



LOWCOUNTRY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Surrounded by God's grace, we are a family of faith joined together through Christ, offering meaning and hope to all by the way we worship, serve and live.

**10 Simonsville Rd
Bluffton, SC 29910**

**2nd Sunday in Advent
December 8, 2024
10:30am**

LOWCOUNTRY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**10 Simmonsville Road
Bluffton, SC 29910**

Church Office: (843) 815-6570

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*Office hours: Mon-Thu: 8:30am-4:00pm;
Friday: 8:30am-Noon*

STAFF

Rev. Chris Herrin, Pastor: revherrin@lowcountrypres.org

Rev. David Johnson, Associate Pastor: revjohnson@lowcountrypres.org

Office/Christy James: office@lowcountrypres.org

Dr. Robin Lind, Music Director: rlind@lowcountrypres.org

Dr. Karen Ball, Organist—kball@olivet.edu

The Session

Class of 2024

Sandy Benninger
(843-705-5233)
Jerri Hanna
(843-645-0610)
Fran Parker
(843-757-8181)
Anne Redlus
(843-705-6373)

Class of 2025

Jan Alpert
(843- 837-2177)
Kevin MacCarthy
(609-462-3903)
Pam Davis-Webb
(607-215-2289)
Dale Wilkes
(207-299-6693)

Class of 2026

Elaine Branda
(843-816-2240)
Chad Copenhaver
(303-589-3816)

Celebration of Worship
2nd Sunday in Advent
December 8, 2024 - 10:30am

Silent Meditation

Hope of All Nations, we come here seeking to know your way to peace and goodness. You made us strong that we may work for you; meek that we may know our need of you; full of joy that we may sing praise to you; empty that we may receive you. Come to us, Christ Jesus. Amen

Prelude

O Come, Emmanuel
Jubilate Ringers

arr. Jason W. Krug

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. David Johnson

Call to Worship (Unison)

Fran Parker

In a world of anger and violence, let us prepare for the Advent of the Prince of Peace. In a world of confusion and greed, let us celebrate the Advent of self-giving love. In a world of death and decay, let us rejoice in the Advent of life!

***Hymn #88**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vv. 1, 6, & 7)

***Lighting the Advent Candle and Invocation**

Marsha Hester
Steve Higgins

Unison Prayer of Confession

Prince of Peace, the wars and rumors of wars betray our addiction to violence, and our destructive and dehumanizing ways. We deserve your judgement and condemnation. Yet, you remain faithful, a steadfast source of peace in the midst of our warring madness. Holy God, turn us from evil. Return us to Christ and his path of peace. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

Response:

Hymn #121 (v. 4)

***“O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.”***

Children's Moment

Rev. Johnson

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Johnson

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings and Change Can Make a Change

Offertory

Emmanuel, El Shaddai
Jubilate Ringers

Sondra K. Tucker

***Doxology**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

***Prayer of Dedication**

Rev. Herrin

***Hymn #92**

While We Are Waiting, Come

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:78-79 (pg. 54)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Meditation

“Where is the Peace?”

Rev. Chris Herrin

Advent Cantata

“Welcome the Child of the Light”

(see last pages)

Dom Costabile, drums

Welcome the Child of the Light

arr. Mark Hayes

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Brittany Wilson, cello

Eric Dewar & Dan Forrest

This Child of Light

Mary McDonald

Light of the Stable Elizabeth Rhymer, Steve Rhymer

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Victory

by Noel Rawsthorne

* Those who are able, please stand.

Thank you to the Chancel Choir, Jubilate Ringers, and Dom Costabile for the special music today.

Welcome to worship. All visitors are welcome to LPC where we seek to love and serve Christ. Let us know of your visit using the visitor card in the pew rack and dropping it in the offering basket. Care for infants thru 6 years old during worship is provided in the nursery. Activity bags for elementary age children are available in the Narthex.

Thank You Choir and Hospitality Sponsors - Due to our generous Hospitality Sponsors, your Membership Ministry is honoring our magnificent Choir today after the Cantata with a special Hospitality Time. Please join us in the Narthex for Christmas treats and fellowship.

Next Sunday the children's choir will sing.

LPC's monthly Grief Support Group led by Rev. Herrin will meet **today** in the back room by the nursery following worship and a brief time in the Narthex.

Next Sunday, December 15th, at 3:30pm in the sanctuary, we are offering a "Blue Christmas Service" that celebrates the birth of the Christ child in a way that honors the grief and sadness that many of us carry inside, and offers hope for a future marked by healing and even joy. It recognizes that Jesus was born into a world of darkness and pain, in order to heal and restore us. This is an opportunity for us, and for us to invite friends and neighbors to celebrate Christmas when we don't feel very festive or jolly. If this is right for you, or someone you know, we hope you will join us.

Memorial Poinsettia order forms are on the counter in the Narthex. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory or honor of someone, please fill out the form and place it in the offering basket or the church office. Plants are \$15 each. Make checks payable to LPC and note poinsettias. Place your order by TODAY.

On November 24th LPC welcomed 17 new members. Their pictures are in the nametag closet and in the December newsletter along with brief bios. Newsletters can be picked up in the Narthex, along with separate sheets with their contact information. Please take one so you can begin to connect with them!

LPC Lunch Gathering on Christmas Day. We'd like to offer a way for those who won't be with family or friends to gather with their church family. We need someone(s) to organize the effort (and go). In the past the group has gone to Chin Dynasty and part of the group saw a movie next door at Cinemark afterwards. Contact Rev. Herrin if you can help.

Please remember with your prayers:
George McCartney **Ann Warren**

**Christian sympathy is extended to Jim Dove
on the death of his sister, Lois Laskowski**

**The flowers today are to the Glory of God, given by
Terry & Fran Parker in honor of their daughter Amy's 50th birthday.**

Adult Sunday School is held in the parlor at 9:15am. Next week, the class will discuss "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me" Isaiah 61:1-11

There is no Adult Sunday School December 22nd and 29th. It will resume January 5th.

Children's Sunday School is today and December 15th after the Children's Moment. In January we will return to the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

2nd Saturday for Men: *While you wait.* December 14th at 9am in the Parlor. Advent is a season of waiting. Waiting for the Messiah to come, waiting for light to break into the darkness, waiting for Jesus' birth. Much of our lives are spent waiting too. Waiting on hold, waiting for an appointment, waiting in traffic, waiting for life to get better. Next Saturday, 2nd Saturday for Men will meet in the parlor to talk about active and productive waiting. "The waiting is the hardest part." *Tom Petty*

Women of Faith will meet on Tuesday, December 10th at 11:00am in the parlor. The group, open to all LPC women and friends, meets every 2nd Tuesday. "Holy Envy" by Barbara Brown Taylor is the current focus book, with this month's discussion focused on Chapter 4, pages 61-80. Consider joining us! Contact Pam Davis-Webb (psdw44@gmail.com) or Venus Holland (reidallenholland@gmail.com) for more information.

The Caregiver Support Group led by Rev. Johnson and Debbie Hager will meet following worship December 15th in the back room by the nursery.

Change Can Make a Change for November and December is for the Angel Tree. Money collected will be used to purchase \$25 Walmart gift cards for 150 Agape families and \$20 Walmart gift cards for 60 NOC children.

Angel Tree gifts are due Today. If you forgot your gift, please bring it to the church Monday morning. If you forgot to get an angel from the tree, you can still contribute through Change Can Make a Change.

Mitten Project - As in past years, we are joining members of Temple Oseh Shalom (who worship in our sanctuary) to help with the Mitten Project. Please donate new hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, earmuffs and/or headbands. Donations may be dropped off in the Narthex **today and next Sunday**. Thank you from the Missions Ministry Team!

Make an impact around the world by making donations in honor of family and friends through the Presbyterian Giving Catalogue. These are truly gifts that keep on giving! Catalogs with a selection of items to benefit families in other countries will be handed out after the service TODAY. There will be a table in the Narthex to accept your donations or to answer questions. Orders and checks can also be placed in the offering basket or turned into the office. Checks should be made out to LPC. The gift areas are Kits and Tools, People, Water, Livestock and Agriculture. Last year our church members donated \$2,762.00 to this program. By joining our gifts together, however large or small, we expand our witness to God's gracious and abundant work in the world. Any questions, contact Anne Redlus, Mission Elder at anneredlus@gmail.com or call 843-705-6373.

Join us for Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Services at 4:00pm and 7:00pm. Nursery for children ages 6 and under will be provided at the 4pm service only. **Scripture readers for the 4pm service are needed. Contact Rev. Herrin by phone or email to volunteer.**

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. **On Sunday, December 15th** an envelope will be in the bulletin for your use. Envelopes can be placed in the offering basket. Checks should be made payable to LPC with a notation "Joy Offering".

Stewardship Update: Thanks to your generous response, to date we have received 137 pledges totaling \$541,932 as compared to at this time last year, 124 pledges for \$480,300. We are well on our way to the proposed 2025 budget of \$650,000 and the Stewardship Team thanks you! Pledges enable your elders to plan for their programs and initiatives as we seek to grow disciples and reach out to share God's love. If you haven't yet pledged, extra cards are available in the Narthex and can be placed in the offering plate, or dropped off or mailed to the office. All who participate in any way are invited to pledge to support LPC's ministry.

Men of Purpose will join Rev. Johnson's 2nd Saturday class this week. They will resume meeting January 4th. It is a good time to join as they are just starting a new book, "Inspired" by Rachel Held Evans. Books are available in the church office for \$10. For questions contact Bill Walker: billwalker42@gmail.com.

Advent Devotional Guides with daily readings for Advent are available in the Narthex, compliments of the Faith Formation Ministry Team.

Advent Organ and Poetry - On Thursdays during Advent, local Presbyterian churches will share poetry and organ music around Advent themes. On December 12th, Charlie Frost and Rev. Elizabeth Johnson, both from First Presbyterian Church of Hilton Head will play and read for the event. Come and hear them in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church of Hilton Head on Thursday, December 12, at 11am.

Bluffton United Methodist Church's "Step Into the Story of Christmas" Live Nativity in Old Town Bluffton, December 17th at 4pm and 6pm - Free Family Event (donations appreciated) - 101 Calhoun St., Bluffton

Temple Oseh Shalom invites LPC to "It Wouldn't be an American Holiday Without Jewish Songwriters!" presented by Rabbi Ken Kanter with accompaniment by Terrie Weintraub, Thursday, December 19th at 7:00pm in Thomas Hall. The program will feature well-known songs written for different holidays and seasons. See flyer on the bulletin board.

Sermon Notes:

**Advent Cantata 2024:
“Welcome the Child of Light”**

First Reading:

Larry Tremitiere

John 1:4-5

In Him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Love Alone (poem)

Gian Carlo Menotti

First Song:

Welcome the Child of Light

Mark Hayes

Good people of God, rejoice and sing.
Prepare to meet your newborn King.
The waiting is over, Messiah has come.
Open your hearts and receive God's Son.

Welcome the child of Light, the bright morning star
that illumines the night,
The hope of the ages, the Savior of all;
welcome the Child of Light.

This, this is Christ, the King, whom shepherds
guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe,
the son of Mary!

Shepherds were watching their flock by night
when lo, there appeared a wondrous sight.
Angels announced the glorious birth,
goodwill to all and peace on earth!

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Welcome the child of Light, the bright morning star
that illumines the night,
The hope of the ages, the Savior of all;
welcome the Child of Light!

Second Reading:

Prayer

Beth A. Richardson

Readers: Peggy Evans, Taylor Evans, Reta Kemper, Paige Lassen

Second Song:

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

arr. Erik Dewar and Dan Forrest

Brittany Wilson, cello

I want to walk as a child of the light;
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world;
the star of my life is Jesus.
In Him there is no darkness at all;
the night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God:
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God;
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father.
In Him there is no darkness at all;
the night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God:
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I'm looking for the coming of Christ;
I want to be with Jesus,
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus.
In Him there is no darkness at all;
the night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God:
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

Third Reading:

Karen Ball

Luke 2:5-6

Joseph went up to Bethlehem to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time was fulfilled for the baby to be born and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son.

Reading from

A Sky Full of Children

by Madeleine L'Engle

Third Song:

This Child of Light

Mary McDonald

See now this baby, a child so small;
He is our Savior, Ruler of all.
What shall we name Him, this Holy One?
He is Jesus, God's own Son!

This Child of Light, a Holy Light,
has come to us on this silent night.
Here in the stillness, quiet, He lay,
Love everlasting is born today.

This Child of Mary, this little One;
a gift from heaven, God's only Son.
What can we give Him, this Child so small?
We can give Him our all!

This Child of Light, a Holy Light,
has come to us on this silent night.
Here in the stillness, quiet, He lay,
Love everlasting is born today.
This Child of Light.

Fourth Reading:

J.R. Wilson

(reading adapted from)
Shipwrecked at the Stable
Brennan Manning

Fourth Song:

Light of the Stable

Steve & Elizabeth Rhymer/ arr. D. Angerman

Hail, hail to the newborn King!
Let our voices sing Him our praises!
Hail, hail to the guiding light that brought
us tonight to our Savior. Hallelujah!

Come, now let it shine so bright
to the knowing Light of the stable.
Kneel close to the Child so dear,
Cast aside your fear and be thankful.

Participants

Jubilate Ringers:

Judy Barry, Rosemary Bishop, Peggy Evans, Nancy Graham, Karen Johnson, Reta Kemper, Robyn Kiser, Paige Lassen, Vicki Melton, Debby Miller, Dia Sunderlin, and J.R. Wilson

Chancel Choir:

Sopranos: Judy Barry, Venus Holland, Maureen Kalmbach, Janit Maguire, Brittany Wilson and Susan Wilson

Altos: Peggy Evans, Sandy Iams, Karen Johnson, Paige Lassen, Sue Nehonsky, Jean Nordby, Marie Pendleton, and Janet Van Name

Tenors: Taylor Evans, Nancy Graham, Reta Kemper, Larry Tremitiere, and J.R. Wilson

Basses: Ron Gemme, Scott Johnson, Jon Nickel, Dale Nordby, Tom Smith, and Jim Wright

Readers:

Larry Tremitiere, Karen Ball, Peggy Evans, Taylor Evans, Reta Kemper, Paige Lassen, and JR Wilson

Music Director: Robin Lind

Piano: Karen Ball

Drums: Dom Costabile

Cello: Brittany Wilson