

Remember ~ Renew ~ Rejoice ~ Receive

The Season of Advent at Georgetown Presbyterian Church



"Remember"

The 1st Sunday of Advent ~ Hanging of the Greens

December 3, 2017

Georgetown Presbyterian Church

December 3, 2017

First Sunday of Advent

10:00 am Service

Advent and The Hanging of the Greens

The **Hanging of the Greens** is a service celebrated on the first Sunday in Advent. This service finds its origins in the British tradition of decorating the home with wreaths, garlands, a tree, and lights for Advent and Christmas. In a church setting, the service not only readies the sanctuary for the celebration of Christ's coming, but also marks the beginning of our individual journeys of preparation for Christ's coming.

Welcome One Another, as Christ Welcomes You

Romans 15:7

Welcome and Community Sharing

Stewardship and Generosity

Treasurer Lee Turek

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you!

People: And also with you!

Leader: Let us greet each other in the name of Christ..

Prelude

Prepare the Way, O Zion! Swedish, setting by G.W. Cassler

Morning Prayer

Mr. Emil Schneider

***Introit**

Prepare Your Hearts (Sing Twice)



Pre - pare your hearts; get read - y for the King, Pre -



pare your hearts; get read - y for the King, Pre pare your hearts; get read -



y for the King. Get read y for the King to come! —

Behold, Now is the Day of Salvation

2 Corinthians 6:2

***Call to Worship**

- Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the birth of Jesus?
People: With banners proclaiming God's Advent in both meekness and majesty.
- Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the gift of Christ?
People: With wreaths of holly, ivy and ribbon, reminders of Christ's passion, death and resurrection.
- Leader: How shall we prepare this house for Christ's promised return?
People: With garlands of green, which speak of eternal life.
- Leader: How shall we prepare this house to acknowledge that, for many, this season is one of sadness intertwined with the joy?
People: With colorful poinsettias that honor and remember the saints of our lives and affirm God's presence in our winters.
- Leader: How shall we prepare our hearts for the approaching intimacy of our God?
People: By hearing again, the words of the prophets, the stories of the faithful and the trustworthy promises of our God.
- Leader: Parent, Child and Presence - One God in three intimacies - the One who came, the One who comes, and the One who will come again.
People: Thanks be to God.

HANGING OF THE PINE BOUGHS AND THE EVERGREEN WREATHS

- *Hymn of Promise** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Hymnal #154
Biblical titles for Christ used in this prayer-hymn are:
Emmanuel (God With Us), Dayspring, Wisdom, Desire of Nations.

***Restoring God's Image**

Prayers of Confession

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light . . . Isaiah 9:2

Emmanuel, God with Us,

Wow! It is beginning to look a lot like Christmas. And we are surely ready for some real Christmas spirit, Lord. It has been a long year for us, you know that. There have been changes and losses in our lives. The world itself is so full of conflict. Hate continues to rule the headlines. I get so frustrated, Lord; I feel so helpless and fearful. Yes, there have been good moments too; wonderful moments of joy in the midst of our worries, struggles and tragedies. Moments that are rays of light that vanquish the darkness and remind us of your Presence. Forgive us Lord, for losing sight of your Light in difficult times. Forgive us Lord, for losing sight of your Light when the songs, decorations and activities of the season, distract us from your gift. Forgive us Lord and grant that we may live in the Light that overcomes the darkness; the Light that will not be extinguished. Let your Light shine upon us, that we may be healed and made whole . . .

In silence, we open our hearts to God, as we stand in community.

Leader: Amen! **People: Amen!**

***Assurance of Pardon & Congregational Response**

Hymnal #157

This hymn originated in Korea. Translated into English, it has become a widely used meditative chant.

**Come now, O Prince of Peace, make us one body;
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.**

**Come now and set us free, O God our Savior;
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.**

PREPARING THE TREE OF REMEMBRANCE

The Poinsettias remind us that our separations are but temporary; that the day is coming when we will be reunited in the glory of God's heaven.

- Hymn of Affirmation** *The Day of Resurrection!* Hymnal #298
The Congregation is invited to bring forward a poinsettia plant to decorate our tree.

So We Proclaim; So We Believe

1 Corinthians 15:11

Narrative Lesson Daniel 3:1-30 Pew Bible O.T. Pg.#779

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

PREPARING THE ADVENT WREATH

Hymn of Proclamation *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* Hymnal #218
(Children are invited to play Rhythm Instruments as we sing)

Lighting the Candle of Hope Elder Class 2017

Anthem *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* Chime Choir

Mediation Remembering Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah Pastor Williams

PREPARING THE TREE OF HOPE

Hymn of Astonishment *Meekness and Majesty* Hymnal #97
The congregation is invited to come forward and hang a Moravian Star
or a Symbol of Christ on the Tree of Hope.

Be Doers of the Word; Blessed in the Doing

James 1:22, 25

LIGHTING THE WINDOW CANDLES AND THE TREES

Receiving God's Tithes and Our Gifts

Offertory *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Chime Choir

*Doxology *Doxology* Tune: *Emmanuel*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heaven-ly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Prayers of the People / **The Lord's Prayer** (Inside back cover of hymnal)

***Hymn of Dedication** *O Sing a Song of Bethlehem* Hymnal #242
"The light that shone on Bethlehem fills all the world today"

*Benediction & **Benediction Response** Iona Community, Scotland

Leader:	The Cross . . .	People:	We shall take it.
	The Bread . . .		We shall break it.
	The Pain . . .		We shall bear it.
	The Joy . . .		We shall share it.
	The Gospel . . .		We shall live it.
	The Love . . .		We shall give it.
	The Light . . .		We shall cherish it.
	The Darkness . . .		God shall perish it!

Postlude *Wake, Awake!* Setting by C. Callahan

Community News ~ December 3, 2017

WE ARE GLAD THAT YOU ARE WORSHIPPING WITH US THIS MORNING! Our Worship Leader is **Emil Schneider** and this mornings greeters are **the Davis Family**. Please register your attendance in the black community pads. Guests are invited to include contact information if desired. For information about joining our fellowship, speak with the pastor or call the church office at 856-6842. You may visit our Web Page - PresChurch.com - for continuing information about our congregation.

VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AND WEB PAGE regularly for continuing information about Georgetown Presbyterian Church. Every week our Bulletin is posted on the web page. Our page is found at: **PresChurch.com** and includes a link to our FaceBook page.

PRAYER REQUEST FORMS are located in an acrylic holder outside the sanctuary and on the table outside the office. You may place request forms in the offering plate, give them to the pastor or drop them by the office. You may also send confidential requests through our Web Page - PresChurch.com

~ Advent/Christmas Schedule ~

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH we celebrate the sacrament of baptism - twice! The Rev. Edee Fenimore will be our guest and share a dialogue sermon with Pastor Mike.

ON DECEMBER 17TH will celebrate Communion as a part of the Choir's Cantata Presentation, "Emmanuel." Following that service, we will have our December Fellowship Hour featuring two new children's books read by the authors!

ON DECEMBER 24TH, Christmas Eve morning will begin with a special 10:00am Service. Christmas Eve evening services will be at 7:00pm and 11:00pm. The 7pm service will involve our children; the 11 pm service will include the Lord's Supper. Both services will include congregational candle lighting.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7TH, The Tabatha Circle will gather in Tunnell Hall for a Christmas Celebration and lunch 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS: Please pickup your 2017 Advent Devotional this morning. Call the office (302-856-6842) if you would like additional copies to share.

ESTIMATE OF GIVING CARDS FOR 2018 have been mailed out to members and friends. Please prayerfully consider your support of GPC's ministries and return your card, either by placing in the offering plate or mailing into the church office by December 17th. Additional cards are available on the table outside the church office.

THE SOUTHERN DELAWARE CHORALE Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 10th at 7:00 pm at the Mary Mother of Peace Catholic Church, 30839 Mt. Joy Road, Millsboro. This "Lessons and Carols" will include sing along carols as well as selections from Handel's Messiah. Tickets are \$10.00 at the door.

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS CELEBRATING DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 3 Joshua Choudhary | 4 Ben Barron | 19 Justin Gulab |
| 19 Joe Smith | 24 Justin Illian | 27 Richard Hubbard |
| 28 Shawnee Armstrong-Hilliard | | |

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS CELEBRATING DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES>(*Celebrating 50+)

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 14 Earnest & Jamila Gulab (1974) | 14 Ashley Joyner & Ted Proseus (1996) |
| 19 Joe & Margie Booth (1981) | 27 Paul & Jane Pusey (1945)* |

If you don't see yours listed, please contact the church office at 856-6842 or Office@georgetownpres.com so we can include you!

Georgetown Presbyterian Church

Chartered January 27, 1860

203 North Bedford Street; P.O. Box 46 Georgetown, DE 19947



Office: 856-6842 / Pastor's Cell: 302-344-1912

or from a cell phone call - **pastor - (star,star, p-a-s-t-o-r) to call pastor directly

Church E-mail: Office@georgetownpres.com Web Page: PresChurch.com

Facebook page: Facebook.com/GeorgetownPres ~ for Current happenings and photos

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Worship Leaders and Staff

- The Reverend Michael Williams Pastor
- Mrs. Linda C. Wolfe Director of Music
- Mrs. Sallie Horner Co-Director of Music
- The GPC Chancel Choir. Music Ministry
- Mr. William Taylor Clerk of Session
- Mr. Lee Turek Treasurer
- Dr. Bobby Gulab Assistant Treasurer
- Mrs. Beth Garvilla Church Office
- Mr. Mark Amendt Building Service
- Mrs. Jennine Money Groene Ministry Candidate New Castle Presbytery

Session Elders and Commissioned Deacons

Elders serve on the Session for 3 year terms; Deacons are Commissioned for Specific Ministries

- CLASS OF 2017: Lucy Buchanan, Carolyn Green, Reginald Johnson, Sharon Lawrence.
- CLASS OF 2018: Peggy Hallowell, Darrell Moore, Lidle Stone, Bill Taylor.
- CLASS OF 2019: Bob Chudakewich, Rukhsana Gulab, Richard Hubbard, Chris Umsted
- ELDERS-ELECT (2020): Michele Fletcher, Earnest Gulab, Mari Ellyn Hellard, Amin Mall.
- DEACONS: Joe Booth (Personnel), Dora George (Hospitality), Mari Ellyn Hellard (Mission), Sharon Hubbard (Prayer), Justin Illian (Mission), Vicki Moore (Worship), Carol Ann Stone (Bereavement), Linda Williams (Mission)

The mission of Georgetown Presbyterian Church is to lead people to a deep and continuing relationship with Christ as we seek to become more Christ-like ourselves.