

December 2, 2018 **THE ORDER OF SERVICE** 8:30 a.m.

**Gathering to Worship God**

Welcome Rev. Ryan Mowen

Prelude: "Prelude on Veni Emmanuel" Nick Capone  
Stephen Burtonwood

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: "From Heaven High I Come to You" Chancel Choir  
Martin Luther

Lighting of the Advent Candle: *Joy*

\*Hymn: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Hymn 176

\*Prayer of Confession Psalm 139  
Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting! 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: "Advent Hymn" Chancel Choir  
Don Besig

\*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

**Hearing God's Word**

Scripture: Luke 2:10-14

Message: Advent: Joy Rev. Joe Stroup  
"God With Us? Creation"

**We Break Bread and Share the Cup Together**

Invitation to the Banquet Table

\*The Apostles' Creed: (Traditional)  
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.

**The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.  
Lift up your hearts.  
We lift them up to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.  
...who forever sing to the glory of Your name.

Sanctus: Tune: Land of Rest Congregation  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

**Words of Institution  
Sharing the Bread and the Cup**

You may partake of the bread as it is passed to you. Please keep the cup so that we may partake together when everyone has been served.  
Gluten free wafers are available on the trays.

**We Leave to Serve the Lord**

\*Hymn of Response: "Joy to the World The Lord is Come" Hymn 181

Benediction

Postlude: "People, Look East"  
Robert Lau

\*Indicates that the congregation will stand

**SERMON NOTES:**

**Prayer List as of Thursday, November 29**

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 Shirley Shearer  
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 Lindsay Regos  
Larry McCune's parents Ron & Deb Port's daughter  
Quinn Santini Pam Stroup  
Clair & Donna Ruffner's great granddaughter Joe Stroup's mother

**Sympathy to:**

Cathy Stahr and on the death of her mother Nellie White on November 25.  
Family and Friend of Arlene Ruth Zbur who passed away on November 26.

**Serving in the Military**

We rejoice with the Family of Russell Blankenship who returned safely from serving in the Middle East!  
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**

Child Evangelism Fellowship  
CEF is a Bible-centered organization composed of believers whose mission is to evangelize children with the Good News of the Lord for them and to ground them in the Word of God and in the local church for Christian living.

**Ministry Focus**

We pray for those who are mourning this Christmas season. For those who have lost someone close and maybe this season is especially difficult and the joy that comes with Christmas may not be an easy thing to find. May they find comfort in times of grief and may the light of Jesus be with them in the darkness of this season.

**Greeters:** Camden Dean, Ida Mae Evans, Harry and Anita Dushac, Lori Lezanic

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

The Chancel Flowers are being shared by Ida Evans to the Glory of God and in loving memory of her dear friend, Maude Cramer.

A PRAYER BOX, for your requests is available in the rear of the sanctuary as well as the office.

## What's YOUR next step?

### EVERYONE WELCOME ONE

### GATHER

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. Our kid-friendly service is at **6:00 p.m.** this year and our traditional, candlelight service is at **9:00 p.m.** We're prayerful for how God will use this to reach our community with good news for all people.

### CONNECT

**ANNUAL 'FALL' WOMEN'S GATHERING!** All women, teens and up, are invited to the Ashe's home (295 Williams St, very end of N. 3rd) Sat. Dec. 8, 2-4pm. Come when you can, leave when you must for a time of merriment. A variety of hot drinks are provided, please bring an appetizer or dessert to share, and a friend!

**CHRISTMAS STORY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS!** Dec 9 - 30, we'll take a fresh look at the various Bible accounts of the Christmas story in preparation for the season! Upstairs in room 202, during the 9:45 Sunday School Hour, led by Colin and Heather Ashe. Everyone is welcome!

**EPIC RETREAT – JR/SR HIGH YOUTH RETREAT** - Registration opens soon 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 soon. Visit

[www.graystoneyouth.org](http://www.graystoneyouth.org).

### SERVE

**FAMILY ADVENT CELEBRATION** - TODAY everyone who enjoys the decorations of the Advent and Christmas season, is encouraged to join in the fellowship of making wreaths to decorate the church as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Bring your family, your work clothes, pruning shears and come and enjoy as we gather as the family of God.

11:00 a.m. Set up  
12:00 noon Lunch (\$3.00 per person and \$10 per family)  
12:30 p.m. Wreath Construction (Until we are finished)

Join us again **Saturday, December 8, at 2:00 p.m.** to help put up the decorations in the sanctuary and around the church.

As 2018 comes to an end, let's get ready to close out the year and **finish strong**. Thank you for your gifts to help us close the year well financially!

This is also the time to be getting pledge cards in for 2019 so that we are in the best place to **start well** next year!

#### Weekly Income (11/25/18)

Core: \$15,806  
Mission: \$ 2,466  
Finish Strong: \$ 300  
Total: \$18,572

#### Weekly Attendance (11/25/18)

8:30 a.m. 112  
11:00 a.m. 181  
Total: 293

Also, 2019 **OFFERING ENVELOPES** are in the Welcome Center. If you wish to have giving envelopes for 2019 and there are none ready for you, please contact the church office and we will assign you a number.

**THE FINANCE TEAM LOOKING FOR OFFERING COUNTERS** - If you would be willing to help count the Sunday offerings on Monday mornings, please contact Connie at the church office. Clearances will be required.

## 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  
12:00 noon Advent Festival - Gathering Place  
5:00 p.m. Thanksmas (Youth Ministry) - Gathering Place

#### Happening this week

##### Monday, December 3

6:30 p.m. Bells - Center Social Hall

##### Tuesday, December 4

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting - Library  
6:30 p.m. Personnel Team - Room 101

##### Wednesday, December 5

8:00 a.m. Prayer Group - Library  
9:30 a.m. Image Bearers - Room 101  
6:00 p.m. Transitional Pastor Search Team - Library  
6:00 p.m. Mission - Shari's Outer Office  
6:30 p.m. Youth Ministry Team - Stone Room  
7:00 p.m. Facilities Team - Room 101  
7:30 p.m. CCO - Gathering Place

##### Thursday, December 6

6:30 a.m. Promise Keepers Bible Study - Eat N Park  
9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study - Room 101  
1:00 p.m. Library Team - Library  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir - Room 211  
7:30 p.m. Worship Team - Sanctuary

##### Saturday, December 8

7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study - Perkin's Restaurant  
1:00 p.m. Youth Skating - S and T Arena  
2:00 p.m. Sanctuary Decorating  
2:00 p.m. Ladies Open House - Ashe Home

##### Sunday, December 9

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 - Green Room  
12:00 p.m. CCO Lunch - Center Gathering Place  
6:00 p.m. Stone PM - Youth Room

### 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.

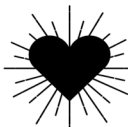


#### PURSuing COMMUNITY

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.



# Welcoming People, Following Jesus.

December 2, 2018

8:30 a.m.

# ADVENT "God With Us? Creation"