

December 23, 2018 **THE ORDER OF SERVICE** 8:30 a.m.

**Gathering to Worship God**

Welcome Rev. Joe Stroup

Prelude: "Reflection on Conditor alme siderum" Nick Capone  
David Lasky  
"Alleluia, He Comes to Us" Graystone Bells  
Arr. By Michael R. Keller

Announcements  
[Please sign the connection pad at the end of the pew and pass it down the pew and back again. Note who is sitting near you and greet one another.]

Introit: "Angels From the Realms of Glory" Chancel Choir  
Words by James Montgomery  
Music by Henry T. Smart, arr. By Jack Schrader

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Peace

\*Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Hymn 175

\*Prayer of Confession  
Holy God, we confess that we do not always love You with our whole being. We confess we do not love our neighbors as ourselves. We confess that we have despised others, even to the point of hatred. We confess that we have been hurt by others. We confess that forgiveness and reconciliation at times are just impossible for us. We know that nothing is impossible in You. We come to You, seeking healing and wholeness for us. Help us, whenever possible, to live in peace with others, to seek reconciliation, healing and forgiveness. For Your Son came and lived among us, was betrayed and denied, abused and put to death. He rose again, and came with the message of peace to those who had denied and abandoned Him. Forgive us and help us to walk in His ways. Amen

\*Assurance of Pardon

\*Response of Praise: "Gloria Patri"

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
And to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen, Amen.*

**Sharing Our Life Together**

\*Passing of the Peace  
Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.  
People: And also with you.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings  
Offertory: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Chancel Choir  
Music by J S Bach; Words by Charles Wesley  
Arr by Tom Fettke and Camp Kirkland

\*Doxology: "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"  
  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

\*Hymn of Preparation: "Open My Eyes, That I May See" Hymn 443

**Hearing God's Word**

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

**We Leave to Serve the Lord**

\*Hymn of Response "We Are Called To Be God's People" Hymn 391

Benediction

Postlude: "Austrian Hymn"  
Lani Smith

\*Indicates that the congregation will stand

**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 Diana Campbell Family  
Kathy Beatty's mother  
Judy Cessna Dawne Davis Family  
Lois Miller's daughter  
Diane Eret Frank and Reatha Eret  
McCune's sister-in-law Sonja McCune's parents  
Courtney LeBlanc Andrew Manzek  
Katie and Randy LeBlanc's daughter friend of Karen Brown  
Bud and Peggy McCune Andrew Niezelski  
Larry McCune's parents Friend of George Caroff  
Lindsay Regos Quinn Santini  
Ron & Deb Port's daughter 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 Lhai 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.

**Greeters:** Camden Dean, Ida Mae Evans, Shari Costello, Denise Watson

**Ushers:** Jim Brown, Greg Holsinger, Dave Moore, Gaylene Robinson, James Wagner

**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 BOX** for your requests is available 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students join us! For more information and for online registration. Visit [www.graystoneyouth.org](http://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](mailto: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

<b>Monday, December 24</b>	<b>Office Closed for Christmas Eve</b>
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
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### 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.

December 23, 2018

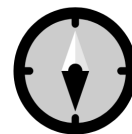
8:30 a.m.

# 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.

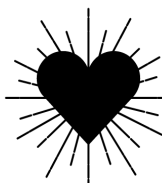


### PURSUING COMMUNITY

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.

