

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY

December 16th, 2018

3rd Sunday of Advent

11:00 am

***Please feel free to stand as you are able.*

Thank you for worshipping with us today. We consider your presence with us a blessing from God. You are encouraged to greet one another in friendship and love. When the Chiming of the Hour starts, you are invited to prepare yourself for the worship of God.

GATHERING**Ringing of the Bell** John Pilson**Chiming of the Hour - Westminster Chimes****Welcome & Announcements** *(please pass the friendship pad)*
Elder Marion Simmers**Prelude - Introit******Passing of the Peace** Elder Marion Simmers

Pastor: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you!****Gathering Song** “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

*Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Chris-tian love:
The fel-low-ship of kin-dred minds
Is like to that a-bove.*

WE APPROACH GOD****Call to Worship** Rev. Jessica Townes

Pastor: Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say Rejoice!

People: Our joy is in the Lord who blesses us.

Pastor: Shout for joy, for the Lord is near!

People: Our praises ascend to God for the mighty things God has done.

Pastor: Let your praise dance and swirl in tribute to God!

People: Surely God blesses and saves us. Rejoice! Praise be to God.****Hymn of Adoration 611** “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”****Prayer of Adoration****Call to Confession****Unison Prayer of Confession**

It is getting more and more difficult, Lord, for us to keep our attention on the holy things. Our lives are caught up in the planning, parties, gifts, and other such things. We get side-tracked too easily and exhausted, we fall into restless sleep. The cries of those in need abound and we are overwhelmed by the need. Too often we turn a deaf ear because we feel we just can't meet all the needs that are presented to us. Heal our hearts and spirits, Lord. Help us understand that you do not ask us to heal everything but rather to find a simple way in which we might lighten someone else's burden, as you have lightened our lives. You have brought hope and peace to us. Now cause us to rejoice in the wondrous things that you have done. Teach us to use our gifts for the common good, and that in helping, we find great and abundant joy.

Silent Confession

Pastor: In Jesus name we pray . . .

All: Amen.**Assurance of Forgiveness**

Pastor: With joy and thanksgiving in Christ you are forgiven!

People: Let us rejoice, give thanks, and accept God’s grace.****Celebration of God’s Grace 368** “We Fall Down”**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD****Prayer of Illumination****Lighting of the Advent Candles** “Candles of Hope & Peace”
Irene Elliott & Marty Simmers

Congregational Response *(sung to the tune of “Away in a Manger”)*
*A Can-dle is burn-ing, a candle of Peace,
A Can-dle to sig-nal that con-flict must cease.
For Je-sus is com-ing to show us the way,
A mess-age of peace hum-bly laid in the hay.*

Lighting of the Advent Candle “Candle of Joy”
Marion & Marty Simmers

Congregational Response *(sung to the tune of “Away in a Manger”)*
*A Can-dle is burn-ing, a candle of Joy,
A Can-dle to wel-come brave Mary’s new boy.
Our hearts fill with won-der, our eyes light and glow,
As joy bright-ens win-ter like sun-shine on snow.*

Advent Prayer**Conversation with the Young People****Anthem** “His Eye Is On The Sparrow”
Bethel Choir**Scripture Reading: James 1:2-6****Sermon** “Joy Happens”
Rev. Jessica Townes**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD******Hymn of Reflection 305** “Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!”
*(verses 1, 2, & 4)***Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer** “Amen” 554
*Amen. Amen. Amen.***Invitation to the Offering****Reception of Tithes and Offerings******Doxology 606******Prayer of Dedication****SENDING******Hymn of Sending 134** “Joy to the World”
*Joy to the world, the Lord to come!*****Charge and Benediction**

****Congregational Response 113** “Angels We Have Heard on High” *(refrain)*
*Glo---ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o!
Glo---ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o!*

**** Postlude**

Welcome to Bethel Presbyterian Church!
Announcements - December 16th, 2018

•Good Morning! Whether you are a member, a friend, or a visitor, please take a moment to fill out the friendship pad at the end of your pew, and give the friendship pad to others to sign. Also, large print bulletins and hearing assists are available in the vestibule for those who may need them.

•We welcome Rev. Jessica Townes who will be preaching and leading the worship service this morning. Two words to describe her are jovial and joyous. Affectionately known as Jessie to family and close friends, she is the daughter of Gazetta and the late Frank A. Townes. The Midlothian native is also the younger sister of Alexander Townes. Jessica was licensed into the gospel ministry at Spring Creek Baptist Church in Moseley, Virginia by the Reverend Doctors Jacqueline and Micah Madison-McCreary. She serves as an associate minister at "The Creek." Jessica graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University (2011) with a BS in Psychology. She also holds a Master of Divinity from The Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University (2014). Jessica currently works as a Support Coordinator at Richmond Behavioral Health Authority working with individuals diagnosed with intellectual disabilities and mental health diagnoses. Jessica is a former collegiate athlete. In her spare time, she enjoys listening to music, writing, reading, and riding her bicycle on outdoor trails. Jessica's favorite scripture is: "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance." James 1:2-3. Although her faith has been tested but never broken, she reminds those who she encounters that joy happens. Please let Rev. Townes know how much we appreciate her being with us this morning!

•The poinsettias in the Sanctuary are given by the congregation and friends of Bethel. Please see the insert for a full listing of who gave poinsettias and who they are in honor or in memory of.

•The Christmas Joy Offering will be received as part of the "Weekend of Joy!" today during worship. If you would like to give to the Joy Gift Offering there are envelopes available in your bulletin. The Joy Gift Offering is a special offering of the PCUSA and the money given will be distributed equally to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs and to National Ministries of the General Assembly Council to help support Presbyterian racial ethnic education.

•All gifts for the Christmas Alive program at Riverheads Elementary School are due today! The gift should be wrapped with the tag attached and can be placed in Memorial Hall. If you have any questions or forgot your gift this morning please contact Kathy Swisher (540/885-7397 or kwswisher@gmail.com). Thank you for your support of this project!

•Offering Envelopes for 2019: ATTENTION OFFERING ENVELOPE USERS – Beginning today, numbered offering envelopes will be available in the vestibule for those who used offering envelopes in 2018. If you do not currently use envelopes but would like to or have been using them but no longer want them, please contact the Church Office with your request.

•The Stonewall Brigade Band will have their holiday concert "Christmas: From Europe to America" tomorrow, December 17th, at 7:30 pm at St. Paul's United Methodist Church (2000 Shutterlee Mill Road, Staunton). The Stonewall Flutes of the Shenandoah will be featured from 6:30 pm to 7:15 pm.

•Any announcements for the December 23rd bulletin and/or the December 30th bulletin will need to be submitted by this Tuesday, December 18th.

•Reminder! "Soup and Scripture" will be held this Thursday, December 20th from noon until 1:15 pm. Join Pastor Kelly-Ann as she studies and wrestles with the upcoming Sunday's scripture readings! The group will meet in the Church kitchen for fellowship, discussion, and delicious soup prepared by Kelly-Ann.

•Christmas Eve Candlelight Service "An Evening of Lessons and Carols," our traditional candlelight Christmas Eve service, will go on at 9:00 pm on December 24th. Come starting at 8:30 pm for a Live Nativity put on by our Youth Committee! There will be plenty of Music and Celebration as we traverse the biblical history leading to the Birth of Jesus in Bethlehem and the start of His life on Earth, the promise of our Salvation!

•January Tower Deadline & Tower Mailing Date Adjustment
Due to the Christmas and New Year's holiday the January Tower deadline will be Thursday, December 27th. Please have all articles and announcements to the Church Office by noon. The January Tower will be mailed out on Tuesday, January 8th. Articles and announcements for the January Tower can be left in Adrienne's mailbox in Memorial Hall or you can email them to her at bethelpc@gmail.com. Please remember if you turn in items after the deadline Adrienne cannot guarantee they will be included in the Tower. Thank you!

•Offerings 2018: It is requested that offerings for 2018 be made no later than Sunday, December 30th. Thank you for your continued support.

•Update on 2019 Pledges . . . 25 pledges for a total of \$99,520.00 have been received. Many thanks to those who pledged. If you have not already pledged, please prayerfully consider pledging now for 2019 - it is never too late! Pledge cards are available in the vestibule and Memorial Hall if you need one. Send completed cards to the church (Attn: Receiving Treasurer), or put in the Receiving Treasurer mailbox in Memorial Hall or in the offering plate any Sunday. Thank you for your generosity in helping Bethel spread the good news of Jesus Christ!

•The Witness/Mission Committee, in their November 25th meeting, voted to support the Riverheads Weekday Religious Education (WRE) program with a \$10,000.00 donation.

•The Heizer Family would like to thank the Bethel congregation for all of the food, cards, phone calls, visits, and prayers following the death of Wayne Heizer. Your care, concern and support meant the world to us! Special thanks to Ellen Fitzgerald for providing the meal following Wayne's memorial service. We feel so very blessed to be a part of Bethel!

<u>November 25th</u>	Attendance: 87
Weekly Budget: \$3,577.00	Received: \$3,871.00
Four Cents A Meal Offering: \$342.00	

<u>December 2nd</u>	Attendance: 113
Weekly Budget: \$3,577.00	Received: \$5,052.00



3rd Sunday in Advent

BETHEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

563 Bethel Green Road

Staunton, VA 24401

bethelpc@gmail.com

www.bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org

Lift Up in Prayer

Bethel Prayer List - December 16th, 2018

THIS WEEK AT BETHEL

December 16th - December 22nd

Today 3rd Sunday of Advent
Weekend of Joy!
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship/Christmas Joy Gift Offering

Monday 7:00 Boy Scouts
7:30 Young Life

Tuesday 7:00 Session Meeting
Deadline: Bulletin Announcements for
December 23rd & December 30th

Wednesday 7:00 Adult Choir
7:00 The Bells of Bethel
7:30 Young Life

Thursday 2:00 Soup & Scripture

Friday Winter Begins

Next Sunday, December 23rd: 4th Sunday of Advent
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship/5 Cents A Meal Offering



Rev. Kelly-Ann Rayle, Stated Supply Pastor
(434) 327-7330 (cell) bethelpcpastor@gmail.com
Office Days & Hours: Tu 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Wed 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm Th 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Adrienne Barker, Office Manager
(540) 886-6041 bethelpc@gmail.com
Office Days & Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Elijah English, Music Director
(919) 649-0855 BethelPCMUSIC@gmail.com
Office Days & Hours: Monday, Wednesday - Friday 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Rhonda Johnson, Clerk of Session

JoAnn Pendley, Handbell Choir Director Sara Ann Lamb, Organist

Ken Wilkinson, Receiving Treasurer Lori Miller, Disbursing Treasurer

Congregation Members

Betty Cash	Jarod Davis & Family
Karen Koogler	Sara Ann Lamb
Evelyn LaPorte	Jeannie Lee
Margaret Liptrap	John Pilson
Alice Wooddell	

Family & Friends of the Church & Congregation

Mildred Barmore	Catherine Bryan
Reese Burdette	Dawn Carter
Ronnie Davis	Martha Dubyk
Kenny Earman	Don Hanger
Laurin Henderson & Family	Gail Hord
Jack	John Jennings & Family
Bill Klitzman	Matt Koogler
David Law	Olivia Lewis & Family
Meade Loomis	Pam Massie
Preston McCallister	Meredith McCallister
Maggie Peterson	Roy L. Pilson
Van Pirkey	Carly Pond
Bob Robinson & wife Shirley	Devin Scott
Tara Perrotti & Family	Michael Somers
Parker Staples	Jay Theado
Bill & Marguerite Whitaker	

Sympathy & Condolences

Family & Friends of Henley Gabeau
Family & Friends of Judy Olson
Family & Friends of Wallace Pilson
Family & Friends of Wallace Wood (*brother of Boyd Wood*)

Community, Country, & World

All Military Leaders & Personnel
Police, Firemen, and EMS workers and volunteers
Victims of all hurricanes
Michael & Rachel Weller, Missionaries in Ethiopia

Please call Tammy Barbour at (540) 471-0450, Barb Gough at (540) 255-6521, or the Church Office at (540) 886-6041 with any additions or updates.

***Christmas Bethel Emergency Relief Fund Donations (BERF)
& Christmas Poinsettias
December 2018***

BERF Donations Given In Honor Of . . .

The Glory of God
Given By: Bill & Sally Brubeck

BERF Donations Given In Memory Of . . .

Mr. & Mrs. Joel W. Hamilton
Given By: Mr. & Mrs. Thomas F. Heizer

**Mr. & Mrs. Carlisle Neff
Catherine Quick
Wesley Quick**
Given By: Allen & Pat Quick

Loved Ones
Given By: Doris True

**E. Theodore Webb
Helen B. Webb
Theodore W. Webb**
Given By: Jill Webb

Poinsettias Given In Honor Of . . .

Ellen Fitzgerald
Given By: Barbara Gough

Family
Given By: Joy Moody

Dr. Lynn & Eloise Moore
Given By: Family

Richard & Sue Whitesell
Given By: Their Children & Granddaughter

Poinsettias Given In Memory Of . . .

Danny & Louale Almarode
Given By: Their Children & Granddaughter

Nathaniel Lane Almarode
Given By: His Parents & Sister

Laurence & Ann Arehart
Given By: Family

**Henry & Ruth Brown
Richard & Jean Dickinson**
Given By: Mac, Emily, Jonah & Samuel Williams

(continued on back)

Poinsettias Given In Memory Of . . . (continued)

Elizabeth Crosby
Given By: The Damico Family

James Crosby
Given By: The Damico Family

Mary Williams Dransfield
Given By: The Williams Family

Chuck Goodson
Given By: Bobby Goodson

Doug Goodson
Given By: Bobby Goodson

Gary Goodson
Given By: Bobby Goodson

**James F. Heizer, My Loving Husband
Wayne Edward Heizer, My Son**
Given By: Betty M. Heizer

**Elmer Kyle & Betty Kyle Ott (*Steve's parents*)
R.W. & Moggie Moffett (*Mo's parents*)**
Given By: Steve & Mo Kyle

Charles E. Lamb
Given By: Sara Ann Lamb

Bob Moody
Given By: Joy Moody

Family
Given By: Joy Moody

**Mr. & Mrs. John T. Pilson
Wallace Pilson, My Brother**
Given By: John R. Pilson

Hugh Ralston, My Husband
Given By: Sarah Frances Ralston

**Mr. & Mrs. M. B. Swisher
Don Swisher
Wayne Swisher**
Given By: Bettie Swisher

Mary Belle Ware
Given By: Marion & Marty Simmers

Jim & Charlotte Williams
Given By: The Williams Family

John Wooddell
Given By: His Loving Wife, Alice Wooddell