Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church
and
College Chapel

SERVICE OF WORSHIP
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 19, 2021
11:00 a.m.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Let us remember that the Christmas heart is a giving heart, a wide–open–heart that thinks of others first. The birth of the baby Jesus stands as the most significant event in all history, because it has meant the pouring into a sick world the healing medicine of love which has transformed all manner of hearts for almost two thousand years... Underneath all the bulging bundles is this beating Christmas heart.
George Matthew Adams

THE GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRELUDE

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

(*Congregation and Choir sing together*)

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

One Voice: Our Advent journey has brought us here, to this day.
Many Voices: We have watched and waited together.
We await the birth of the Promised One.

(*The fourth candle, the Candle of Love, is lit.*)

One Voice: The God of Hope, of Peace, of Joy, of Love has promised to meet us here.
Many Voices: May God's love be born in us anew.
Glory to God on high!

(*Congregation and Choir sing together*)

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.

All Voices: Come, O God of love, and be Emmanuel,
God with us and for us.

***HYMN** **"**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
Text: Latin Prose, pre-9th century
Music: Plainsong; adapted by Thomas Helmore, 1852
VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Root of Jesse,
free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save
and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, thou Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)**

Living and eternal God, you have sent us One who has taken on human flesh to show us who you are, and what your love is like. Yet we sometimes close our doors to him, afraid to give him room in our hearts. We limit you, and limit ourselves, by believing only in what we can understand. Inspire us to believe, like Joseph, even when we do not understand. Lift us by your Spirit to join with angelic hosts in anthems of hope and peace, joy and love, brought to us by the birth of Jesus the Christ. Amen (*Silent prayer . . .*)

***THE WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

One voice: God's amazing love is filled with grace, we are forgiven.
Many voices: By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are loved forever.

THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

THE ANTHEM "Of the Father's Love Begotten"
Arranged by David Willcocks

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the world from chaos rose,
He is Alpha: from that Fountain all that is and hath been flows;
He is Omega, of all things yet to come the mystic Close,
Evermore and evermore.

By his word was all created He commanded and 'twas done;
Earth and sky and boundless ocean, universe of three in one,
All that sees the moon's soft radiance, all that breathes beneath the sun,
Evermore and evermore.

He assumed this mortal body, frail and feeble, doomed to die,
That the race from dust created might not perish utterly,
Which the dreadful law had sentences in the depths of hell to lie,
Evermore and evermore.

Sing, ye heights of heav'n, his praises; angels and archangels, sing!
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful, let you joyous anthems ring,
Ev'ry tongue his name confessing, countless voices answering,
Evermore and evermore.

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS Matthew 1:18-25

THE SERMON **Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt**
Christmas: The One Thing It's Not

***HYMN 93** "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"
Text by Georg Weissel, 1642
Music: *Musica Sacra*, C. 1778
TRURO

THE ADVENT AFFIRMATION (Unison)

We believe in God,
who had the wild idea of becoming one of us.
We believe in Jesus,
who restricted himself to Mary's womb for a while.
We believe in the Holy spirit,
who overshadowed Mary.
We believe in the incarnation of God.

We believe that God's Spirit is alive within us.

We believe still believe, always and in spite of everything,
that God is Emmanuel, that God was with us then, and that God is with us now.

James Hawes (adapted)

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

***HYMN 119** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"
Text by Charles Wesley, 1739
Music by Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. William Cummings, 1855
MENDELSSOHN

***THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***THE POSTLUDE**

*Please stand as you are able

CHAPEL STAFF
Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt, Minister
Joel P. Rogers, Music Director, Organist
Donna Eagle Joslin, Church Administrator
Leslie Sayyar, Brent Roberts Treasurers
Barbara Escalante, Bookkeeper

Liturgist: Tess Newman
Advent Candle Lighters: Corise & Bob Gambrell
Elder of the Day: Susan Daugherty

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THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS GO OUT TO: Shane Reece, Nancy Garrison's son; Rachel Sparling and family, on the death of her sister-in-law Christie Sparling; Gina Marvin; Salyna Morgan; Donna Eagle Joslin and family; Erika Lytle; Jackie Ligon Cole; Rick Garrison; Doug Bradley; Fran Roberts' sister-in-law, Linda Briggs; Flo Bishop; Jon Hettrick and his family; Jon's mother, Marjorie Hettrick; Mark Laabs, friend of the Griswolds; Kim Reece, daughter of Nancy and Rick Garrison, and Pat Crumpler.

OFFERING We will not receive a formal offering today but offering plates are available for your offering and commitment cards.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING The Christmas Joy Offering reflects the promise that God is with us. Fifty percent of your generous gifts to this offering assist current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs. The other fifty percent makes it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. We will be collecting this special offering today December 19, and Dec. 26. Please make checks out to WWPC with Christmas Joy on the memo line. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS Our special Candlelight service will begin at 8:00 pm in the Chapel on Christmas Eve. Join us for this cherished event and bring your visiting family members with you! All are welcome.

SVCM NEEDS Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry needs your help with Fall/Winter children's clothing. Drop off Monday-Friday from 9:00-3:00. Need: Baby wipes, blankets (new or gently used), winter coats, sheets and towels and washcloths, laundry detergent, cat and dog food.

KENTUCKY DISASTER RELIEF The people of Kentucky have been hit very hard by a series of tornadoes. If you would like to support the disaster relief effort there, make your check payable to WWPC and note "Kentucky Disaster Relief" on the memo line. We will pass 100% of these funds on to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. You can also give directly to PDA through our website, or through theirs. (Just Google Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.)

END OF YEAR GIFTS: To have your gifts counted as 2021 income, you must postmark your checks (or deliver them to the church) by December 31. For online gifts, the Presbyterian Foundation must process the payment by December 31.

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December 19, 2021
Forth Sunday of Advent

101 Chapel Lane ~ Swannanoa, NC 28778

(828) 298-9092

www.warrenwilsonchurch.org

At Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church we are mothers and fathers, single and married, gay and straight, young and old, black and white, prosperous and poor, uncertain and sure, broken and whole - and everything in between. Together we are the many faces of humanity, yet as a joyful, caring and loving community of faith, we are one in Christ!