

Concord Presbyterian Church

SHOWING UP, WITH GOD'S LOVE



THE JOY OF BETHLEHEM

Advent/Christmas Worship

THE JOY OF TRUTH

DECEMBER 15, 2024

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 15 LITURGIST	Paul Woodard
DECEMBER 15 FELLOWSHP	Covered Dish
DECEMBER 22 LITURGIST	Joe Bottoms
DECEMBER 22 FELLOWSHP	Liz and Thomas Setser
DECEMBER ELDER OF THE MONTH	Thomas Setser

WELCOME

One: Have you heard the good news? A baby is to be born in Bethlehem, and his birth will bring joy to the world!

All: Jesus will be born to make all things new!

One: Have you heard the good news? God anointed Jesus to proclaim good news to the poor.

All: Jesus will proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind.

One: Jesus will set the oppressed free, and proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

**All: Let us worship with glad and joyful hearts—
Jesus will be born soon!**

One: Join me in prayer... Amen.

*HYMN

Angels from the Realms of Glory

#143,
vs.1,2 &4

TIME WITH CHILDREN

ADVENT WREATH

*HYMN

From the Manger



1. A qui - et town called House of Bread,
2. A star - ry sky breaks forth with light,
3. From grass - y field to Je - sus' side



a new-born ba - by falls a - sleep;
the an - gel says, "Be not a - fraid."
a hum - ble shep-herd runs back home.



a bed of hay be - neath his head,
Glor - i - a to the high - est heights,
For - ev - er changed one ho - ly night,



Im - man - u - el be - gins to dream.
hea - ven - ly hosts are sing - ing praise.
com - pelled to make these won - ders known.



For all cre - a - tion to be fed;
You'll find him as the an - gel said;
From pas - tures green will all be fed;

hope from the ground_ to the break-ing of bread.
 peace from the heav'ns_ to the break-ing of bread.
 joy from the fields__ to the break-ing of bread.

From the man - ger__ hope grows; he will
 From the man - ger__ peace grows; he will
 From the man - ger__ joy grows; he will

be God with us.__ From the man-ger_ hope
 be God-with-us.__ From the man-ger_ peace
 be God-with-us.__ From the man-ger_ joy

grows: Bread of Life, Je - sus.__
 grows: Bread of Life, Je - sus.__
 grows: Bread of Life, Je - sus.__

Preparing our Hearts to Listen

TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

One: Let us confess the ways we have opposed peace in ourselves and our communities, either through things we have done or things we have left undone.

SILENT REFLECTIVE PRAYER

God of abundant grace, in this season of Advent, we confess the times we've sought our own happiness or comfort at the expense of others. We have ignored others' needs and joys, overlooked the hungry, and forgotten true joy comes from sharing our abundance. We have forsaken the joy found in uplifting others and ensuring their needs are met.

Help us turn away from self-centeredness and toward a life of compassion and generosity.

Likewise, we confess the times we have neglected our own joy, treated ourselves unkindly, worked when we should have rested, abandoned the interests and hobbies we cherish, and served purposes that drag us down. Let the expectant joy of Advent inspire us to return to ways that bring us joy. May the world be fed with joy. Amen

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

***GLORIA** *On Christmas Night All Christians* #112,
Sing vs. 2 and 4

The Word of God

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

ISAIAH 9:2-7

HYMN *Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming* #129

ISAIAH 11:1-9

SONG *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* arr. Larson

Jeremy Troyer and Melissa Donnelly

MICAH 5:2-4

SONG *What Sweeter Music Can We Bring?* arr. Lightfoot

Concord Choir

LUKE 1:26-28

HYMN *Hark the Herald* #119

LUKE 2:1-7

SONG *Away in a Manger* arr. Lantz

LUKE 2:8-16

SONG *Where Shepherds, Lately Knelt* arr. Courtney

Concord Chor
Nicole Winterhalter, flute

ZECHARIAH 9:9-12; 16-17A

HYMN *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* #123,
vs. 1, 4-5

ISAIAH 35:1-6

SONG *Of the Father's Love Begotten* arr. Larkin

Liz Setser and Melissa Donnelly

Prayer of the People

*HYMN *While We are Waiting, Come* #92, vs. 1

THE PEOPLE'S PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN *While We are Waiting, Come* #92, vs. 3

OFFERING OUR TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE TO GOD

*Ways to Donate your Time and Talent are
found in the back of this bulletin*



MAKE A FINANCIAL GIFT:

- in the offering plates in the back
- Online at concordpreschurch.com or the QR code to the left

TWO CENTS A MEAL OFFERING

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

One: Let us affirm our commitment to and belief in the Christian discipline of joy. We believe joy breaks out when everyone is free and fed.

All: **We believe joy happens when we feel so thankful we could burst with excitement and gratitude.**

One: We believe everyone was made for joy, but life circumstances make joy more elusive for some.

All: **In all circumstances, we rejoice in the Lord while never forgetting the suffering of others.**

One: We believe the joy of the Lord may be found both on mountaintops and in valleys, in seasons of plenty and seasons of want.

All: Because of this miracle of joy, we do not despair, nor do we leave people to languish.

One: Let the people be joyful, not in spite of our hunger, but because we have fed one another with generosity.

All: Let the people be joyful when our tables are covered in love and liberation, when everyone has what they need. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*HYMN

Once in Royal David's City

#140

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



CHRISTMAS EVE

7PM;

DECEMBER 24

THE GRAPEVINE

Week of December 15 2024

DECEMBER 15	10:00 AM	WORSHIP FOOD PANTRY
	11:00 AM	COVERED DISH LUNCH
	4:30 PM	YOUTH GROUP
<hr/>		
DECEMBER 16	9:00AM	SHUT-IN BAG PACKING
<hr/>		
DECEMBER 19	6:00PM	PROJECT CHRISTMAS RUN-THROUGH
DECEMBER 20&21	5:30 PM	PROJECT CHRISTMAS

Project Christmas

DECEMBER 20-21
7PM - 8:30PM





FOOD PANTRY

wish list

next collection: 12/15

POPTARTS

KNORR SIDES

CLEANING SUPPLIES

PEANUT BUTTER

CANNED FRUIT

SNACK ITEMS

CRACKERS

SMALL BOTTLES OF OIL

BEEF STEW

JELLY

SMALL BAGS OF SUGAR OR FLOUR

KLEENEX

TOILET PAPER

CAKE MIX AND ICING

MAYONNAISE

It's that time of year! We need help filling Christmas bags for our homebound Church Family with holiday breads (pumpkin, banana, zucchini, etc) and treats.

Please bring the holiday breads and treats to the fellowship hall by December 15th. If you get your baking done early, you can put the baked goods in the freezer.

Also, if you bring your Christmas cards for our homebound and facility residents by December 15th, we will deliver the cards with the Christmas bags.

We plan to begin deliveries on Monday, December 15th. If you are available to help with deliveries, please contact Joyce Ervin.

Youth and Children Ministry Updates!



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

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 to sign-up

Subscribe to the Youth Calendar and Messaging:



or stay up-to-date at
cpcstatesville.org/youth

Midweek Devotion

Read: Luke 2:10 | Matthew 2:10 | Isaiah 9:2-3

As refreshing and unexpected as snowflakes caught on our tongues, laughter doesn't just lighten our spirits; it invites us to see the world through a lens of divine playfulness. Happiness is fleeting, but joy is a deep-seated feeling that comes from something bigger than ourselves. Joy remains even in the face of adversity, reminding us of the hope and love that surrounds us at all times and in all circumstances. Joy is a sacred invitation to lessen our self-seriousness and remember that the God of all things often subverts our notions of what is holy.

In our cold world, joy is a sweater we can wrap ourselves in, offering comfort and protection against the elements. If we refuse to wear the joy that Christ extends us, what does that say about who we find most important in our lives? It centers ourselves, not Christ. The One who is compassionate and knows every sorrow also knows we are not meant to absorb every ache of the world. A posture of joy releases control and allows God to be God. Yes, we must be present to the pain, but we are also invited to an invincible joy that is freely given.

When we let go of our self-importance and allow joy to cover our hearts with gladness and gratitude, we bring Christ back into the center of our lives. In scripture, joy and laughter are presented as responses to God's action and imperatives that invite us to celebrate the divine playfulness in creation. Consider the shepherds in Luke 2:10 and the Magi in Matthew 2:10. Profound joy punctuates their encounters with God. Their reactions to the news of Jesus' birth are more than moments of happiness. Their reactions are transformative experiences, theological revelations that invite them—and us—to view the world and our place in it through a lens of wonder and delight.



Glimpses
of Joy
this week



SOS WITH JOY!

Jesus was born to spread joy, and you and your partner will get to spread some joy by making as many patterns of it as you can! Using the grid, take turns writing a J, O, or Y in a spot on the grid. If one of you makes a JOY sequence, you get to highlight or circle the spelled-out JOY and take another turn. The game ends when the paper is filled with JOY!

WORDS TO CARRY

Write down three words from today's service on joy that you will carry with you this week.

ADVENT THREE

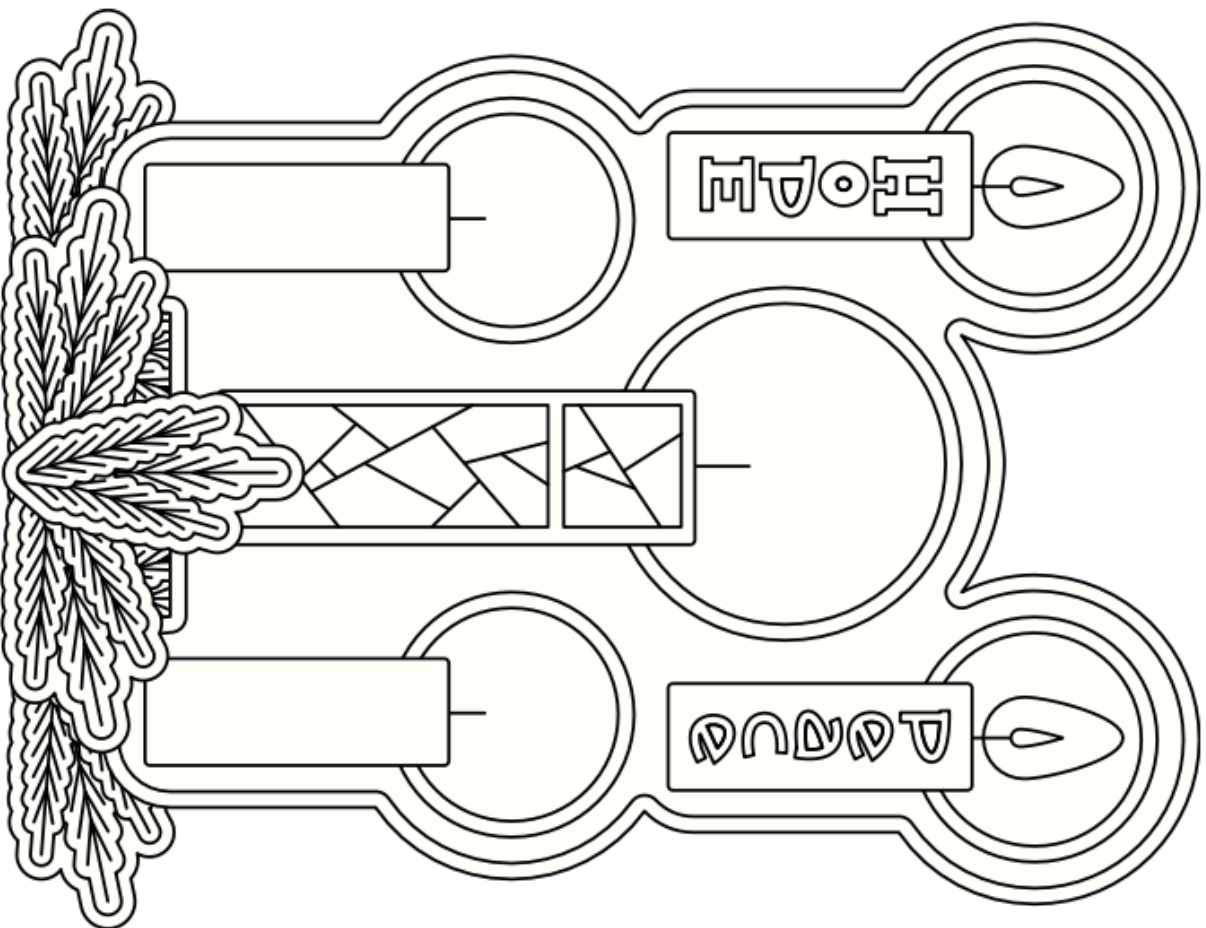
INTERACTIVE WORSHIP BULLETIN FOR ALL AGES



Copyright © 2024 Illustrated Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved. May be reproduced for congregational use provided each copy carries this notice: illustratedministry.com

COLOR the CANDLES

We mark each week of Advent by lighting a candle. Color the number of Advent candles that were lit today.



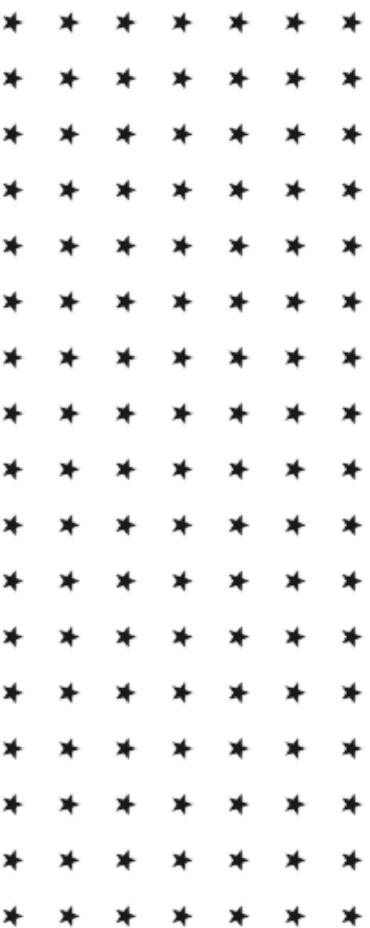
WORD CHAIN

We remember how our theme today of “peace” affects so many areas of our lives, from our bodies to our relationships to how we eat. Help peace *grow* with a word chain. Starting with the word “PEACE,” take turns with a partner by writing a word that *starts* with the *last* letter of the word your partner just wrote. Have fun seeing what can grow from peace!

PEACE

STAR BY STAR

Join the chorus of angels singing among the stars by connecting some stars yourself! This activity requires two players. Player One will connect two of the stars by drawing a line. *Note: The stars you connect must be right next to each other, vertically or horizontally.* Player Two then has an opportunity to draw a line connecting two stars. Continue alternating this play until a box is made by connecting four stars. Whoever finishes a box gets to write their initials inside the box. The game ends when all boxes have been made and the game is complete.



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

T H E N :

Bring the Poinsetta on December 22

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: _____



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

HARVEST SEASON TEAM

TIM DONNELLY

JOHN & JOYCE
ERVIN

DELLA KINNEY

OUR TEAM

Rev. Elizabeth Troyer | Pastor
pastorliz@concordpreschurch.com

Cyndy Sowder | bookkeeper
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