



# SEVEN OAKS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 20, 2020

4th Sunday in Advent

Welcome! We pray that you will truly experience  
God's love and grace as you worship!

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Zoom Worshipers: Once worship begins, please do not unmute yourselves. Zoom is very sensitive to sounds coming from our computers and to provide for the most fluid and clear worship experience for everyone, this is a small thing you can do to celebrate this worship opportunity!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Jana Creighton

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Joy Gift Offering

PRELUDE

*Grand Noel*

Daquin

GATHERING OF OUR HEARTS (inspired by Luke 1:46-55)

One: Light the lamps, prepare the room, God is coming to us!

**All: Make our hearts and spirits ready to receive God's most gracious gift, God's Son, Jesus Christ.**

One: Push the darkness away. The light is truly coming!

**All: May God's light shine on us, in us and through us that God's glory may be seen. Let us worship the Lord.**

Congregational Carol:

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

**O little town of Bethlehem how still we see Thee lie!**

**Above Thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.**

**Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;**

**The hopes and fears of all the years are met in Thee tonight.**

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!**

**So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.**

**No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,**

**Where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

**O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;**

**Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.**

**We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;**

**O come to us; abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!**

WAITING ON THE THRESHOLD

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Elder John and Tara Whitfield

**Reader One:** We live on the brink every day. We stand on the threshold between this world and the next one. We live and move between the ordinary and divine, between the mundane and the mystery. Too often, we forget to look up and see the angels in our living room. We forget that the love we give and live is a sign of eternity, God with us, right now. We forget that company is coming.

**Reader Two:** Luke tells us that God's favor came to a girl, an ordinary girl. It might have been you or your daughter; it might have been the girl down the street or your grandchild. But the messenger of God came and greeted her and said, "The Lord is with you." What a gift and a promise: Emmanuel, God is with us.

**Reader One:** We light these candles with peace in our hearts for the promise of proximity, the nearness of God. Even when we forget to listen, to lean into that presence, God is as close as our own breath. This, in a confused and confusing world, is a peace that passes all understanding. It is the peace that knows that company is coming.

**Reader Two:** O Come, O Come Emmanuel

SCRIPTURE READING

*Luke 1:26-38*

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God." <sup>31</sup> And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

MESSAGE

*The Lord's Servant*

Rev. Jana Creighton

OFFERING

Youth Christmas Hymn

Text Sevenoaks to 73256 or use the SOPC website with this link:

<https://onrealm.org/SevenOaksPresby/-/give/now>

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL:

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him born the King of Angels: O come, let us adore Him,  
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!  
Glory to God, glory in the highest: O come, let us adore Him,  
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory given!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! O come, let us adore Him,  
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Good Christians, Rejoice

John Stainer

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**Music Notes:** A Noel is a song about Jesus' birth. Louis-Claude Daquin wrote a series of twelve Noels celebrating the nativity. The anthem is another in our virtual choir series, featuring members from a variety of churches and denominations.

MOMENT OF HOLINESS

Zoom worshipers, please remain after worship to greet one another in breakout rooms in fellowship of the Spirit!

***Poinsettias in Memory of loved ones:***

Richard and David Allen, in memory of William Allen and Florence Allen.

Richard Brinkley, in loving memory of his wife, Irene Brinkley.

Anne Crook, in loving memory of Clyde Crook

Nickie & Byron Dickson in memory of our mothers, Mary Cathcart Dickson and Billie Jones Rowe

Linda Floyd, in memory of her husband, Dale Floyd.

Carol Griffith in loving memory of Joe Griffith

Ron and Sue Kesterson, in memory of loved ones.

Rev. Dr. Barry Shatzer in loving memory of his son Jay.

Jim and Elizabeth Taylor, in memory of Mr. Charles J. Bethea and Mr and Mrs. James P. Taylor.

Jim Wilhide, in memory of his loving wife, Joan



***Poinsettias in honor of loved ones***

Margaret and Al Charles, in praise and thanks to God for sending His Son Jesus to save us.

Rev. Jana Creighton, to the Glory of God

Linda Floyd, in honor of her children's families: Jennifer and Chris Eanes, Leigh Wilkie and Jeff Rochester, Karen and Jason Hall, Pat and Rick Dempster, and Dean and Angela Floyd

Linda Floyd, In honor of her grandchildren and great grandchildren: Craig Floyd, Katherine Floyd, Walker Eanes, Addison Floyd, Riley Eanes, Summer Araya, Presley Eanes, Miles Hall, Bryson Hall, Ember Floyd, and Marcus Young

Joe Gause, in appreciation for the Prayer Shaw received from the Prayer Shaw Ministry and the comfort it has given him.

Ron and Sue Kesterson, in honor of the wonderful folks who have kept the congregation informed and in touch through Zoom classes and services, emails, phone calls and mail.

Polly and Banks Robinson, in honor of SOPC congregation

Sharon Staton, in memory of her father, Paul Benson, and in thankfulness for her grandchildren, Beckett and Blythe.

Jim and Elizabeth Taylor, in honor of Mrs. Carolyn (Buck) Bethea.

Shelagh Wirth, in honor of our staff

**Poinsettias** will be in the sanctuary on December 20 for our virtual services. You may pick up your poinsettia on Tuesday, Dec 22 or Wed Dec 23 between 8 & 1. Any poinsettias left after 2 p.m. will be taken to Bryan Center by Karl. Please contact him if you need to make other arrangements for your poinsettia 803 237 4519



## In our continued prayers...

Edith Blanchett      Nan Foster      Rosemary Falls      Ed Keelen  
Al Charles      Linda Floyd      Scott Wilhide      Joe Gause  
SOPC Covid Task Force      Daniel and Elizabeth Turk  
Iglesia Presbiteriana de Nueva Paz

Please join us on Wednesdays at Noon via Zoom for our Prayer Meeting.

**Today, December 20th**, at 4 p.m. Youth, children and parents are invited to meet at Wal-Mart parking lot to the Left side of the Wal-Mart. We will be purchasing Christmas for the children housed at William Hall Psychiatric Hospital this Christmas Season. Wear Masks, Bring \$20-30 per family and let's share the joy of Christ with those who need it most. Some may choose to eat outside at Salsaritas following shopping, please bring money if you would like to participate in this activity.

**Year End Contributions:** Charitable contributions to SOPC must be received in the church office by 5 p.m. on Thursday, December 31, 2020, in order for them to be included on the 2020 Giving Statement, which can be used for verification for the IRS. If the contribution is mailed, it must be postmarked by 12/31/2020. Checks, cash or other property received after 12/31/2020, unless postmarked by that date, will be included in 2021 income and noted on the Contributor's 2021 giving statement. Please contact Sharon Staton with questions.

## VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHTING SERVICE

Please light a candle (perhaps your PEACE light candle from last year) at 6 p.m. following the 5 p.m. Youtube Christmas Eve Worship Service. You and your family and friends are invited to step outside and light a candle as a congregation, bound by the Christ light in our midst.

If you are able, please take a picture of your candle and submit to the church office for an upcoming project.

As you light your candle, consider offering a prayer for the following, silently or aloud:

Covid victims, their families, those suffering and in pain; First line workers, teachers, and caretakers  
Those who have entered the Kingdom Triumphant this year of 2020; Those across the world who gather at the manger tonight awaiting the Light of the World; Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church and our future discernment of Christ's call; A release of the stressors for 2020 and a new beginning for 2021

Your hopes and dreams for this coming year; God's Love poured out through each of us

As a closing, you are invited to play or sing Silent Night as we experience this Christmas Eve Tradition in a new way this year.

May the Lord meet you at your manger tonight and May Christ's light shine in and through you this Season. Merry Christmas!!

## This Week at SOPC

### Sunday

Adult Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.

[https://zoom.us/j/508111743?](https://zoom.us/j/508111743?pwd=WUJpnelhCV2ICTTBKRTczY3l0YU8yZz09)

[pwd=WUJpnelhCV2ICTTBKRTczY3l0YU8yZz09](https://zoom.us/j/508111743?pwd=WUJpnelhCV2ICTTBKRTczY3l0YU8yZz09)

Meeting ID: 508 111 743 Password: 046739

By Phone: 1(646)558-8656 508111743 #

Sunday Service at 11:00 a.m.

[https://zoom.us/j/743754044?](https://zoom.us/j/743754044?pwd=bWIHWWJWOFr4UG1zQkZuRVRIaE41dz09)

[pwd=bWIHWWJWOFr4UG1zQkZuRVRIaE41dz09](https://zoom.us/j/743754044?pwd=bWIHWWJWOFr4UG1zQkZuRVRIaE41dz09)

Meeting ID: 743 754 044 Password: 072863

By Phone: 1(646)558-8656 743754044 #

Children's Check-In and Sunday School at 1:30 p.m.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84573328620?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84573328620?pwd=dkVUQWZMaUx5QitMZ1RLYUdCWml0dz09)

[pwd=dkVUQWZMaUx5QitMZ1RLYUdCWml0dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84573328620?pwd=dkVUQWZMaUx5QitMZ1RLYUdCWml0dz09)

Meeting ID: 845 7332 8620 Password: 237447

### Wednesday

Lunch & Prayer: Wednesday at Noon

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89705113395?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89705113395?pwd=d3JZSTROa3RFVTIvd0U3WnZwNmhnZz09)

[pwd=d3JZSTROa3RFVTIvd0U3WnZwNmhnZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89705113395?pwd=d3JZSTROa3RFVTIvd0U3WnZwNmhnZz09)

Meeting ID: 897 0511 3395 Password: 300498

By Phone: 1(301)715-8592 89705113395#

### Friday

Lanterns: Fridays at 7:00 a.m.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81316561956?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81316561956?pwd=eHVpcHdtNEkvUEExOc0hmbWpaNnhsZz09)

[pwd=eHVpcHdtNEkvUEExOc0hmbWpaNnhsZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81316561956?pwd=eHVpcHdtNEkvUEExOc0hmbWpaNnhsZz09)

Meeting ID: 813 1656 1956 Passcode: 168424