

DAVIE STREET

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

300 East Davie Street

Raleigh NC, 27601

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<https://www.youtube.com/@DavieStreetPresbyterianChurch>



- Davie Street Presbyterian

(919)834-8855



The Mission of Davie Street Presbyterian is to Spiritually Invite, Inspire, Teach, and Serve.

Welcome!

Blessings be upon you in the name of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ! We are a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and we welcome you into this community of faith. It is our prayer that having heard the Word of God you will go out and share God's love in service to others.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 10, 2023

11:00 A.M.

Second Sunday of Advent

Rev. Dr. Vanessa Hawkins, Bridge Interim Pastor

Rev. Ashley Anne-Masters, Guest Minister

Elder Carletta Moore , Liturgist

Dr. Candace Laughinghouse, Music Director

Our Vision – To be a welcoming, inclusive, and worshiping community that partners with others to serve the needs of all of God's people.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

Minute for Mission

Call to Worship (Isaiah 40:1-5)

Liturgist

One: Comfort, O comfort my people!

All: We welcome God's tender words to us today.

One: Prepare the way for your God!

All We gather for worship to prepare ourselves for Christ's coming.

One: Christ is coming! The glory of God will be revealed!

All: Thanks be to God for this good news!

Welcoming the Spirit “Prepare ye the Way of the Lord” **Hymn #254**

Lighting of Second Advent Candle

Shea & Aliya Epps

Prayer of the Day

Liturgist

Merciful God, you sent your messengers, the prophets, to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the

coming of Jesus Christ our redeemer, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

***Opening Hymn**

"We Shall Behold Him"

Hymn #602

***Call to Confession**

Liturgist

God promises forgiveness through Jesus Christ. On this second Sunday of Advent, let us approach God in humility and faith.

***Prayer of Confession (in Unison)**

Liturgist

Eternal God, John the Baptist prepares the way by calling upon us to repent. We have failed to share as we should. We have failed to honor the poor and the oppressed. We have failed to bear fruit worthy of your salvation. Have mercy upon us, God. Heal and forgive us so we can welcome Christ with pure and genuine hearts. Amen.

***Silent Confession**

***Assurance of Pardon (In Unison)**

Rev. Masters

With joy, let us draw water from the springs of salvation. Give thanks to the Lord! Call on God's name.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen!

***Passing the Peace**

Rev. Masters

Leader: Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God.

The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Liturgist

Open us, Holy One, to your Word and your way. Clear our minds of holiday distractions and busy tasks. Fill our hearts with the humility we need to hear and receive the message you intend for us today. Amen

The Scripture Lessons

First Reading**Isa. 40:1-11****Liturgist**

*The Word of the Lord
Thanks Be To God.*

The Gospel Lesson**Mark 1:1-8****Rev. Masters**

*The Good News of the Lord
Thanks Be To God.*

Musical Selection*“The Lord is my Light”***Sermon****Rev. Masters****Invitation to Discipleship****Rev. Masters****Hymn***“Oh the Glory”***The Prayer of Intercession**

And now, church, I invite you to join me in praying the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples saying,

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.

***Affirmation of Faith (Apostle’s Creed)**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Call to Offering**Liturgist**

We are called to be a living body, seeking God's will in the world. With joy and gratitude for all we have been given, let us offer our tithes and gifts to God.

The Offering**Offertory Prayer****Liturgist**

Gracious God, accept these gifts in grateful response for your generosity. May these gifts bring joy to those most in need of Christ's mission and ministry. Amen.

Offertory Response**SENDING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD*****Closing Hymn***"Soon and Very Soon"***Hymn #598*****Charge and Benediction****Rev. Masters****Meditation***(Please sit quietly and meditatively)***Postlude***"How Great Is Our God"**** Please Stand****Bold Print (in Unison)****(B) Bulletin Insert****ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF
DECEMBER 10, 2023****President of the December Birthday Club****Mrs. Bianca Howard****Please remember our Sick and Shut-in Members
and those who have lost loved ones.**

The Poinsettias are donated by the Floral Ministry Team.

December 24th worship service will be Lessons and Carols with a candlelight service at the end. We will need volunteer readers. Please let the office know if you can volunteer.

Examination of Newly Elected Officers will take place at the Session Meeting on Tuesday, December 19th at 7:15 p.m. (via zoom).

Installation of New Officers and Recognition of Outgoing Officers - January 7, 2023, at the 11:00 a.m. Sunday worship service.

If you took photos at events this year, including our church anniversary, please submit them to the church office. You can send a link or individual photos. This will allow us to have access to more photos for the website and of current events. Thank you!

Our 2024 per capita remains at \$30. Please try to make your Per Capita payment early in the year. If you have not already paid your 2023 Per Capita please do so before the end of the year.

The Mary Gladden Carter Circle 3 would like to thank you for your continued support. The advent season is here, and as a way of saying “Thank you” we are again providing an online advent calendar. Look for the weekly calendar in your email. It is called Apocalyptic Advent. Today’s devotional is included in the bulletin.

There will be a January Leadership Retreat on January 13, 2024. All leadership is expected to attend. We will discuss Matthew 25, 2024 calendar events, and committee responsibilities.

The annual meeting between elders, deacons, and trustees will take place during the January 13, 2024 Leadership Retreat. The retreat is scheduled from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided. All leadership officers and committee members are expected to attend.

The Intercessory Prayer, led by Maggie & Bill Thomas, will be on Thursdays at 7:15 pm. Participation is by Conference Call #425-436-6317; Access Code: 442765

All organizations are asked to turn in a calendar of your events, missions and projects for 2024. This information is needed to avoid duplication of missions and other projects. This is also an effort to let everyone know what's going on at Davie St. Please furnish this information whether you make a budget request or not.

Please continue collecting your Cents-a-bility Coins!

Angel Tree Donations Update - All children identified for the Angel Tree donations have DSPC sponsors. If you want to donate a gift/money to the effort, you can still do that by contacting Pauline Goza or Tonya McNeil Henderson to let them know which child(ren) you will help sponsor.

While there are different due dates for the Angel Tree donations to be submitted to the participating organizations, the Mission & Outreach Ministry Team will wrap gifts on Sunday, December 10, immediately after church service. If you want to help gift wrapping or need your gift(s) wrapped, please join us in the New Fellowship Hall on that date. Thank You.

Capital Campaign Updates

As of December 1, our mortgage balance is \$852,559.37. During the 3rd year pledge period, we are aggressively reducing this debt and you can help by participating in any of the following fundraisers:

Donor Tree: We submitted our first order of ten (10) leaves that have been sold. **The first ten leaves ordered have been engraved and are now installed on the tree!** We still have many leaves left for you and friends to purchase. For \$500, we will add donors' names to our *Tree of Life*, located on the south wall of the new Fellowship Hall entryway. Look for the first postings soon.

Stained-Glass and Room Dedications: We submitted orders for five new stained-glass dedications. There are still eleven windows left. Prices vary based on the window location. Opportunities are open to name rooms in both the New and Old Fellowship Halls. We have members who have expressed interest in dedicating some of the rooms. For prices, ask any member of the Capital Campaign Committee.

For more information: For specific rooms and windows and/or an opportunity to place your name on the *Tree of Life*, information sheets are on the table outside the Fellowship Hall or see a member of the Capital Campaign Committee.

EXTRA SECURITY

When you park at the church – or in any parking spaces visible to the public - **ALWAYS** lock your car doors and trunk. Do not leave any valuable items on your car seats or floor. If you must have them in the car, store them in the trunk of your car.

If you are experiencing an emergency, please contact the Church office. The office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00- 4:00 p.m. Please call before coming.

For additional announcements please see our church November 30th eNews.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

Mark 1:14-15

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

When we understand Jewish apocalyptic thinking, we better understand Jesus' message and ministry. As a Jew, Jesus knew well the apocalyptic texts of the Hebrew bible. Jesus' message was similar to John the Baptist's: the kingdom of God is near; repent and believe. But John preached of a future event. Jesus says the kingdom of God has come near, already beginning to be revealed through himself as God's agent.

Jesus' birth is the first advent. His ministry announces the second advent when he will return to usher in God's new heaven and new earth.

How do we live in this "in-between" time?

As followers of Christ, we, too, are God's agents in this world. When I imagine God's coming kingdom, I picture our beautiful earth renewed, our oceans clean, our air pure, plants and animals and ecosystems thriving. In this thriving creation, I picture humans living with care and respect for each other and our natural home. I picture us living in peace, honoring the dignity and worth of all God's creatures.

As Jesus proclaimed, God's kingdom is already here. We catch glimpses of it when we witness love, grace and acts of justice. But we have much work to do. In between these two advents, Christians must find and embody the qualities of God's kingdom and begin the work of transformation.
(cont ...)

For Reflection: Where have you witnessed God's kingdom already revealed? Where do you see transformative work that needs to be done? How can you participate in God's Kingdom work and Jesus' ministry?

Breath Prayer (Mark 1:5)

Breathe In: The kingdom of God

Breathe Out: has come near.