

LIGHT *of* COMFORT *COME!*

**WILLIAMSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 10, 2023**



PRAYER FOR PREPARATION

Loving God, you sent your prophet John to prepare your way among us, to call us to repentance and make our pathways straight. Strengthen us to live lives of steadfast love and faithfulness as we await the Messiah's return, that all may see your reign of peace through your just and gracious rule. Amen.

THE GATHERING PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

PASTORAL GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Shanna Due

MINUTE FOR MISSION: Christmas Joy Offering

Judy Austin

PRELUDE

O Come, Emmanuel
Aidan Stawasz, cello

Elaine Hagenberg

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

O come, thou day spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here,
And drive away the shades of night,
And pierce the clouds and bring us light!

*To all who are able, please stand as we offer God thanks and praise.

Bold type face indicates that the congregation participates in word or song.

Rejoice! Rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind
All people in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease,
And fill the earth with heaven's peace.

O rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE

Morgan Davis, Matt Davis, Chanley Martin

We gather, bringing the light of peace.
Within our hurt and healing hearts
Via unrelenting yet often blind pursuit
Escaping divided dreams and derision

We gather, here.

Our world is broken, but each of us is a person of peace
A person who shares peace with others through support and forbearance
Even as we ourselves seek and pursue that deep blessing of peace

We gather with peace,

Our passions held loosely
Our breaths deepen
As we see God's way more clearly
And continue our pursuit of peace for all.

So we gather to light a candle, because this might be the spark we need:
Peace, here, with us.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Advent Carol

Beth Kenreich



Peace, peace! Hear the good news: Je-sus our Sav-ior brings peace to you.



Peace, peace! Hear the good news: Je-sus our Sav-ior brings peace to you.

PRAYER OF ADORATION (Unison)

Precious Savior, we praise you because you are near. You have walked among us -- living as we live, knowing our pain, experiencing our joy. You chose to come close, to see us face to face. May we spend this season sharing this blessed message of hope with all we meet. Thank you for coming to us. Amen.

*HYMN 104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

WINCHESTER NEW

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: God does not want anyone to perish, but rather for all to come to repentance. Therefore, let us confess our sins, for God's salvation is at hand.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Faithful God, we confess that we have not led lives of holiness. We suffer from impatience, apathy, and greed; we have not been at peace. We repent of these offenses and turn to you in love. Forgive our iniquity and pardon our sins, that we may walk in righteousness to the glory of your name. Amen.

A TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER

*KYRIE

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major and 3/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
from our fears_and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest_ in thee.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Beloved, by the mercy of Christ, your sins are forgiven, for salvation is at hand for all who turn to God.

***GLORIA**

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

The image shows a musical score for the Gloria. It consists of three staves of music in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!". The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some measures containing rests.

(11:00) At this time any and all children through the 5th grade are invited to come forward for Sharing Faith with Children.

(11:00) SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN

Amanda Pine

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Unison)

Mighty God, send your Holy Spirit to speak peace, that the good news of this age may be proclaimed through your Word, which stands forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: *Mark 1:1-8*

This is the Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13 (Responsive)

Leader: Lord, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

**All: You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you pardoned all their sin.**

Leader: Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

**All: Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.**

(Psalm continues on the next page.)

Leader: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

All: **Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.**

Leader: The Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

All: **Righteousness will go before him
and will make a path for his steps.**

SECOND LESSON: *Isaiah 40:1-11*

This is the Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Comfort My People”

Rev. John E. Morgan

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 87

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

GENEVAN 42

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH (Unison)

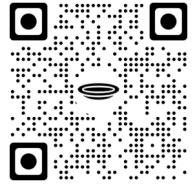
In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (Unison)

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.

OFFERING

Thank you for your continued faithful stewardship to WPC. May our offerings continue to help us be the light for our neighbors and our siblings in Christ all over the world. Offering envelopes can be found inside the friendship register book. We invite you to make your offering or pledge payment in one of the following ways:



- Place your offering into the plates as you exit the sanctuary
- Visit mywpc.org/offering or scan the QR code at the right to give online
- Mail your offering to the church office at 215 Richmond Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185.

OFFERTORY

I Saw Three Ships

arr. John F. Hudson

I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas Day in the morning.

I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas Day in the morning.

And what was in those ships all three, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day?
And what was in those ships all three, on Christmas Day in the morning?

Our Savior Christ and his lady, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day?
Our Savior Christ and his lady, on Christmas Day in the morning.

Pray, whither sailed those ships all three, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day?
Pray, whither sailed those ships all three, on Christmas Day in the morning?

O they sailed into Bethlehem, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
O they sailed into Bethlehem, on Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the bells on earth shall ring, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
And all the bells on earth shall ring, on Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the angels in heaven shall sing, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
And all the angels in heaven shall sing, on Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the souls on earth shall sing, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
And all the souls on earth shall sing, on Christmas Day in the morning.

Then let us all rejoice again, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
Then let us all rejoice again, on Christmas Day in the morning.

*DOXOLOGY

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL



Then let us all with one accord sing praises
to our heav-en - ly Lord, that hath made heav'n and earth of
nought, and with his blood mankind hath bought.
Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,
born is the King of Is - ra - el.

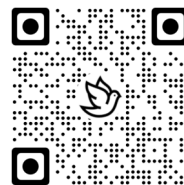
*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

*INVITATION AND THE LORD'S DAY GREETING

We are glad you are worshiping with us today. If you are joining us online, please remember to 'sign' our online friendship register:

- Click on the *Welcome to WPC!* Click here to sign the Friendship Register banner at the top of the website page
- Visit mywpc.org/friendship or scan the QR code at the right to access the online friendship register.



***HYMN**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

Arrangement by Dan Forest

Please join in singing verses 1 and 3



1. Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to
3. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a



set thy peo - ple free; _____ from our fears _____ and
child and yet _____ a king, _____ born to reign _____ in



sins re - lease _____ us; let us find our rest _____ in thee. _____
us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring. _____



_____ Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of
_____ By thine own _____ e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in



all _____ the earth _____ thou art; dear _____ de - sire _____ of ev - 'ry
all _____ our hearts a - lone; by _____ thine all _____ suf - fi - cient



na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart. _____
mer - it, raise us to _____ thy glo - rious throne. _____

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE**Away in a Manger**

MUELLER



Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I ask thee to stay close by me for -
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in
thy ten - der care, and fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

POSTLUDE**I Saw Three Ships**

arr. Elliott

The service of worship concludes after the postlude. The music can be enjoyed or used as an opportunity for prayer. You may remain seated; if you wish to depart, please do so quietly and without disturbing those who choose to stay.

∞ THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ∞

The Chancel Flowers are given today to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Marshall, husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather by Freda Atkins.

∞ THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY ∞

PASTORS

John E. Morgan, Pastor/Head of Staff

Pam Hrcir, Covenant Pastor for Congregational Care

MUSIC MINISTRY

Christopher Bechtler, Director of Music

Norman Elton, Organist and Assistant Director of Music

Carol and Junior Choirs directed by Rebecca Elton

Genesis Ringers directed by Chris Bechtler

Bev Whitley, piano

Aidan Stawasz, cello

Student members and guests of the Chancel Choir: Jackson Black, Joseph Lorber, Luke Mitchell,

Maddox Kromash, Leecy Silk, Josie Summers, and Jack Weisgerber

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS

Morgan Davis, Matt Davis, Chanley Martin

LITURGIST

Shanna Due

SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN

Amanda Pine

GREETER

9:30am Bill Riffer

11:00am Gerry and Jackie Ward

9:30am Rick Murray, Pat Murray, John VanAken, Rebecca Caprio

11:00am Bob Bolstad, Nancy Rose, Maxine Cunninham, Kirk Lovenbury

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOST

Cherie Wodarski, Kathy Lykins, Cheryl Roettger

***WILLIAMSBURG LANDING USHERS**

Ric Cheston

***WINDSOR MEADE USHER**

Paul Hotinger

AUDIO AND VIDEO TECHNICIANS: Jim Marshburn and John Schoenberger

*Satellite campuses

↻ SUPPORT FOR OUR MEMBERS ↻

- **Stephen Ministry offers help, hope, healing:** Are you going through a difficult time? A Stephen Minister can help. Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support to people going through difficult times or crisis. To learn how you can receive a Stephen Minister's confidential care, please contact pastor Pam Hrcir (phrcir@mywpc.org). Learn more about this ministry at mywpc.org/stephen.
- **In need of one-on-one prayer?** After the 9:30am and 11:00am Sunday morning services, a Stephen Minister will be available in the Church Library to talk and pray with you. No need to sign up. All interactions and conversations with a Stephen Minister are confidential.
- **Monthly grief support group** meets the first Wednesday of the month at 10am in room 220 on the second level. During this meeting we check in with one another and occasionally watch videos about a specific grief topic. All are welcome to attend.

↻ PRAYER CONCERNS, JOYS, & TOUCH NOTES ↻

To share a joy or concern, please visit www.mywpc.org, select GET CARE on the menu bar, then PRAYER REQUEST from the drop-down menu. Complete the form and click SEND REQUEST on the bottom of the form. Per your instructions, your request will be shared with our pastors, prayer chain or will be included in the worship bulletin. If the internet is not available to you, please call the church office (757) 229-4235 with your request. The Prayer Chain Coordinator is: Jo Ann Youhas (handbellringer@cox.net). Please notify Jo Ann when you would like to remove your name from the prayer chain.

If you are in need of a pastor after hours or on the weekend with an emergency request, please contact the Pastor-on-Call listed below for this week. To reach a Pastor during the week, please call the church office.

Sunday, December 10 – Saturday, December 16

Pastor John E. Morgan • jmorgan@mywpc.org • 757-908-7800

Please pray for:

- Melissa Flaherty, daughter of WPC members Linda and Dick Poinsett, Jean Hibbard, Bob Siclari, Ellie Thuermer, Custer, Jean Young.
- Those who have recently lost loved ones, those recovering from various surgeries and our sick and shut-ins who are at home or facility bound.
- Those serving our country in the military services and their families.
- Those affected by the wars in Gaza, Israel and Ukraine.

🌀 ANNOUNCEMENTS 🌀

- **WPC is decorated.** Take a few minutes to walk to the Narthex to see the beautiful creche and live tree, if this is an area you do not see on Sunday. Also, look in on Stevenson Hall to see the decorations there. This is the work of approximately 20 volunteers. PLEASE DO NOT touch any of the candles since they are ALL on a timer.
- **If you've not already done so make sure to submit your pledge for 2024. It's not too late!** Whether you've previously pledged or would be doing so for the first time, we really need all of our members to make that pledge commitment so we can continue the many wonderful Ministries of our Church.
- **Christmas Joy Offering:** This special offering provides care and financial assistance to pastors and church workers who face sudden and critical need. It also grants scholarships and support to schools and colleges and makes education possible for many communities of color. Christmas Joy Offering isn't just a program – it touches the lives of individuals. God has called us to care for one another in times of need. Please prayerfully consider giving generously to the Christmas Joy Offering. **Envelopes are available in the bulletin (please make checks to WPC with Joy Offering on the memo line) or you may contribute on the WPC website at mywpc.org/christmasjoyoffering**
- **Gift of Christmas 2023:** The Gift of Christmas is a wonderful way to experience the true spirit of Christmas Giving by supporting one of twenty programs helping folks in need in our communities. When you donate to one of these programs you will receive an Angel Ornament and a Card that you can give to the family member or friend that you are honoring. Look for details in the bulletin and also visit the Gift of Christmas table today or please contact *Karen Annoni for more information.
- **Blue Christmas, December 21 at 3:30.** Held in Stevenson Hall this year, we'd like to remember and honor your loved ones through a slide show. If you would like to participate, please email a picture of your deceased loved one by December 14 to Vanessa (vgamble@mywpc.org) or stop by and Vanessa can scan the photo for you. Come for a special service of remembering, recognition, and hope.
- **Door code for entry into the church:** If you have not received a code which allows you to enter the building, please contact Elbert Fleming (efleming@mywpc.org; 757-229-4325). Please use your door code whenever possible for church entry.
- **2024 Flower Calendar is now in the back of Stevenson Hall.** There are several open dates. If you would like to donate flowers on one of those Sundays, please fill in your name and your contact information. Also, kindly let *Ruth Cobb know you have signed up.
- **The WPC Book Club will meet on Monday, January 22, 2024, at 2 pm** in the WPC Library (and on Zoom) to discuss *Demon Copperhead*, by Barbara Kingsolver.
- **Highlights of the Heart and Hands of the Church - Making a Difference:** The Deacons and a loving cadre of volunteers have been busy sharing the love of Christ in so many ways lately. In November alone they assembled and delivered 37 flower arrangements, sent nearly as

many cards of support and encouragement, and showed Christian hospitality every Sunday at our legendary coffee fellowship, served at our Fall Gathering, and hosted 50 members at the Dining Together Pot Luck. In addition they continue to support memorial services and receptions and stay connected with our members at continuing care facilities. Deacons are the heart and hands of the church - what a difference they make!

- **Please read:** Please make certain you use the large BLUE recycle bin in the kitchen ONLY for items that can be recycled and NOT TRASH. There are several large trash cans available for non-recycling items.
- **Volunteers Needed for Homeless Shelter on Dec 21 and Dec 31- Jan 6:** WPC is hosting the Homeless Shelter this year. We have partnered with other Williamsburg churches since we last hosted in March 2019 (pre-covid). This year we are ready to host again. Other churches are still holding back so we only have four partner churches to help during our host week instead of our usual five. We will host the shelter from Dec 31 to Jan 7.

In addition to our host week, we will partner with The Life Church on Dec 21. The Life Church takes one of the nights when WPC hosts and we reciprocate when they host. We need volunteers to staff the shelter for four nights: Dec 21, Dec 31, Jan 1, and Jan 6. There are four shifts for each night:

- (1) kitchen volunteers to prepare and serve dinner from 5 pm to 8 pm;
- (2) check-in from 5:30 pm to 8:45 pm;
- (3) overnight from 8:45 pm to 7 am (the next day)
- (4) breakfast and checkout from 5:15 am to 7 am (the next day)

It takes 12 volunteers each night to staff the shelter and we are responsible for four nights. When another church staffs the shelter, a WPC church member sleeps in the church library or upstairs in the youth room from 10 pm to 5 am in case there is an emergency and the police or fire personnel need to speak to someone from WPC. We need four additional volunteers for Jan 2, 3, 4, and 5.

There will be a sign up and information table in Stevenson Hall after the 9:30 am service and at the rear church entrance after the 11 am service

If you can help, please contact *Joe Avellar.

- **Summer Meals for Kids Looks for a Leader:** When the 2024 school year comes to a close there will be approximately 300 children in the Williamsburg area who will no longer be guaranteed at least one meal a day. Therefore, along with the Greater Williamsburg area Outreach Ministry (GWOM) and several other churches, Williamsburg Presbyterian (WPC) once a week will prepare a meal for those children, which will then be delivered by Meals on Wheels. Meals are prepared at the Williamsburg Indoor Sports Center (WISC). In 2023, working with three other churches, we prepared meals for 275 children weekly on Wednesdays for 10 weeks during the summer using eight volunteers/week.

Six years ago Hazel Whitney introduced this program to our congregation and has been the moving force behind its success.

(The announcements continues on the next page.)

The time has come for Hazel to step aside and allow for new leadership to take over. Therefore, WPC is currently looking for someone to serve as our Coordinator who would:

- Be a member of WPC's Hunger and Homeless Team;
- Communicate with partner churches and with Meals on Wheels;
- Send out notices about the program at the beginning of the year;
- Use Sign-up Genius to secure volunteers;
- And stay in touch with partner Churches throughout the summer.

To consider serving as the coordinator then please contact *Jim Kirkpatrick to volunteer. Without a leader the children will go hungry.

***Contact information can be found in our online directory.**

You may also contact the church office at 757-229-4235.

More information about the events and announcements listed above can be found on our website at mywpc.org/news/ or on the church calendar.

☞ OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS ☞

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

- 9:30am **In-person Worship / Sanctuary; Live-Stream Worship; visit mywpc.org to access**
10:30am Fellowship Coffee Hour / Stevenson Hall
11:00am **In-person Worship / Sanctuary; Broadcast on FM93.5 The Burg and AM740 or wmbgradio.com**
4:00pm Williamsburg Choral Guild Christmas Concert / Sanctuary
5:30pm Youth Group /

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

- 1:00pm Caregiver Support Group / Rm 123
1:00pm Presbyterian Women's Circle 3 / Stevenson Hall and Zoom
5:15 pm Communications Ministry / Zoom
6:00pm UKirk Weekly Dinner and Dialogue
7:00pm Hunger and Homeless Ministry Meeting / LL010

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

- 10:00am Adult Bible Study: Christian Believer-Knowing God with Heart and Mind / Rm 220 and Zoo
11:00am Words of Hope: An Advent Grief Writing Workshop / Stevenson Hall
1:00pm Staff Mtg / Zoom
1:30pm Kirk Krafters / Church Library
6:00pm Stephen Ministry Meeting/Training / Rm 220
6:30pm Presbyterian Women's Circle 5 / Rm 222
7:00pm ARC / Stevenson Hall
7:00pm UKirk LGBTQIA+ Faith Affinity Group / Rm 123
7:00pm AA Williamsburg Big Book Study / LL009 and LL049

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

- 7:30am Men's Bible and Bacon Study / Stevenson
9:00am Sanctuary closed for weekly cleaning
10:00am Presbyterian Women's Circle 14 / Rm 220
6:00pm Genesis Ringers Rehearsal / Bell Rm
7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Choir Rm

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

- 10:00am Presbyterian Women's Circle 7/ Room 220
4:30pm Carol and Junior Choir Rehearsals / Choir Rms
5:00pm Worship Ministry Meeting / Rm 220
7:30pm Virginia Arts Festival - King's Singers Holiday Concert / Sanctuary
Doors open at 7:00pm

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

☞ NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP ☞

December 17, 2023 • Third Sunday of Advent

Light of Comfort Come!

The sermon "Testify to the Light" will be based on John 1:6-8.

*9:30am service is live-streamed on mywpc.org. **11:00am service is broadcast on FM93.5 The Burg and AM740