

+ GATHERING AROUND THE WORD +

✦ HYMN #105

"People, Look East" [see insert]

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO CONFESSION

✦ PEACE

Like a faded, dry leaf that the wind blows away, our sins dry us up; faded and brittle, we are carried off by the wrongs we have done.

PRELUDE

**Yet God loves us still  
and is able to restore and renew us with the water of life.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

[unison]

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill my promise to my people.

**Justice and righteousness will fill the land and all will live in peace and safety.**

We light this candle as a symbol of the hope we have in the promise of the Lord's coming.

**For the Lord will fulfill his promise to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.**

A righteous Branch will spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

**Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 80:1-3

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

[sing] **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

[sing] **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Stir up your might, and come to save us!

[sing] **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

[sing] **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

✦ HYMN #105

CALL TO CONFESSION

Like a faded, dry leaf that the wind blows away, our sins dry us up; faded and brittle, we are carried off by the wrongs we have done.

**Yet God loves us still  
and is able to restore and renew us with the water of life.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

[unison]

**God-with-us, even in Advent,**

**we confess that you can seem far away.**

**You are hidden when we need you near.**

**In our hurt, doubt, and fear, we do not try to draw closer to you;**

**instead, we lash out—**

**against you, our neighbor, even those we love.**

**Forgive us, we pray, and come to save us!**

**Let your face shine until our tears are dried, our sins are faded,**

**and our hope is restored.**

**After all, we belong to you,**

**and in your hands, we can be made new.**

[continue in silence, personal confession]

✦ RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

[sing verse 3 of Hymn #240 in hymnal]

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

+ PROCLAIMING THE WORD +

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 64:1-9

EPISTLE READING 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

INTERLUDE

✦ GOSPEL Mark 13:24-37

SERMON

+ RESPONDING TO THE WORD +

✦ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed [traditional]

✦ HYMN #92

"While We Are Waiting, Come" [see insert]

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord's Prayer [traditional]

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

✦ RESPONSE TO OFFERING

[sing]

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a wise man, I would do my part;

yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

✦ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

+ BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD +

✦ HYMN #87

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People" [see insert]

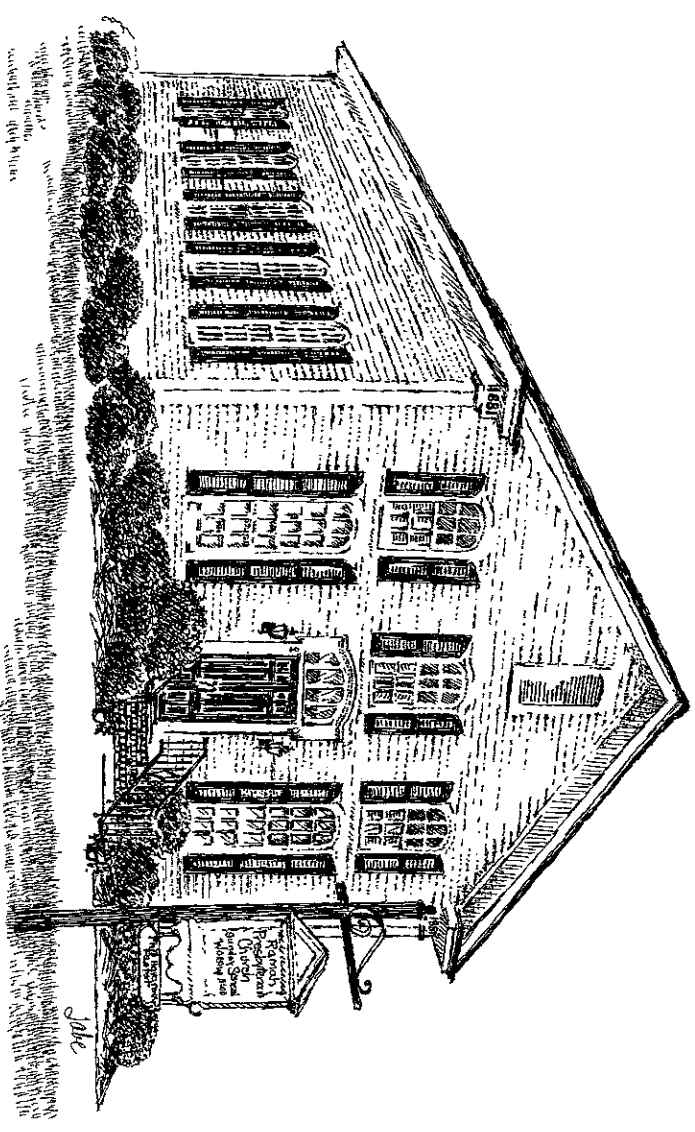
✦ BENEDICTION

✦ POSTLUDE

+ + +

✦ PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE

A PRINTED COPY OF THE ANNOUNCEMENTS IS AVAILABLE ON THE NARTHEX TABLE



## RAMAH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA

14401 Ramah Church Road, Huntersville, NC 28078

704.875.6683, [www.RamahPCUSA.org](http://www.RamahPCUSA.org)

**Sunday, December 3, 2017**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**Worship Leadership:**

The Reverend Brian Copeland

The Director of Music: Tim Ward

Nursery: Jo Brown & Ann McCarthy

Children's Church: Sonya Ashburn

Greeter: David Houk

Acolyte: Shelby Ashburn

Advent Reader: JW & Deane Washam