

Offertory

Hark the Herald Angels Sing
Jessica Udell - flute

***Doxology No. 606**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

***Hymn of Commissioning**

Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child

No. 126

***Benediction**

Postlude

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Special Thanks Today:

Lay Leader: Stacie Chvatal

Usher: Darron Harris

Ginger Stapley – Clerk of Session

Cindy Hurst – Treasurer

Class of 2024

Stacy Kenyon – Faith Formation

Owen Harris – Mission

John Chvatal - Worship

Melissa Broussard - Personnel

Darron Harris – CRT*

*CRT – Congregational Resources Team

Class of 2025

Gail Hamilton -Mission

Mike Thorpe – Worship

Jim Anderson – Nominating

Whitney Duncan – Preschool

Bill Morrow – CRT*

Class of 2026

Barbara Etheridge - Worship

Corey Duncan – Faith Formation

Dave Lux – CRT*

Staff Members

Rev. Dr. Russ Weekley, Pastor

Marlucia Damaceno Crispim

Commissioned Lay Pastor, El Buen Pastor Fellowship

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December 22, 2024

Sunday Order of Worship

11:00 am

**We are a community of believers, sharing God's love, in worship
and service, as disciples of Jesus Christ.**

The marks of this life are:

Pray daily;

Worship weekly;

Enjoy spiritual friendships;

Read and study the Scriptures;

Engage in service in and beyond the church;

Share the Good News of the Gospel with others, and

Practice generosity with one's time, talent, and money.

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Lilburn, Georgia 30047

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December 22 2024

Worship Service

11:00 am

* Those who are able, please stand. **Bold** is to be read in unison.

Prayer of Preparation

O God, You pour out the Spirit of grace and love. Deliver us from cold hearts and wandering thoughts, that with steady minds and burning zeal we may worship You in spirit and truth. Amen.

Welcoming and Announcements

Everyone is asked to sign the Friendship Folder in the pew rack. **Visitors:** Please completely fill out your name, mailing address, and e-mail address to enable us to extend our Christian hospitality. Please pass the folder to your neighbor, and then return it to the center aisle with the cover open so that you may learn the names of the other worshipers. **For sight impaired worshipers:** Large Print Hymnals are available from the ushers. **For hearing impaired worshipers:** We recommend downloading the Listen Everywhere app.

Minute for Mission

Joy Gift

Ginger Stapley

***Greeting One Another in Love**

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

Prelude

Christmas Medley

Victor Holton

Lighting the Advent Wreath (based on Isaiah 9:6)

The Gordon Family

Leader: For us a Child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,

People: Prince of Peace.

Leader: We light these candles as a sign of our waiting and hope for the coming Christ.

***Hymn of Praise**

Away in a Manger

No. 115

***Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ You came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of Your grace and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.

***Assurance of God's Grace (Responsive)**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and He shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

People: Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose coming we announce in this season, is our righteousness. In Christ, we are made right with God. Thanks be to God!

—based on Jeremiah 33:14-16, NRSV

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Illumination

First Scripture Lesson

Psalm 80:1-7

Pew Bible page 419

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Second Scripture Lesson

Luke 1:39-55

Pew Bible page 724

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

Sermon

What to Expect When You're Expecting

Rev. Weekley

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

***Hymn of the Day**

In the Bleak Midwinter

No. 144

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles 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

Prayer of Intercession and the Lord's Prayer

Bill Morrow

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, for ever. Amen.

The Offering