITTEE will put up and decorate the trees on Monday, at 6:30pm. Everyone is invited to come help.

2027 OFFERING ENVELOPES are in mailboxes. If you would like envelopes contact Terri Brown.

CHRISTMAS GIFT COLLECTION FOR OFFICE STAFF. An offering is being collected for the Christmas gifts for the office staff. Please use a brown envelope and designate Christmas offering for Office on the envelope. Collections will be taken through Sunday, December 6th.

COMMUNION BREAD Anyone interested in being in the rotation of making communion bread, please let the office or Pam Roseman know by December. The rotation will start in January 2027.

ROLLS FOR RAMPS! The Men In Mission are holding a Cinnamon Roll fundraiser for the ramp ministry. Order fresh, homemade cinnamon rolls for pick-up on Saturday, December 19, 8-10AM at the FLC. Available fresh or ready-to-bake for $12/half-dozen. Orders due by December 13; payment collected at pick-up. Order online (tinyurl.com/rolls4ramps) or contact Andy Bame (980-433-1291).

Prayer List

Immediate needs:

Kelly Shores, Tara Mills, Robert Hunter, Jeff Ritchie, Louise Vaughn, Arlene Wise, Duane Nolan, Randy Basinger, Becky Lippard, Shirley Stiller

Community Concerns:

Lily Gariepy *(Fish Fry Recipient),* David Stirewalt *(Gene Stirewalt),* Jerry Hurlbut *(Jackie Hurlbut),* Brian Collins *(Barbara Collins),* Georgia Flanagan *(Tara Mills),* Bobby Barringer *(Tara Mills),* Ruby Faith Tyer *(Shelly Hunter),* Frances Yost Basinger *(Cassandra Kluttz),* Danny Schenck *(Randy Basinger)*

Comfort:

Family and friends of James Yoder

Ongoing Needs:

John Miller, Bobby & Barbara Sloop, Mary Miller, Kari Overcash, Janice Gray, Janis Eury, Allen & Lynn Sloop, Sophie Hooks, Louise Vaughn, Judy Copeland, Diane Bouk, Arlene Wise, Hazel Miller, Ronnie Gorman, Earl Thomas, Joe Miller, Jesse Martin, Alice & Michael Baglio, Laura Reynolds, Emily Weddington, Monica Crossen, Mike Stout, Nancy Shue, Roy Morris, Rebekah Safriet, Kelly Shores, Mary Gentry

Those who serve others

Active Duty Military personnel and families; First Responders and families; our school teachers, staff and administrators

This Week's Giving 11/22/2026		**Needed Weekly**	
Category	**Amount**	**Per Spending Plan**	**Difference**
Attendance 149			
Current	$ 3,930.00		
Sunday School (Attendance 72)	$ 85.00		
Poinsettias	$ 30.00		
Property Fund	$ 200.00		
Angel Tree	$ 335.00		
Altar Flowers	$ 75.00		
Benevolence	$ 175.00		
World Hunger	$ 50.00		
Total Current:	$ 4,880.00	$ 8,251.00	$ (3,371.00)
Lewis Moose Endowment Fund	$ 1,169.62		
Boy Scouts	$ 125.00		
Clean Water 5K	$ 100.00		
Building Fund	$ 300.00		
Facility Rental (Capital Improvement Fund)	$ 220.00		
Total Deposit:	$ 6,794.62		

Scan here for online giving.