

**Pastoral Concerns:** Bernice Hamrick, Lisa Thomas, Becky Justus, Bobby Justus, Sylvia Mahaney, Pat Medley, Vickie Hughes, Deborah Harkins, Faye Greer, Carrol Marshall, 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, Conner Miller, Bobby and Becky Teague, the Wyatt family, Joe Davenport, Shirley Hise, Sam Deyton, Heather English, Dr. Andrew Davis, Dennis Dale, Cathy Fullerton, Erin and Jaik Halpainy, Betty Pendley, Ava Holifield, Michelle Bonner, Christian Hall, and the families suffering the loss of loved ones from the terrorist attack in New York, the family of Christian (Chris) McClintick, the community of Sutherland Springs Texas and the members of First Baptist Church, the family of Helen Haberneck.

**Announcements:**

We will be joining Newdale and Micaville Presbyterian Churches on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 for a shared Christmas Eve Day, worship experience. The combined choirs will be presenting *Go Sing It on the Mountain* which is a delightful cantata written by Pepper Choplin. This will be a service that combines both Sunday morning worship and Christmas Eve. Communion will be served, carols sung, and candles lit. I hope you will choose to join us for this wonderful service. There will be no services at Grassy Creek that Sunday.

Rehearsals for the Cantata are Sunday afternoons at 2:00 pm at Newdale Church.

**Church Staff**

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## Grassy Creek Presbyterian

*December 10, 2017*

*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:** *Jesus Came*

### **Preparation for the Word**

#### **Call to Worship**

Long ago, a voice cried out in the wilderness

*Prepare the way for the Lord; make straight the pathways.*

Something new was about to happen.

*God would visit God's people in a new way!*

Lord, open our hearts to receive this good news!

*Prepare us to be people of great faith and compassion as we look forward to this wondrous event you have proclaimed to us. Amen.*

*The Lighting of the Advent Candle- Hope and Peace*

*\*Hymn of Praise: While We Are Waiting, Come (Insert)*

## **Unison Prayer of Confession**

Almighty God, we confess that we have given in to the ways of the world. The lights are beautiful, the trees are trimmed, the wonder and awe of the season is upon us, and yet we can't enjoy it because there is too much to do. We have forgotten the reason we do all of this: to remember the light that shines in the darkness. We have forgotten the reason we prepare: to welcome Christ into our world and our lives in a new way. We have forgotten the reason we need this: because the world is broken around us, and needs healing and wholeness. Come, Lord Jesus, Come. Enter our world and our lives in a new way. We need this Advent season to remind us that You are at work in us, right now, and we wait for the fullness of that revelation. In Your name we pray... (a *time of silent confession*) Amen.

## **Assurance of Pardon**

When we turn back to God, we find God has already turned towards us. Know that you are forgiven and loved. Thanks Be to God! Amen.

## **The Word Proclaimed**

### **First Lesson**

**Isaiah 40: 1-11**

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

**Anthem:**     *We'll Call Him Jesus*

### **Second Lesson**

**Mark 1: 1-8**

## **Sermon:**

## **Advent Preparations**

Pastor Jim Taylor

## **Response to the Word**

*\*Hymn of Response—38 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

*\*Affirmation of Faith—The Apostles' Creed*

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

**Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory:** *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

*\*Doxology*

*\*Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving*

While we are waiting in this Advent season, may our gifts be used to proclaim good news to those who need it most, so that justice may come into the places of oppression, so righteousness might kiss the wounds of the most vulnerable, so hope and peace might meet in all the broken places of our world and begin to build new communities of reconciliation. Hear our prayer, in Jesus' name. Amen.

*\* Hymn of Sending—56 The First Nowell*

*\*Charge and Benediction*

**Postlude**

*\*Please stand if able.*