

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, 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 today 12:30. Let's gather 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 will be light refreshments following the last performance. Please join us for a wonderful time of worship and song. Also, John Hall will be preaching for us next Sunday.

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
singingpreacher53@gmail.com

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

Grassy Creek Presbyterian Church PCUSA

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Grassy Creek Presbyterian

December 11, 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: *Hark the Herald Angels*

Preparation for the Word

***Call to Worship**

L: We hear the echo of a promise: "I'm coming!"

P: Are you really the One?

L: "The blind receive their sight and the lame walk."

P: Are you really the One?

L: "The lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear."

P: Are you really the One?

L: "The dead are raised and the poor eat their fill."

P: But are you really the One?

L: "I'm the One who changes the world. Are you really ready for me?"

P: With God's help, we're ready to follow you. We're ready for you!

Lighting of the Advent Candle—Joy

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

Unison Prayer of Confession

We admit, Holy God, that we are in a hurry: to get our lists made, to have everything done on time, to find Christmas - now! We look around for your day, but every day seems the same. The blind may see, the lame may be dancing, the sick may be healed - but we still find ourselves imprisoned in our fears, our work, and our lives. As you forgive us, Patient God, remind us that you are not finished with us. You continue to come to us, your arms laden with the gifts of peace, joy, grace, hope and so many more, shared with us through the ongoing witness of Jesus Christ, our Savior, our Brother.

(a moment of silent confession) Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Blessed are those not offended when God does the unexpected - coming as one of us!

We look and we find the One who has come, bringing forgiveness and grace. Amen.

The Word Proclaimed

First Lesson

Psalm 146: 5-10

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem: *Sanctus Noel*

Second Lesson

Matthew 24: 36-44

Sermon:

“SmackDown Jesus”

Pastor, Jim Taylor-CLP

Response to the Word

**Hymn of Response—38 It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

***Affirmation of Faith—The Apostles’ Creed**

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: *Away in a Manger*

***Doxology**

***Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving**

Generous God, you have given us all that we have and all that we are. We thank you for the opportunity to respond to your love and generosity by sharing our gifts with others. Our hearts sing with joy as we work with you to bring true peace and justice to our world. As we prepare for the coming of your Son, may our lives proclaim your good news for all throughout the earth. Amen.

**Hymn of Sending—50 Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow*

***Charge and Benediction**

**Please stand if able.*

Postlude

While We Are Waiting, Come

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

With power and glory, come; with power and glory, come.
Jesus our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

Come, Savior, quickly come; come Savior, quickly come.
Jesus our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

Advent Prayer

*Lord Jesus,
Master of both the light and the darkness,
send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.*

*We who have so much to do
seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.*

*We who are anxious over many things
look forward to your coming among us.*

*We who are blessed in so many ways
long for the complete joy of your kingdom.*

*We whose hearts are heavy
seek the joy of your presence.*

*We are your people,
walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.
To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"*

*~ written by Fr. Henri J. M. Nouwen. Posted
on Patheos. <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/yimcatholic/2012/12/an-advent-prayer.html>*

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