

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

THE WESTMINSTER CHIMES

PRELUDE

Pastoral Symphony from "Messiah"

Mitchell R. Weisiger
George Frederic Handel

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Robynn, Mo, Eric, Lauren,
Lillian, Caelan, and Lyndsey Onyett

The Rev. Dr. Andy Morgan, Fountain City Presbyterian Church, Knoxville, TN

We long for Christ's light.

We are a people who are weary.

We long for a world filled with peace.

We are a people whose hearts break under the weight of a hurting and unjust world.

Comfort us. Awaken us. Help us watch for the coming of Christ.

Wade in the Water

**Wade in the water, wade in the water children, wade in the water,
God's gonna trouble the water.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 88

VENI EMMANUEL

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (stanzas 1, 2, 6, & 7)

*CALL TO CONFESSION AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Peace,

We are a weary people who long for your peace but are unwilling to let your peace disrupt the placid waters of our lives. We have become complacent to injustice in our world, hunger and pain in our communities, brokenness in our families. We dare not speak up for the voiceless because a word of justice might startle. We hide our gaze from those who are hungry and hurting as their plight might cause us discomfort. We bite our tongue and repress dysfunction in our families because we do not want to cause conflict. We have misunderstood the lack of conflict with the peace you promise, peace that is not the absence of conflict but the presence of justice and righteousness. Our energies are spent keeping our waters calm, rather than working as your called and equipped peacemakers. Trouble our waters and help us to recognize the good news of your peace as we work for justice and joy in all areas of our lives. Amen.

(Let us silently offer confessions that are individually ours to make.)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI

ANTIOCH

Joy to the world, the Lord shall come! Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room, and heav'n nature sing, and heav'n nature sing, and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

WELCOME AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCIPLESHIP

Leigh Sackett

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

CHILDREN'S TIME

The Rev. Isabella Fagiani

Children's Worship follows immediately after the children's sermon. Children ages 4 through 1st Grade may leave for Children's Worship, an age-appropriate service.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 3:1-6

(p. 934 in the pew Bible)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Rev. Andrew C. Whaley

Hope in Waiting

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Hope of the Disinherited by Howard Thurman

In Jesus, we see the illumined finger of God guiding us in the way that we should go, so that high above the clash of arms in the conflict for status, for place, for privilege, for rights, we can hear speaking distinctly and clearly to our spirits the still small voice of God, without which nothing has real meaning, with which all the rest of the journey, however, difficult, however painful, however devastating, will be filled with music all its own and even the stars in their appointed rounds and all the wooded world of nature participate in the triumphant music of our hearts. Such is the faith he communicates, and in its presence, even Death becomes a little thing.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Gifts for the offering can be made by placing your offering in the plate as it is passed or by scanning the QR Code in your bulletin with your smartphone. Visit rcpres.org and click "Give Now" to learn more.

OFFERTORY

Honor and Glory

Honor and glory be to God in the highest. Hallelujah, sing praises to His name!

The Sanctuary Choir

Johann Sebastian Bach

*DOXOLOGY

IRBY

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love; for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above; and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer After Communion

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*RECESSIONAL HYMN 144

CRANHAM

In the Bleak Midwinter

*CHARGE & BLESSING

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

KEEP YOUR LAMPS

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning. Keep your lamps trimmed and burning. Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.

*POSTLUDE

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying (Wachet auf)

arr. Paul Manz

MINISTRY MESSAGES

PRAYER REQUESTS: Easton Beckett, Dawn Blakeman, Donn Branch, Brendan Brown (Kathy and Les Brown's grandson), Jennifer Bryant, Karcy Clark, Eugene Cooley, The Cronin Family, Billy Grove, Skip Hastings, Susan Lindstrom, Joe McCrobie, Betsy Neathawk, Ramona Simmons, Nancy Smith (Alan Smith's mother), Roger Tims, Jill Wood, and all caregivers.

This week we welcomed Lori Tosoni to our staff as our new Financial Administrator. Lori brings a long background in accounting and financial management to our office and is returning to the workforce after being home with her two daughters for the past ten years. She and her husband moved to Roanoke from Ontario, Canada ten years ago for his work and recently this year became United States citizens. Through the end of the year, Lori will be operating with the same contacts as Lois Morgan did, so you can call her at the office at Lois's extension (107) or email her at lois@rcpres.org.

ONLINE GIVING For those who may not remember to bring a check or cash on a Sunday, you can set up your giving to RCPC online. This can be done as a one-time or an on-going way to support our mission and ministry. You can either visit www.rcpres.org and press the "Give Now" button on the homepage or scan the QR code with your smartphone to go directly to the donation page.



COMMUNION FUND This Sunday any loose offering collected during worship goes to support a designated fund of the church that assists individuals in our community who are in crisis. With these funds we help those who need emergency assistance with utilities or rent payments, through the work of Roanoke Area Ministries and the Presbyterian Community Center. Please be generous as we seek to respond to the call of Jesus to care for one another in our city.

FELLOWSHIP DINNERS Fellowship Dinners continue this fall each Wednesday at 6:15 PM. Meals are a suggested donation of \$7 for an individual 12 years and up, \$5 for children ages 4-11, and free for 3 and younger, with a max of \$20 for a family. Please register by noon the Tuesday before each meal online at rcpres.org/dinner. **Menu for December 7** - Oven Fried Chicken, Home Fries, Mixed Veggies, Homemade Bread, Chunky Veggie Roast, Brownies.

POINSETTIAS FOR ADVENT If you would like to dedicate a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone special, please complete the form in the This Week @ RCPC below with name(s) for dedication or complete the envelope in the pews and place the envelope in the offering plate. Please note on the memo line of the check "Poinsettia" or the notes field if paying online. The deadline to order is December 11. A list will be included in the bulletin on December 18. The cost per dedication is \$12.

CHRISTMAS IN THE CARIBBEAN The Presbyterian Women invite you and your spouse or guest to enjoy Christmas music and desserts featuring the *Bahama Mamas Steel Drum Band* on Thursday, December 8 at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to Vickie Haynie at vhaynie@fsrv.org by Sunday, December 4, or on the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area.

HISTORY COMMITTEE UPDATE It's here! The *History of RCPC* is available as an accessible link on the current RCPC Website, rcpres.org. So take a look, learn, about our church, its people, building, activities, and ministries. Questions? Contact Carole R. Banks at pixiebowls@gmail.com.

THE HAITI MISSION GROUP gives thanks yet again for the generosity of the RCPC congregation in their support of the lunch feeding program at St. Timothee School in Haiti. The final total of contributions following our recent Minute for Mission announcements is \$8500, which will allow for hot and nutritious lunches to continue to be served each school day. Please pray for the children of Haiti and their country.

Alternative Giving

Alternative Giving encompasses various ways to give during Advent that connect RCPC with our neighbors throughout Roanoke. Below you'll find ways to participate in our physical item drives for Stuffed Animals for the Fire Department and Police Department, Sudanese Refugees, and the West End Center, as well as ways to give directly to our many mission partners as a gift for a loved one.

- **Stuffed Animal for the Fire Department and Police Department:** Please bring your stuffed animal by Christmas Eve and place it in the stable found in the Gathering Area.
- **Sudanese Refugee Gift Drive:** Sign up by picking an item off the tree in the Gathering Area or using the link found in the This Week @ RCPC or online at rcpres.org/alternativegiving. You will be giving a specific gift to a specific young person. **Gifts are due NEXT SUNDAY, December 11.**
- **West End Center Socks and Underwear Collection:** Sign up using the link found in the This Week @ RCPC or online at rcpres.org/alternativegiving. You will be providing a specific size of socks or underwear for a specific student. **Gifts are due NEXT SUNDAY, December 11.**
- **Donating to Our Mission Partners in Honor of a Loved One:** To donate to Family Promise, House of Bread, RAM, Hunger Mission Team, Haiti Mission Group, PCC, or West End Center scan the QR code to the right or click the link in This Week @ RCPC to fill out an online form with information about your loved one and donate to the specific GoFundMe for the organization. You can also visit our community Christmas Tree on Grandin Road near the prayer line or the Alternative Giving tree in the Gathering Area and pick up a paper form to fill in and return to the church in person by Sunday, December 18 or via mail with check enclosed. Whichever way you donate to our mission partners in honor of a loved one, the Deacons will collect the submitted information to mail a card of thanksgiving to your loved ones.



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT You are invited to dinner and our Christmas Pageant featuring the God Alive Children and our God Alive Youth leaders on Wednesday, December 14. Dinner begins at 5:15 PM in the Fellowship Hall and the Pageant will follow at 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary. Come hear and see the Christmas story told from the perspective of two shepherds, a parent shepherd and a child shepherd. As they look out into the night, they reflect on the story of Jesus and his birth. A story passed down through the generations!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SESSION MEETING ON NOVEMBER 28, 2022

- Report from Historical Update committee. Now available on RCPC website.
- Approval for block grant application from Presbytery for House of Bread and West End Center.
- Approval of request from Endowment Board for change in investment advisor to the Mattox Group at Morgan Stanley.
- Approval for tuition increase by the preschool.
- Baptism on 1/15/23 of Grant Skinner, child of Victoria and Tyler Skinner
- Thanksgiving meal served 140 people.
- The new financial administrator (to replace Lois Morgan) has been hired: Lori Tosoni will work part-time.

THIS WEEK AT RCPC

Sunday, December 4

Advent – Alternative Giving
 9:00 AM Worship – Chapel
 10:00 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary
 5:15 PM Youth Bell Choir
 6:00 PM Youth Group

Monday, December 5

9:00 AM Preschool
 10:00 AM Monday Morning Prayer Group
 10:30 AM Small Group – Whaley
 6:30 PM Cub Scouts
 7:00 PM BSA Troop 2

Tuesday, December 6

9:00 AM Preschool
 9:00 AM PW Coordinating Team
 10:30 AM Primary Purpose: AA
 4:00 PM Small Group - Dixon
 6:00 PM Tai Chi
 6:45 PM Eagle Board of Review
 8:00 PM Small Group - Biddle

Wednesday, December 7

9:00 AM Preschool
 4:00 PM God Alive- Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
 6:15 PM Fellowship Dinner
 6:45 PM SSA Sectional
 7:00 PM Small Group - Sackett
 7:15 PM Christmas Music Rehearsal
 8:00 PM Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, December 8

9:00 AM Preschool
 9:00 AM Hunger Mission Packing
 10:00 AM Centering Prayer at St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church
 10:30 AM Primary Purpose: AA
 4:30 PM Tai Chi
 6:00 PM BSA Council Meeting
 6:30 PM Hip Sober Chicks
 7:00 PM PW Steel Drums Performance

Friday, December 9

9:00 AM Preschool
 10:30 AM Family Service Holiday Luncheon
 11:45 AM Al-Anon
 7:00 PM Raleigh Court Neighborhood Association

Sunday, December 11

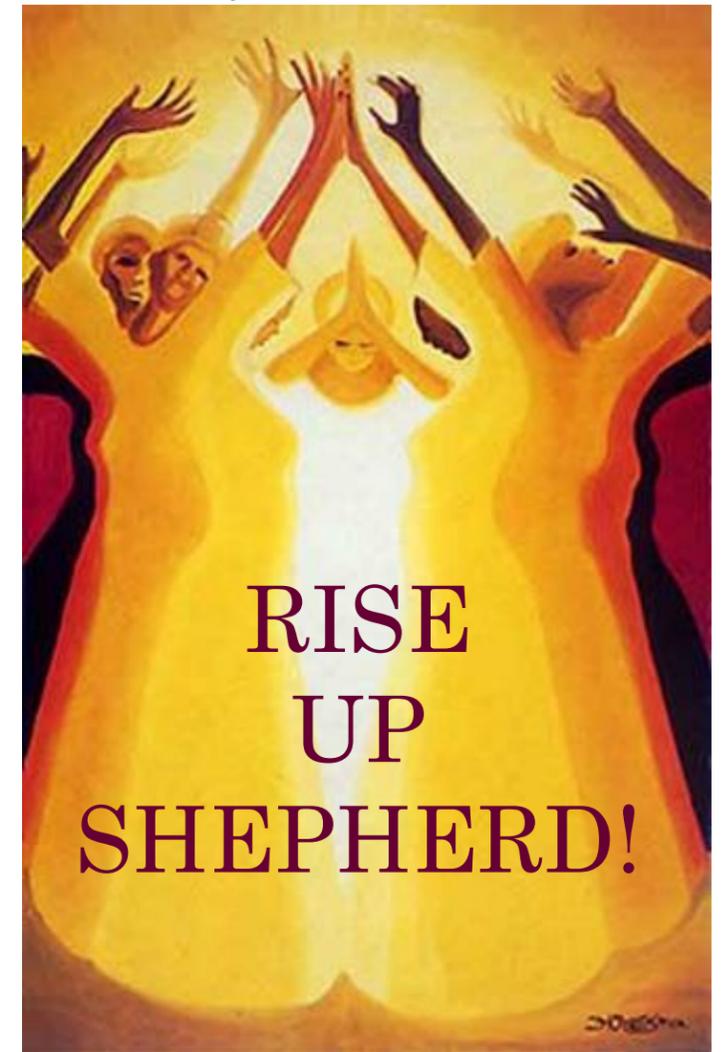
Advent – Alternative Giving
 9:00 AM Worship – Chapel
 10:00 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary
 5:15 PM Youth Bell Choir
 6:00 PM Youth Group – Progressive Dinner
 6:00 PM Kids in the Woods - Illuminights

Christmas Concert
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18
7:00 PM - RCPC SANCTUARY
 The Sanctuary Choir & Guest Orchestra will be presenting Bach's "Magnificat" along with other Christmas choral favorites.

Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church Roanoke, Virginia



The Church of the Open Door
 11:00 AM - Sanctuary
 Sunday, December 4, 2022



The Mission of RCPC is:

- To Seek Christ
- To Serve Christ
- To Show Christ

To Know God through Christ

Ministers

- Pastor and Head of Staff: The Rev. Andrew C. Whaley
- Associate Pastor: The Rev. Isabella Fagiani
- Director of Christian Education: Leigh Sackett
- Minister of Care: The Rev. David Dixon, MD, Episcopal Deacon
- Director of Music Ministries & Organist: Mitchell R. Weisiger
- Preschool Director: Betsy Prillaman

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