

ORDER OF SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2017

11:00 a.m.

WELCOME Glenn Patterson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER CONCERNS

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRELUDE "I Wonder as I Wander" Virginia Pillion

* LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH/CALL TO WORSHIP
[using Psalm 126]

Leader: God enters the wilderness of our world to proclaim the good news. God breaks through clouds of despair and sorrow to bring good news. God sends hope into the world and we have come to be witnesses of the light.

People: The LORD has done great things for us, and we are overjoyed... Let those who plant with tears reap the harvest with joyful shouts.

Leader: On this third Sunday of Advent, we light this candle, knowing the joy to come.

The first three candles are lit

Let us pray: **Speak to us once more your Word of truth,
that our lives may be filled with your joy,
in our worship this day, and forever.**

**All [sung]: "Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel."**

* HYMN NO. 230 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**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 Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at 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 Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERTORY

* CHRISTMAS DOXOLOGY (Tune: O Tannenbaum)
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, in every generation.
Praise God, all creatures here below, who gives to us salvation.
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Let all creation praise the Lord with love and adoration.

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

* HYMN NO. 2233 "Where Children Belong"
*This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the
worshipping throng. Water, God's Word, bread and cup,
prayer and song: this is where children belong.*

CHILDREN'S TIME Brittani Clayman

* HYMN NO. 218 "It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

TIME OF PRAYER

Call to Prayer "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Intercessory Prayer

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
AMEN.**

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 61:1-3; 11 Pew Bible p. 908-909
*John 1:43-51 Pew Bible p. 1290-1291

CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS IN SONG

Sing We Now of Christmas Traditional French carol,
Arr. Mark Hayes

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen Traditional English carol,
Arr. Philip Kern

A Celtic Silent Night Joseph Mohr and Franz Gruber
Arr. Patrick Tierney

Run to the Manger Victor C. Johnson
Some Children See Him Wihla Hutson and Alfred Burt,
Arr. Joseph Martin

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing Charles Wesley
and Feliz Mendelssohn
Arr. Joseph Martin

* BENEDICTION

* SONG OF BLESSING
O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of Angels;
O come, let us adore him. O come, let us adore him.
O Come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

* POSTLUDE

* Please stand as you are able

**Lectionary for December 24
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:47-55;
Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38**

**OUR VOLUNTEERS
Sunday, December 17**

8:45 a.m. Contemporary: Rev. Robert Countiss

8:45 a.m. Traditional: Glenn Patterson

11:00 a.m. Traditional: Rev. Robert Countiss

Greeters: David and Betsy Jones

Acolytes: Lucy and Carter Withers

Ushers for Traditional Worship: Team B

Offering Stewards: Roger and Ellen Reynolds

Flowers: Poinsettias

No Children's Church

Sound: Tanner Cook, Roger Edwards and Brent Treash

Photographer: Bobby Bolling

Communion is observed in the Contemporary Service
Our Communion offering is going to Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Sunday, December 24

10:00 a.m. Worship: Rev. Robert Countiss

Greeters: Marsha Demase and Diane McCormick

Acolytes: Josie Thiessen and Ellie Ruble

Ushers for Worship Service: Team C

Offering Stewards: Kenneth and Deanna Reynolds

Flowers: Poinsettias

No Children's Church

Sound: Tanner Cook, Roger Edwards and Brent Treash

Photographer: Bobby Bolling

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sun. Dec. 17 8:45 a.m. Contemporary Service
8:45 a.m. Traditional Service
9:45 a.m. Kidstuff
9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School
9:45 a.m. Youth Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Traditional Service
2:30 p.m. Youth Meet to go Caroling

Mon. Dec. 18 9:30 a.m. Lillian Bondurant Circle
at Feeding America

Wed. Dec. 20 6:30 a.m. Men’s Prayer Breakfast JMH

CANNED FOOD FOR ADVENT

During this Advent Season you can give money in memory or in honor of someone toward Faith in Action, the local food pantry. Envelopes for Faith in Action donations are located in the Sanctuary and around the church. The deadline for donations is today and we ask for a minimum of \$15.00 per donation. On Sunday, December 24 we will list the memorials and honorariums for Faith in Action as well as the poinsettia dedications.

JAIL MINISTRY FOR CHRISTMAS

As we have done in the past, our church’s Jail Ministry is supporting the Chaplain at the Abingdon Regional Jail in his efforts to make Christmas a bit more like Christmas for the jail’s 850 inmates. Gifts may be dropped off outside of the church office. Questions may be directed to June Hagy 276-644-1087 or Roger Edwards 276-698-1349.

Approved Gift Items: Snack size candy bars – Milky Way, Twix, Snickers, Reese Cup; 15 oz. Suave shampoo (conditioner not accepted); bars of soap (body wash not accepted); 1.3 oz. toothpaste; postage stamps (to be used by inmates to mail Christmas cards)

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY FOR 2018

Don’t forget that we are asking you to submit a photo for our new 2018 Directory that will be published in January. You can send a digital file to suzannerankin@abingdonumc.org. If you are unable to send a photo, we will have a few more opportunities for you to have your photo taken by a staff member on Sunday, December 24 at 9:30 a.m. and December 31 after the service.

PRAYER LIST

In an effort to keep the Prayer List updated and current, requests will be removed from the Prayer List after 4 weeks. Please let us know of any corrections, updates or additions you may have.

New Request: Annabelle Keener

Prayer List: Carol Brunty, Bill Graves, June Smith

Treatment Pending/Continuing: Conner Bartz (Sandra Jonas), Rusty Cline, Dorothy DeBord, June Donch (Marsha Demase), Mike Ferrell, Ellee Large (Becky Matney), Ann Johnson (Kendall Johnson), French Moore, Jr., Audrey Salazar (Roger and Alta Edwards)

Homebound, Independent Living/Retirement, Assisted Care and Rehab Facilities: Harry Arnold, John and Phyllis Deadmore, Peggy Donaldson, Carol Hearl, Bob Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Annabelle Keener, Charlie Krum, Jan Thrasher, Mae Turner, Mary Ruth Vaught (Judy Casey’s mother), Madge Via, Gene Widener, Millie Woody



UPCOING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

December 24

10:00 a.m. Service of Lessons and Carols
(Pastries and fellowship at 9 a.m.)
7:00 p.m. Traditional Christmas Eve Service
9:00 p.m. Contemporary Christmas Eve Service

December 31

10:00 a.m. Combined Worship Service
(Appetizers and fellowship after the service)

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Robert Countiss, D.Min., Pastor
Glenn Patterson, Director of Music
Lindsey Blackwell, Music Ministry Assistant
Lisa Withers, Organist/Accompanist
Sean Collier, Music Intern
Suzanne Rankin, Program Director
Brittani Clayman, Director of Students
Michele Carpenter, Office Manager
Bill Gibson, Contemporary Music Director
Moises Martinez, Student Intern
Kitty McCormick, Infant Nursery Worker
Jessica Hawks, Infant Nursery Worker
Wendy Long, Toddler Nursery Worker
Laken Price, Toddler Nursery Worker
Butch and Peggy Jones, Custodians

Abingdon United Methodist Church



101 East Main Street
Abingdon, Virginia 24210
(276) 628-2321
abingdonumc.org

December 17, 2017
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11:00 a.m. Service

