

ORDER OF WORSHIP

*indicates that the congregation will stand.

welcome Rev. Joe Stroup

preparing our hearts for worship
"Alleluia, He Comes to Us" Graystone Bells
Arr. By Michael R. Keller

announcements
So we can get to know you better, please sign and pass the connection pad.

lighting of the advent candle Peace

*song of response: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

*song of response: "God With Us"

*passing of the peace
leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
people: And also with you.

giving back to God (place prayer cards in offering plates)
song of preparation: "When My Heart is Torn Asunder"

kid's moment and prayer of sending for the kids

message: Advent: Peace Rev. Ryan Mowen
"God with Us? Restoration"

*closing song: "Is He Worthy"

*benediction (a blessing said over us as we go)

SERMON NOTES:

Prayer List as of Thursday, December 20

Please remember to mention during the hospital admission process that you are a member of Graystone. Also, if you know of a member who has been hospitalized please notify the church office.

Prayer Concerns: Graystone Members	
Floyd Lewis	Lois Miller
Montie Miller	Don and Gladys Rodgers
Clair Ruffner	Beverly Stuck

Prayer Concerns: Friends and Relatives	
Deloris Bishop Kathy Beatty's mother	Diana Campbell Family
Judy Cessna Lois Miller's daughter	Dawne Davis Family
Diane Eret McCune's sister-in-law	Frank and Reatha Eret Sonja McCune's parents
Courtney LeBlanc Katie and Randy LeBlanc's daughter	Andrew Manzek friend of Karen Brown
Bud and Peggy McCune Larry McCune's parents	Andrew Niezelski Friend of George Caroff
Lindsay Regos Ron & Deb Port's daughter	Quinn Santini Clair & Donna Ruffner's great granddaughter
Norita Toy Friend of Michelle Elgin	

Serving in the Military
Caleb Bracken - US Navy
Justin Ming - Serving in Anchorage Alaska
Andy Neely - Serving in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Payton Smith - Navy; USS Delaware
Dylan Wells - Fort Bragg, North Carolina
Derek Watson, Shane Bothel, and Tyler Bothel - Navy Pilots

Mission Focus
EduNations Sierra Leone
Please pray for the church in Fintonia that had been without a pastor for almost 8 months. Ruling Elder Lahai Kargbo applied for the position. He is a convert from Islam and a native Kuranko man. He also teaches in the EduNations school in Mayatta.

Please pray for Myrtle Grove EPC in Wilmington, NC as they continue to recover from Hurricane Florence.

Ministry Focus
Thank You in advance to all the ministries and people who are working to lead our congregation and community in worship on Christmas Eve. We are praying for a meaningful and memorable Christmas for all.

Serving Today
Greeters: Bob Simpson, Crystal Simpson, Michelle Hill, Judy Cunningham
Ushers: Ron and Marian Marshall, Amanda Lieb, Cindy Turnbull, Barry Uhron, Darlene Uhron, Sara Watkins

THE GREENS AND TREE are given in memory of **Francis and Sara (Sadie) Smith** for the glorification of God in anticipation of the Advent of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Given by **David, Katrina, Payton, Quinn, Raeleigh and Shae Smith.**

A PRAYER TEAM is available under the right balcony after the service. A box for prayer requests is in the rear of the sanctuary as well as the office.

What's YOUR next step?

GATHER

EVERYONE WELCOME ONE

This season we have an amazing opportunity and challenge. What if each one of us lived into the mission of who we are and what we are about as we "welcome people and follow Jesus"? Invitation cards are available today and our challenge is to take one of these cards and approach someone in your life and invite them to join you with us this **Christmas Eve** for one of our services. We're prayerful for how God will use this to reach our community with good news for all people.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Kid-Friendly Service: 6:00 p.m.
Traditional, Candlelight Service: 9:00 p.m.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - Sunday January 27th we will be having a combined worship service at 10:00 am instead of our two service times. There will be no Sunday School hour and our services will be blended as we come together for our annual Congregational meeting and celebration of what God has done in our midst over the last year.

CONNECT

EPIC RETREAT – JR/SR HIGH YOUTH RETREAT - Registration is now open for our youth winter camp from Feb 1-3 as we go to Beulah Beach with over 200 other young people from our presbytery. This is an amazing weekend away of fun and learning about God and we'd love to have all 6th-12th grade students join us! For more information and for online registration. Visit www.graystoneyouth.org. Signs ups will go fast and space is limited so make sure you get signed up soon!

THE CHALLENGE CLASS will soon begin an exciting new study focusing on a biblical, theological feast featuring, *Hebrews: A 12 Week Study (Knowing the Bible)*. Come join us in our preparation of applying the entire Bible to all of life with heart and mind wholly committing to Christ's priorities.

SATURDAY MEN'S BIBLE STUDY will be beginning a new study on January 5 using Max Lucado's book: *Glory Days*. All men are welcome to join us Saturday mornings at 7:30 a.m. at Perkin's Restaurant. Contact Ron Marshall at 724-388-0957 for more information.

SERVE

PARKING OFF-SITE - This Christmas Eve we want to create the opportunity for those who have never heard the good news of Jesus to be impacted by the gospel. If you regularly attend, a great way to help us welcome people this Christmas Eve would be to **park offsite** when you arrive for **Christmas Eve services** so that guests and visitors can have easy access to the building. It's a simple thing that can remove a barrier from someone hearing the good news.

SAY YES TO THE NEXT GENERATION - God is working in our ministry to the next generation and we've been blessed to see our ministry to kids and youth grow, and that means we need some additional hands. Come check out the back of the Sanctuary today (look for the big red fence) to see and hear more about the specific ways we need some new help to welcome young ones into this church family.

COFFEE CONVERSATION: If anyone would like to donate baked goods for coffee conversation hour (ie. Cookies, brownies, muffins etc.) please drop them off in the kitchen on Sunday morning to be used for that day or frozen for future use. If anyone would like to help with coffee hour please contact: Teresa Arblaster at 724-349-2665 or taarblaster@icloud.com.

CALENDAR

Happening today

8:00 a.m. Prayer for Worship - Library
8:30 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
9:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
11:15 a.m. Celebration Choir
6:00 p.m. Stone PM - Youth Room

Happening this week

Monday, December 24 Office Closed for Christmas Eve
6:00 p.m. Family Service - Sanctuary
9:00 p.m. Candlelight Service - Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 25 Office Closed

*Merry Christmas
from the Graystone Staff!*

Wednesday, December 26 Office Closed for Christmas Holiday

Thursday, December 27

6:30 a.m. Promise Keepers Bible Study - Eat N Park
7:30 p.m. Worship Team - Sanctuary

Saturday, December 29

7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study - Perkin's Restaurant

Sunday, December 30

8:00 a.m. Prayer for Worship - Library
8:30 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
9:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
11:15 a.m. Celebration Choir
NO STONE PM

Welcoming People, Following Jesus

ADVENT "God with Us? Restoration"

 **GRAYSTONE
VALUES...**

FOLLOWING JESUS WITH OUR WHOLE LIVES

We are not content to just follow Jesus on Sunday mornings but in every square inch of our lives.



TRUSTING GOD'S WORD

We are people who are anchored, fed, and shaped by God's Word.



PURSuing COMMUNITY

We are together because God made us a family and even when it's messy, it's worth it.

SHARING THE LIFE- CHANGING MESSAGE OF JESUS

We bring the hope found only in Jesus into our homes, communities, and the world.



EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION

We equip parents, children, youth, and young adults to lead our church and the world into a future defined by the Gospel.



December 23, 2018

11:00 a.m.