

# Concord Presbyterian Church

SHOWING UP, WITH GOD'S LOVE



HANGING OF  
THE GREENS

# WELCOME

One: Sojourners of faith, today we begin the journey to Bethlehem, to the city called "House of Bread."

**All: We take one step toward Christmas, the first step of many. Let this journey transform us from beginning to end.**

One: Whether your belly is full or empty, whether your heart is broken or whole, look toward the manger, toward the stars over the city of David, and find hope.

**All: We look with hope because Christ is coming to fill hearts and satisfy bellies with goodness and peace.**

One: Come, let us worship as we journey to the House of Bread where our Brother and Friend will be born.

**All: Glory to God, there is hope today. Let us worship!**

One: Join me in prayer... Amen.



1. He came down that we may have love;  
 he came down that we may have love;  
 he came down that we may have love;  
 hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.

## INTRODUCTION TO ADVENT

The season of Advent expresses hope and expectation for both the first and second coming of Christ. Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. During the Advent season, Christians get ready on every level of life to remember the great day on which we celebrate our Savior's birth.

## CANDLES

John 8:12

As we light these candles, we symbolize Christ's coming in the world of sin and evil, war and strife, stress and turmoil, suffering and death. Christ is the Light which enters the Darkness.

ANTHEM *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Concord Choir

## ADVENT WREATH

Advent reminds us that there is still much darkness. It is a darkness made up of sin, evil, ignorance, hate, and pride. To remind ourselves of the growing power of Christ the Light of the world, Christians have long made and used Advent wreaths. The Advent wreath is covered with evergreens, symbolizing eternal life. It is also in the form of a circle, with no beginning or end. Our life with God is everlasting.

## ADVENT WREATH CANDLES

The three purple candles symbolize the coming of Christ from the royal line of David, through his earthly father, Joseph, and in contemporary days, we use the purple candles to signify hope, love and peace.

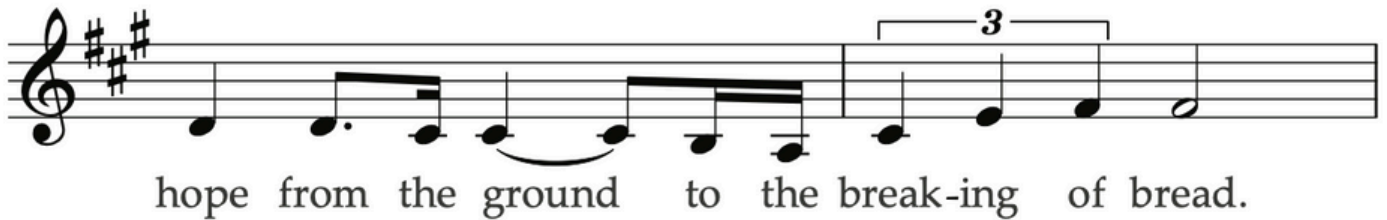
The single pink candle symbolizes joy and is lit on the third Sunday of Advent.

\*HYMN *This Little Light of Mine*

## ADVENT WREATH

\*HYMN *From the Manger*

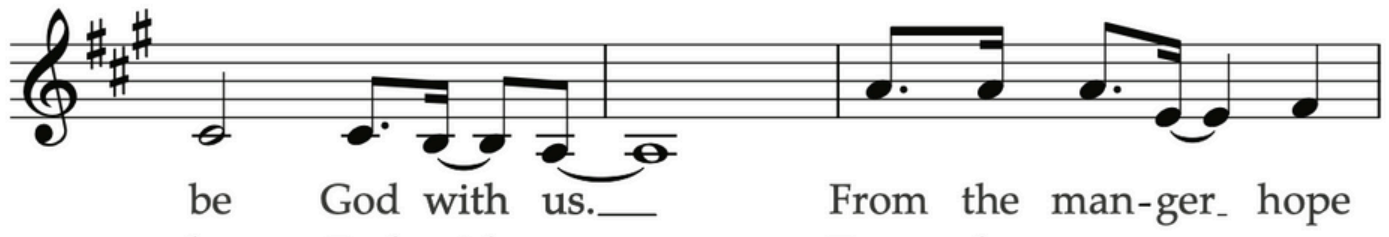
1. A quiet town called House of Bread,  
a new-born baby falls asleep;  
a bed of hay beneath his head,  
Immanuel begins to dream.  
For all creation to be fed;



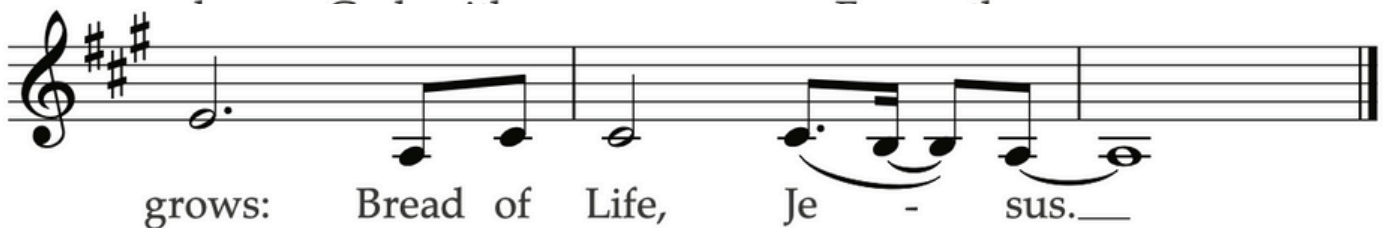
hope from the ground to the break-ing of bread.



From the man - ger\_ hope grows; he will



be God with us.\_ From the man-ger\_ hope



grows: Bread of Life, Je - sus.\_

## EVERGREENS

Evergreens have long been considered a symbol of eternity, like God's everlasting nature. Ancient people viewed evergreen with awe and wonder because of its changeless nature.

\*HYMN

*Love Has Come*

#110

# THE CHRISMON TREE

A Chrismon tree has been a part of this sanctuary for many years. Chrismon trees are a popular variation of the Christmas tree developed by Frances Kipps Spencer, a member of the Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia. She originated the concept in 1957 when she set out to create decorations appropriate for a church's Christmas celebrations. The ornaments she created using leftover supplies used for wrapping Christmas presents quickly became popular, so Spencer began creating additional ornaments and wrote a series of how-to books.

The Chrismon tree is highly symbolic, conveying the life of Christ and the meaning of Christmas through commonly found items and easily understood symbols borrowed or modified from other sources. The tree is decorated with traditional and modified ancient Christian symbols, called Chrismons. The word "Chrismon" comes from a combination of "Christ's Monograms." Chrismons are usually handmade by members of local congregations in colors of white and gold. Many of our Chrismons have been made and remade over the years by members of our church.

## TREE LIGHTS

Small white lights are used on our tree, first to represent each person who makes up the Body of Christ at Concord Presbyterian Church, and to remind us by working together, as do all of these lights, we can shine as brightly in our city as a light of Christ. As we turn on the lights of this tree, may should be reminded of the love of our church family and the love of God who loves us unconditionally.

\*HYMN

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

#88, vs. 1

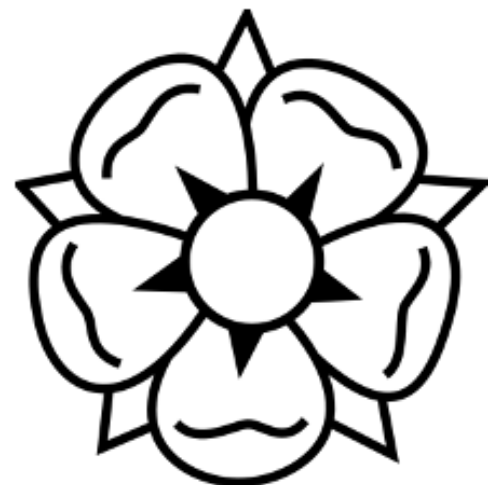
## THE FISH

The FISH is the most ancient symbol for our faith, and was used as an easily recognized secret sign by early Christians.



## ROSE

The CHRISTMAS ROSE symbolizes the Nativity of our Lord. Isaiah prophesized that "the dessert would blossom as the rose."





## SCALLOP SHELL

The SCALLOP SHELL symbolizes baptism into Christianity. In ancient times shells were used to scoop water from the streams to pour over the people being baptized.



## IHS

IHS, is related to an abbreviation for the Greek word for Jesus



## CHI RHO

CHI (pronounced Ki, as in rhymes with tie) and RHO (pronounced row) is one of the earliest forms of a symbol for Christianity. It is formed by superimposing the first two letters in the Greek spelling of the word Christ, chi and rho.



## BUTTERFLY

The butterfly is a symbol of Christ's resurrection and eternal life.



## ANGELS

Angels are traditionally placed at the top of Christmas trees to represent their role in the birth of Jesus.



\*HYMN

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

#88, vs. 3

## THE LATIN CROSS

The Latin cross was glorified in the early church because Jesus' crucifixion did not end his life. Jesus showed us that he was raised from the dead, and we too, will have everlasting life.



## THE CROSS OF TRIUMPH

The CROSS OF TRIUMPH, also known as the Cross of Victory or the Cross of conquest, is composed of a Latin Cross on a globe, symbolized Christ over the world.



## THE CIRCLE CROSS

The Circle and Cross has a circle representing eternal life with no end or beginning. Combined with a Latin Cross it tells us that Jesus died that we might live.



## THE JERUSALEM CROSS

The Jerusalem Cross has four small crosses representing the four gospels and the spread of the gospels to the four corners of the earth. The large center cross represents the



## THE CELTIC CROSS

The CELTIC CROSS is sometimes called the Irish Cross, Cross of Iona, wheel Cross or wedding cross. It has a circle signifying eternity around the middle part of the cross



\*HYMN

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*  
*Choir*

#88, vs. 4

## THE STAR OF DAVID

The Star of David, is formed by superimposing two equilateral triangles on one another, and is a symbol of creation. This star represents our Lord whose family lineage was from King David, through Joseph, who raised Jesus as his own son.



## THE EPIPHANY STAR

has five points and refers to the revelation of Jesus as the Son of God. Peter also speaks of the morning star rising in our hearts and represents the wondrous star that guided the magi long ago to the manger in Bethlehem.



## OIL LAMP

The OIL LAMP symbolizes Christ, who is the light of the world.



## THE CROWN

The CROWN shows that through Christ, God will rule over the world, not through war and hatred, but through love and peace, and that love is stronger than hate.



## THE LAMB

The LAMB represents our Lord Jesus, as the sacrificial lamb for all our sins.



\*HYMN

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*  
*Congregation*

#88, vs. 5

## THE TRIANGLE AND SHAMROCK

Another symbol of the Trinity is the SHAMROCK, or three leafed clover.



\*HYMN

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*  
*Congregation*

#88, vs. 6

## CHRISTMAS BAUBLES

The round Christmas balls were first created out of blown glass in 19th century Germany. They were intended to symbolize fruits, like apples, and nuts, like walnuts, which were round, but also served as a reminder that, in the midst of winter, spring will return.



# OFFERING OUR TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE TO GOD

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

One: Let us affirm our commitment to and belief in the Christian discipline of hope. Like the pleasing aroma of a hot meal, as it is placed on a table of fellowship,

**All: We believe hope entices the people of God to come together in unity.**

One: Like the dreams of harvest that inspire the farmer to plant seeds in the spring,

**All: We believe hope emboldens us to plan and plant for the future.**

One: Like the insects who collect pollen and unknowingly fertilize the food for all of creation,

**All: we believe hope empowers us to follow our calling, allowing God to multiply our efforts when we are obedient to our calling.**

One: Like the instinct of animals who store and save for hard times ahead,

**All: We believe hope persuades us to anticipate and endure challenges that will arise.**

One: And when anxieties and circumstances overwhelm us, or we are tempted to fall into despair,

**All: We believe things can get better with compassion and imagination. This is hope. Amen.**

\*HYMN

*Light Dawns on a Weary World*

#79

CHARGE AND BENEDICITON

POSTLUDE

*Angels We Have Heard On High*

arr. Edward Broughton

# OUR LEADERSHIP

## CLASS OF 2024

JOHN ERVIN  
ERIC MILLSAPS  
SALLY WARREN

## CLASS OF 2025

TIM DONNELLY  
JOYCE ERVIN  
DELLA KINNEY  
THOMAS SETSER

## CLASS OF 2026

CHRIS HARRIS  
PAUL WOODARD

## ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SEASON TEAM

ERIC MILLSAPS

JOHN ERVIN

LIZ SETSER

JEREMY TROYER

## OUR TEAM

Rev. Elizabeth Troyer | Pastor  
[pastorliz@concordpreschurch.com](mailto:pastorliz@concordpreschurch.com)

Cyndy Sowder | bookkeeper  
[info@concordpreschurch.com](mailto:info@concordpreschurch.com)

Elizabeth Dobson | Music Director

Melissa Donnelly | Pianist

Samantha Dudley | Caretaker

## OUR VALUES

- Welcome and include all people, no matter their life circumstances.
- Empower all people to find and use their God-given gifts.
- Live lives of service to those outside our walls.

Concord Presbyterian Church  
3867 Taylorsville Hwy Statesville, NC 28625  
704.872.7344  
[cpcstatesville.org](http://cpcstatesville.org)



# THE GRAPEVINE

*Week of December 1 2024*

DECEMBER 1	10:00AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP
	11:00AM	FELLOWSHIP TIME

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DECEMBER 4	11:00AM	AFTER SCHOOL TEAM MEETING
	2:30PM	BLOOD DRIVE


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DECEMBER 6	5:45PM	CAROLING DOWNTOWN
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DECEMBER 8	10:00 AM	WORSHIP TWO CENTS A MEAL
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*December 20&21*

Save  
the  
date

Project Christmas is tentatively scheduled for the weekend of 12/20 and 21. If you have any input on those dates, please let a member of the Advent/Christmas Team (Eric Millsaps, John Ervin, Liz Setser, Jeremy Troyer) know.

SOME NOTES TO HELP YOU PARTICIPATE FULLY IN WORSHIP:

The \* symbol indicates to Rise in Body or Spirit.

We encourage worshippers of all ages to participate in the sanctuary. There are quiet toys and supplemental activities for young people in our balcony, and a nursery available for those ages 3 or younger.

Hearing assistive devices are available in a bin to the left of the main sanctuary doors.

Notes about the Worship Series: The people of Bethlehem found themselves in the midst of a world at chaos. Yet, throughout the Gospel stories, we find moments of Joy in the midst of the darkness. How can the people of Bethlehem teach us to find God's hope in a weary world?

## **Upcoming Volunteers**

DECEMBER 1 LITURGIST	Nicole Winterhalter
DECEMBER 1 FELLOWSHIP	Nicole Winterhalter

DECEMBER 8 LITURGIST	Jessica Wood
DECEMBER 8 FELLOWSHIP	

DECEMBER ELDER	Thomas Setser
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FOOD PANTRY

# wish list

## November

PAPER TOWELS TOILET PAPER CLEANING SUPPLIES  
PEANUT BUTTER JELLY CRACKERS  
CEREAL SMALL BAGS OF SUGAR AND FLOUR

SPAM OR TREAT SNACK ITEMS FRUIT COCKTAIL  
POPARTS CHEF BOY R DEE KNORR SIDES

next collection:

12/15

CAKE MIX AND ICING  
SMALL TURKEYS OR HAMS  
FOR THANKSGIVING



**DECEMBER 4**

**2:00-6:30PM**

*Red Cross Blood Drive*

**CPCSTATESVILLE.ORG/EVENT**

# Goodie Bags

The Pastoral Care Team is inviting the congregation to provide home baked goods for our gift bags to at-home members. Items like Banana Bread or Loaves are particularly enjoyed, but you can provide whatever you like!

Please have them to the church by December 15.

## Christmas Caroling Downtown 12/6; 5:45pm

Join with the Advent Team in spreading the joy of the season as we sing to passersby during the Christmas Celebration downtown.



Singing not your thing?

We will also be passing out candy canes and postcards advertising our Project Christmas offering later in the month.

Questions? Ask a member of the Advent Team.

# ANGEL tree FOR SCOTT'S

At the front of the sanctuary is a small tree. We invite you to take an ornament. Using the item on the tag as inspiration, by an item to help give a local Scotts Family a Merry Christmas!

Please return the item, wrapped and with the tag visible, to the tree by December 15.

## LESSONS AND CAROLS

Musical Offerings will be shared by the Adult Choir and lots of hymns will be sung.

Followed by a Covered Dish Lunch and a visit from someone special!

**December 15 |  
10:00am**



# Youth and Children Ministry Updates!



Sunday Fellowship is open to anyone Kindergarten through Senior in High School.

**NOVEMBER 24 AND DECEMBER 1 - NO YOUTH**

**DECEMBER 8 - CHRISTMAS CAROLING**

**DECEMBER 15 - THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING**

**DECEMBER 21 - CHRISTMAS LOCK-IN**

**We need help with dinner next semester.**  
Please look at your calendar and see when  
you might be able to help!

**Go to: [cpcstatesville.org/youth](http://cpcstatesville.org/youth) to sign-up**

**Subscribe to the  
Youth Calendar  
and Messaging:**



or stay up-to-date  
at  
[cpcstatesville.org/  
youth](http://cpcstatesville.org/youth)

# Watchful Hearts Await



Mark 13:33 • Each number represents a letter from the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the number to reveal the coded words.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
25	14	3	21	7	15	8	13	4	20	1	18	11	9	6	24	19	2	12	17	10	23	5	16	22	0

1. 20,7,12,10,12

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2. 10,2,8,4,9,8

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3. 15,6,18,18,6,5,7,2,12

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4. 25,18,7,2,17

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5. 5,25,17,3,13,15,10,18

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6. 1,9,6,5

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7. 17,4,11,7

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8. 3,6,11,7

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9. 2,7,17,10,2,9

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# Poinsettias



## **TO OFFER A POINSETTA:**

- Using the form in the bulletin, place the information in the offering plate

**or**

- Email the church office at [info@concordpreschurch.com](mailto:info@concordpreschurch.com)

## **T H E N :**

Bring the Poinsetta on December 22



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## **I am Offering a Poinsetta:**

(circle one)

In Honor/ In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor/ In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor/ In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor/ In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_