



SEVEN OAKS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday in Advent

11:00 am

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

STRIKING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Jana Light Creighton

PRELUDE

Creator of the Stars of Night

Robert Lau

GATHERING OF OUR HEARTS

SOPC Children

Naomi: This is the fourth Sunday of Advent, a time to rejoice.

Eli: Our hearts are filled with the hope that is coming into the world.

Abby: The time is fast approaching, not for parties or presents, but for God's loving gift of Christ.

Ellis: Help slow us down, to receive this love.

Olivia: Thanks be to God. AMEN.

*CAROL # 104

Oh Lord How Shall I Meet You

O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright? Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight! O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast, to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me; your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty. O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace in love, all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race.

You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and good will, to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still. In patient expectation we live for that great day when your renewed creation your glory shall display.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Candle of Love

Elder Ed Keelen and Cathy Keelen

*CAROL # 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

verses 1, 2, 6, 7

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appears. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily: to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Elder Janna Simon

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we confess that we are rushing headlong into Christmas. It's only days away and we still have so much to do. Our preparations are far from complete, and our bodies are beginning to weary. Yet, You have poured upon us blessing after blessing, daily reminding us of your love and presence. Give us patience. Slow us down. Remind us of the ways in which you are present with us in the love and compassion that is brought to all. Forgive us, we pray. Make us truly ready to receive your love and the gift of the Christ Child. AMEN.

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The light of God's love shines upon each of us in the gift of God's love, Jesus Christ. This is given for you. Rejoice! You are loved by God, now and forever. AMEN.

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Christmas Play

We invite children ages 4k - 4th grade to sit in the "Children's Corner" after the "Children's Message." An adult will be sitting with the children, and age appropriate activities will be provided for children that go along with worship. Parents please pick up your children after the service.

CAROL # 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

verse 1

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.

CAROL # 115

Away In a Manger

verse 1

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

CAROL # 113

Angels We Have Heard On High

verse 1

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing over the plains, and mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

CAROL # 151

We Three Kings

verse 1

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and mountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star. O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

CAROL # 134

Joy to the World

verse 1

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Jana Light Creighton

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 7:10-16
Matthew 1:18-25

MESSAGE

God with Us

OFFERING Offerings may be placed in the large wooden boxes with crosses at the main exit of the lobby.

To give online, text Sevenoaks to 73256 or use the SOPC website with this link:

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

OFFERTORY

Good Christians All, Rejoice
Piano & Organ Duet

Lani Smith

*CAROL # 147

The First Nowell

verses 1,2, 6

The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was do deep.

Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. Refrain

Then let us all with one accord sign praises to our heavenly Lord, that hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our life hath bought. Refrain.

LITANY

SOPC Youth

*CAROL # 133

O Come All Ye Faithful

verse 1

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! Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

LITANY

SOPC Youth

*CAROL 133

O Come All Ye Faithful

verse 3

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all 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!

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

SOPC Youth

Reader 1: Place your trust in God, for God is with you.

Reader 2: Listen carefully for God's loving whisper in this time--the words will give you healing and hope.

Voice: Go in peace and may God's peace always be with you. AMEN.

*POSTLUDE

Unto us a Child Is Born

Lani Smith

Sunday, December 18

Counters: Guy San Fratello, Judy Barnes
Usher: Guy San Fratello
Greeters: Sue Kesterson, Brenda Turner
Acolyte: Abby Dempster
Children's Message: Christmas Play
Children's Corner: Melanie Mixon

Next Sunday, December 25

Informal Christmas Day Service
Counters: Mark Wishart, Shelagh Wirth

STAFF

Senior Pastor: Rev. Jana Creighton
jana@sopc.net
Mrs. Shelagh Wirth, Volunteer Office Administrator: sopc@sopc.net
Director of Music Ministry:
Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington sopcmusic@gmail.com
Accompanist: Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Building Superintendent: Mr. Karl Thompson
kthompsonsc@yahoo.com
Volunteer Financial Administrator:
Mrs. Sharon Staton sharon@sopc.net
Nursery Coordinator: Mrs. Amy Schwartz

SESSION MEMBERS

* indicates chair

Clerk of Session: Polly Robinson

Class of 2023:

Karan Bundrick - Worship
Mark Dillard - Congregational Care*
Banks Robinson - Fellowship*
Mark Wishart - Fellowship

Class of 2024:

Hal Bowman - Administration/Reshape
Richard Brinkley - Building & Grounds
Guy San Fratello - Buildings & Grounds*

Class of 2025:

Fred Holbrook - Administration*
Ed Keelen - Christian Education*
Sharon Staton - Missions*
Sharon Watkins - Missions

ReShape Coordinator: Hal Bowman

Trustees: Jim Wilhide, Sue Kesterson, Frank Sheppard

Treasurer: Hal Bowman

Presbyterian Women Moderator (SOPW) -
Mary Johnson

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday - 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

This week at SOPC:

Sunday, December 18, 2022

9:45 am - Adult SS Class-in-person & zoom
Children & Youth SS
3:30 - 5:30 pm - Love Revolution
4:00 pm - Youth - McGregor

Monday, December 19, 2022

7:30 pm - NANA

Tuesday, December 20, 2022

9:30 am - Staff meeting
7:00 pm - Yoga - FH
7:30 pm - NANA

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

5:45 pm - NAMI - Pavilion
6:30 pm - Choir Practice
7:30 pm - NANA

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Friday, December 23, 2022

6:45 am - Lanterns

Saturday, December 24, 2022

5:15 pm - Musical Prelude
5:30 pm - Christmas Eve Worship Service

PLEASE NOTE THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2022 & MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 2023

Stay connected! If you would like to receive emails and/or texts from SOPC, please text the letters SOPC to the number 84576.
If you have information to be included in the weekly bulletin or newsletter, please have it to the church office (sopc@sopc.net) no later than 10:00 am Tuesday the week of publication. Thank you!

LIKE US ON...



Sevenoakspc sevenoakspresbyterian

4 WAYS TO GIVE!

 IN PERSON	 BY MAIL	 ONLINE	 BY TEXT
Offering baskets	530 St. Andrews Rd. Columbia, SC 29210	Sopc.net	Text 73256 to SEVENOAKS

**530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210
803-772-1761**

Welcome

Masked and Socially distanced seating: There are two pews marked as reserved in the sanctuary to the far right front close to the side exit for those preferring masking and social distancing. Masks are available in the narthex. See an usher for assistance.

Hearing impaired equipment available in the narthex. Please ask an usher for assistance.

Nursery: A nursery is available in Building A during Sunday School and Worship for ages 0 - 4. If you have any questions please see any of our volunteers with a name badge in the Narthex. PLEASE NOTE: NO Nursery Christmas Day.

Worship bags: Parents can pick up worship bags in the Children's Corner before the worship service, for ages 3 – 5th grades. (sanctuary near the restrooms).

Guests are invited to stop by the Guest Table in the narthex. Please leave your information, when you take a goody bag, as a reminder of God's love.

Flowers: The poinsettia's in worship today will adorn our church through the Christmas holiday. If you purchased a poinsettia, your honorariums will be in the Christmas Eve bulletin and you may take your poinsettia home, if you wish, after the Christmas Eve service.

Music Notes: The prelude is an arrangement of a 7th century carol, "*Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light. O Christ, Redeemer of us all, we pray you, hear us when we call. When earth drew on to darkest night, you came, but not in splendor bright, not as a king, but the child of Mary, virgin mother mild. At your great name, majestic now, all knees must bend, all hearts must bow; all things on earth with one accord join those in heav'n to call you Lord.*"



December
Word of the Month
JOY

In our continued prayers...

Dave Allen John Anderson
Edith Blanchett Fran Brannon
Al Charles Joe Gause Jo Groce
Nealy Jordan Tish Lowe Jim Mullins
Rebecca Taylor Patricia Williams
Kirk Wirth Tara and John Whitfield
Our Ukraine Family
Daniel and Elizabeth Turk (missionaries)
Iglesia Presbiteriana de Nueva Paz, Cuba

If you would like someone to be added to the prayer list please call or email the church office.

Announcements

Please let us know you are here today by scanning the QR code using your phones camera and include your name and those who attended with you in the link.



Love Revolution: You are invited to bring a dish and come from 3:30 - 5:30 pm for fellowship & to serve our neighbors in Christ. We need you!!!

Year End Contributions: Charitable contributions to SOPC must be received by the end of the day on Saturday 12/31/22, in order for them to be included on the 2022 Giving Statement, which can be used for verification for the IRS. Contributions can be left in the church's mailbox, as items will fall down into a locked box. If the contribution is mailed, it must be post marked by 12/31/22. Checks, cash or other property received after 12/31/22, unless postmarked by that date, will be included in 2023 income and noted on the Contributor's 2023 giving statement. Please contact Sharon Staton with questions.

Youth meets at McGregor Presbyterian Church, 6505 St. Andrews Road, tonight, December 18 at 4 pm for an outside caroling event, wrapping and dinner. See you there!

The Friendly Beasts Advent Adventure is over, however you can still donate to the Carolina Wildlife via the link info@carolinawildlife.org. Thank you for your support.

Big Thank You to the Advent Adventure volunteers and Janice Holbrook for leading today's play.

Christmas Joy Offering will be collected today, December 18, and next Sunday. Information flyers are in the narthex.

Interested in working in the Clothing Closet? There will be a training session Sunday, January 8 @ 3 pm. Join us in Bldg. B, 1st floor.

ReShape The Session has approved the members of our new ReShape Adapting Group. This group was established by the Session to serve as our "forward thinking" group to look at trends and ensure that our ministry guide is kept current and relevant to our rapidly changing culture. The members are: Ed Keelen, Chair, Judy Barnes, Kathy Morganelli, Ben Smith, Elizabeth Taylor and Jim Rowell (Trinity Presbytery). A youth representative will be added.

Christmas Eve Service: Join us on December 24, 2022 at 5:30 pm. Starting at 5:15pm there will be special preservice music. Plan to arrive early to enjoy beautiful carol arrangements, and to prepare your heart to welcome Bethlehem's Babe.