



November 30, 2025

**Welcome to
Community.**

*We are glad you are
here. While here we
hope you will feel
welcome and
find the service
meaningful.*

*Childcare (infants
through 4 year olds)
is available. Worship
boxes for younger
children to borrow
during worship are
located at the entrance.*

*Large Print bulletins
are available. Please see
an usher for assistance.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

– We Gather For Worship –

(Allow the opening music and prayer of preparation to turn your focus to God. Listen for God's spirit calling you into the Divine presence. Be still and know that God is God.)

PRAYER OF PREPARATION – *(pray silently)*

Loving God, this Advent season, take my hand and lead me on this journey to kneel before the Christ Child. When I am uncertain, guard my heart with your peace. When my steps falter, surround me with the strength of your Spirit. Guide me on this journey until I find the joy of your salvation. In the name of Emmanuel, God with us, I pray. Amen.

– We Are Called Into God's Presence –

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Emmanuel, God with us, you break into our world in ways that are loving and transforming.

People: In a tired and violent world, you are peace and you are hope.

Leader: In a hectic and busy world, you are calm and you are rest.

People: In a harsh and unforgiving world, you are tenderness and you are mercy.

Leader: In a cold and dark world, you are comfort and you are light.

All: During this time of worship may we be open to your presence so that we may be able to receive all that you offer for our lives. May your glory shine upon us and guide us throughout our days.

*OPENING SONG

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

**Lift up your heads ye mighty gates, behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here!**

**Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer, love and joy.**

**Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.**

– We Confess Our Sins –

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty and most merciful Savior, we come to this season of Advent with the brokenness of the world in our eyes, the cries of our fellow human beings in our ears and our own sinfulness in our hearts. We journey to Bethlehem, as those who need a savior. We come to see, to worship, and to be changed by the Christ Child. Forgive our sins. Help us to turn from the darkness of this world into the light of your presence. Help us to realize the joy of our salvation that is found only in you. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

RESPONSE TO THE PARDON

O Little Town of Bethlehem

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!**

– We Hear God's Word –

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

READING FROM THE WORD OF GOD – Isaiah 60:1-3

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Rod Stone

**How Does the Weary World Rejoice?
By Holding Onto our HOPE in Christ**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Leader: We light the candles on this Advent wreath acknowledging the coming of Christ. It is significant that the church has always used that language—the coming of Christ—because it speaks to a deep truth. Christ is coming. Christ is always coming, always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart.

Today we light the candle of Hope. With this light, we remember the hope that God gives to us, the promise of a Savior who brings light to our darkness.

In Isaiah 9:2, we hear, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.”

May this light be a reminder that God’s hope shines brightly even in the darkest places, guiding us as we wait in hope for Christ’s coming. We light the candle of hope, and dare to

*In the presence of a
forgiving God,
We become aware of the
ways we fall short
of God’s best hopes
for us, and ways we
have hurt others.
As you pray the prayer
of confession, think
how the words express
specific sins in your
life and the life of the
church. We turn to God
asking forgiveness.*

*Claim the truth that
through God’s grace
and Christ giving of
himself on the cross,
we are forgiven. Let this
truth set you free
from your sins so you
may be restored to
God and one another.*

*All children are invited
to come forward for the
Children’s Moment.*

*The Scripture bears
witness to the word of
God. Listen beyond the
human word for the
Word of God. Pray that
the Spirit will speak to
you through the text.*

*All Scripture is God-
breathed and is useful
for teaching, rebuking,
correcting and training
in righteousness, so that
the servant of God may
be thoroughly equipped
for every good work.
2 Timothy 3:16-17*

express our hope for peace, for healing, for justice, for compassion, and for the well-being of all creation.

People: **Come, Lord Jesus come. Come into the dark place of our lives, our communities, our country and our world, bringing the healing light of Christ. Show us how to hold onto our hope in your redeeming presence. Fill us with the hope that only you can bring. May we hold fast to your promises. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you. Help us to live as people of hope, sharing your light with the world. Amen.**

ANTHEM

Yahweh Hear Our Pleas

Words and Music:
Randy Vader and Jay Rouse

Chorus: Come Messiah, King of the Ages, Yahweh, hear our pleas.
Promised by the prophets and sages, come and set Your people free.
Come Messiah, King of the Ages, Yahweh hear our pleas.
Promised by the prophets and sages, Come and set Your people free.

Years of silence and waiting, endless prayers and tears.
Longing anticipation; Come and end our fears.

Chorus

Years of silence and waiting, endless prayers and tears.
Longing anticipation; Come and end our fears. Come and end our fears.

Come Messiah, King of the Ages, Yahweh, hear our pleas.
Promised by the prophets and sages, come and set Your people free.
Promised by the prophets and sages, come and set Your people free!
Set Your people free!

– Celebrating Christ's Life and Love –

*The small communion
wafers are free of gluten,
wheat, dairy, yeast, egg,
soy, nuts and corn.*

*The giving of an offering
not only supports the
ministry of Christ
but it is the symbolic
dedication of our life
and all that we have to
give to God in response
to his love. Remember
that all things belong to
God, and that we are
entrusted to use all
that we have to bring
glory to God.*

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

– We Share Our Gifts –

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

PRESENTATION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

FRIENDSHIP RECORD – (Please sign and pass)

OFFERTORY

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

In the Bleak Mid Winter

What can I give Him, Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise man I would do my part,
Yet what can I give Him, give him my heart.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING SONG

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

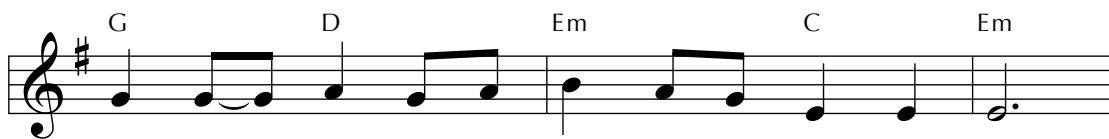
(Choir verse 1 and then all join)



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



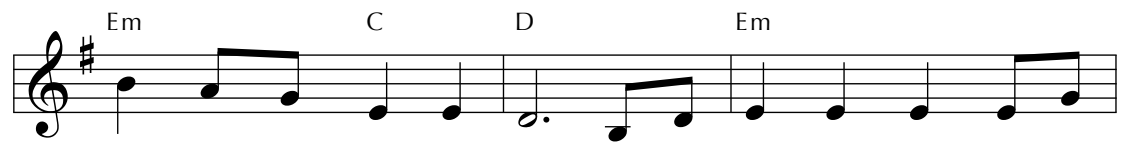
God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



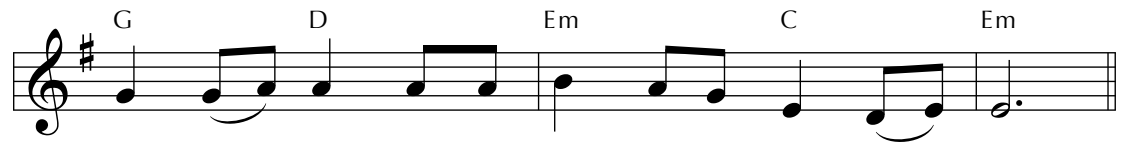
won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

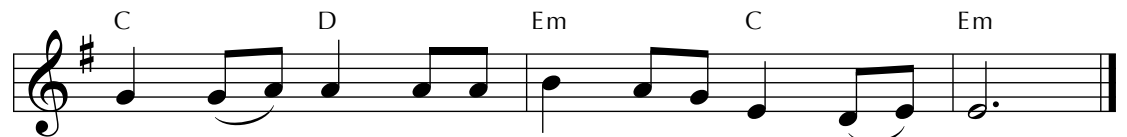
Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

– We Go Out to Be God’s Presence in the World –

*BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

The Postlude is considered the final Alleluia of Worship

*Please stand if you are able.

The flowers are given to the glory of God by Raul and Rosa Recio in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary on 11/29 and Dick and Olive Baird in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary on 11/28.

Accompanist: Ed Martel

Ushers: Cathy Hilton, Lorraine Minicucci, Char Popson, Robert Hobgood

Greeter: Marsae Stone

Audio: Scott Brewton

Holy Grounds: Herb and Shay Teese

*Our worship does
not end at the
conclusion of this
service. We go forth
to love and serve the
LORD in daily living.
In so doing, we seek to
fulfill our mission to
“love God and make
God’s love known”.*

Children's Church:

If you are a visitor here and have a child that would like to attend children's church they are more than welcome to join us! After the children's sermon, all children ages kindergarten through fifth grade are dismissed to go downstairs with the teachers. We have a snack, game, Bible lesson and a craft. If your child has any food allergies or other health/behavior concerns please come downstairs with your child and let the teachers know. We have visitor forms as well that are located by the worship boxes and bulletins. When church is finished please come downstairs to pick your child up. We also have a nursery that is available from birth-preschool age. Thank you!

Prayer from Our Care Team:

Each month, Pastor Meg and your congregational care elders, Patty Franklin, John Liles, and Cindy Ward, meet to pray through the requests that have been offered on our congregational prayer list. If you have new requests to bring to our team for prayer and care, please contact John Liles via phone or email: at (919) 623-5247 or johnliles822@gmail.com.

The Mission of Community Presbyterian Church:

"We exist not for ourselves, but to love God and make God's love known."

– Community Happenings –

Weekly Calendar

Sunday

10:30 a.m. Worship – Fellowship Hall

Monday

4:00 p.m. Designing Women – Great Room

6:30 p.m. Barbershop – Fellowship Hall

7:15 p.m. Troop 7G – Great Room

Tuesday

8:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast – Off Campus

2:30 p.m. CALL – Everette House

3:30 p.m. Brookside Tutoring – Fannie B. Gray Parlor

6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Pack Meeting – Fellowship Hall

Wednesday

1:00 p.m. Circle #1 – Fannie B. Gray Parlor

2:30 p.m. PAWS – Fellowship Hall

4:00 p.m. Dementia Care Partner Support Group –
Fannie B. Gray Parlor/Chapel

Thursday

10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Purls – Library

5:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal – Fellowship Hall

Friday

8:30 a.m. Prayer Garden

Saturday

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal – Fellowship Hall

Sunday (December 7)

10:30 a.m. Worship – Fellowship Hall – Music Sunday



Deck the Halls

It will soon be time to **DECK THE HALLS** of our worship space in preparation of the **CELEBRATION** of the **BIRTH OF CHRIST**.

This year, the first Sunday of Advent is November 30th. Traditionally, the following decorations are used to symbolically remind us of the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love Christ brings us:

Evergreens and Holly: Symbolizing the hope of Everlasting Life

White: Representing Purity and Peace

Purple and Gold: Acknowledging Christ as King

Lights: Representing the Joy of light overcoming darkness

Poinsettias: Representing the love and ultimate sacrifice of Christ
– *often given in memory or honor of someone.*

If you would like to make a gift to the Advent Fund in Glory to God, or in honor of someone please complete the following form and bring it to the office or drop into the offering plate by December 10th.

Given in Memory/Honor of: _____

By: _____

My check for _____ is enclosed (*mark for Advent Flowers*)
(\$25 suggested donation but any amount is appreciated)

– December Anniversaries & Birthdays –

Anniversaries

Jim and Stephanie Jenkins 12/15
Brooks and Katie Mays 12/19

Birthdays

Michael Jankowski 12/2	Theresa Rogers 12/13
Joe McMillan 12/2	Shannon Potter 12/15
Lorraine Minicucci 12/2	Natalie Baker 12/16
Caroline Brewton 12/3	Susan Brown 12/18
Bob James 12/3	Michelle Gray 12/18
Megan Petero 12/3	Jeffrey Lapping 12/18
Janice Ross 12/4	Sloan Kennedy 12/18
Alan Tucker 12/4	De Ammons 12/19
Wendy McMillan 12/5	John Bouldry 12/19
Sharon Berkshire 12/6	Juna Hobgood 12/20
Nancy Oakley 12/6	Delette Spain 12/20
Jon Minoff 12/7	Pat Marshburn 12/22
Jim Dalton 12/8	Michelle Liveris 12/24
Clay Petero 12/8	Jean Thomas 12/24
Jean Ackerman 12/10	Karen Lewis 12/28
Richard Coker 12/10	Peyton Burch 12/30
Ella Jacoby 12/11	Sydney Burch 12/30
Mary Beth Liles 12/11	Ruth Dees 12/30
Judith Robertson 12/13	Kelly Pritchard 12/31

– Contact Information –

Church Office: (910) 295-6848

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday – 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Friday – Closed

If you need a Pastor after hours, the following can be reached:

Rod Stone, Pastor: (910) 585-0828

Meghan Vail, Associate Pastor: (732) 804-4907

Mailing Address: Community Presbyterian Church • P.O. Box 1449 • Pinehurst, NC 28370

Location: 125 Everette Road • Pinehurst, NC 28374

www.communitypres.com

