

Pastoral Concerns:

Bernice Hamrick, Lisa Thomas, Becky Justus, Bobby Justus, Sylvia Mahaney, Pat Medley, Vickie Hughes, Cathy Dobson, Josie Potter, Deborah Harkins, Wendy Blake, Helen Haberneck, Erin Haberneck, Carroll Marshal, David McKinney, Mike Duncan, Theo Weger and his parents Daniel and Christiana, Gus and Pat McKinney, Phillip and Caroline McKinney, Martha Pound, Lesha Justus, Eveline Horrell, Judy Weger, Helen Greene, the family of Gay Garland, Conner Miller, Bobby Teague, Walt Smith, the Wyatt family, the family of Martha Snipes, Joe Davenport, Shirley Hise, and Dennis Dale.

Announcements:

There will be a performance of the Christmas section of Handel's *Messiah* on December 13th at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church Burnsville. Come out for an evening of beautiful music as you prepare for Christmas.

We will be having a *Christmas lunch* together Sunday December 11th at 12:30. Please join us for a time of fellowship and maybe even some carol singing.

The Christmas Cantata, *A Love to Save the World*, will be presented at Newdale Church December 18th at 11:00 worship and again at Micaville Church at 4:00. There is usually a light meal following the last performance. Please join us for a wonderful time of worship and song.

Church Staff

Pastor of Parish Care, Bobby Justus 828-467-3515 or 828-688-4413
bbj123107@yahoo.com

Pastor of Worship, Jim Taylor— 828-963-0349 (you can text)
singingpreacher53@gmail.com

Director of Music, Eveline Horrell--828-766-9184

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Grassy Creek Presbyterian

December 4, 2016

We Worship, We Share, We Serve

Announcements and Welcome

Passing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Prelude: *Creator of the Stars as Night (page 4)*

Preparation for the Word

***Call to Worship**

In this season of prophecy, promise, and preparation, we come to be renewed and refreshed.

We come to be inspired by stories of a messiah who will change the world—and change us.

We come to listen for words of hope and joy, promise and challenge.

We come with open ears, open minds, and open hearts.

We come to receive the blessings God has in store for us in this season of waiting.

Come! Let us worship our God—the One who brings all things to fulfillment.

Lighting of the Advent Candle—Peace

Hymn of Praise—While We are Waiting, Come (insert)

Unison Prayer of Confession

O God, the stories of our faith have lost their power. We have heard the prophecies spoken so many times, the promises retold again and again, the call to prepare ourselves for your coming repeated so often, we don't really hear or heed them anymore. We have replaced these messages of life: with guessing what presents we are getting, with preparing for parties and the social obligations of Christmas. Bring us back to a sense of mystery: a sense of awe, a sense of wonder, a sense of excitement, a sense of anticipation, a sense that something special is about to break into our everyday world. Help us prepare our hearts, souls, and minds for the coming of the messiah. (A moment of silent confession.) Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

God's promises are sure—promises of steadfast love and forgiveness.

God deals with God's people with righteousness and justice. Rejoice and be glad! Amen.

The Word Proclaimed

First Lesson

Romans 15: 4-13

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem: Christmas Gift/Come Into His Presence

Second Lesson

Isaiah 11: 1-10

Sermon:

Stump Stories
Jim Taylor, CLP

Response to the Word

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

***Doxology**

***Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving**

Holy God, through your prophets you have promised us a world where justice and mercy would reign, where knowledge and understanding would prevail, and where the poor and the weak would be the recipients of compassion and not scorn. As we give our gifts this morning, may you dedicate them and us to help bring about a world where your love, mercy, and grace reign supreme! We pray this in the name that is above all others, Jesus the Christ. Amen. (*Isaiah 11:1-10.*)

Communion Hymn—516 Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sharing the Bread and Cup

***Closing Hymn—27 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child (vs 1, 3)**

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

**Please stand if able.*