

**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 family of Helen Haberneck.

**Announcements:**

Mayland Fellowship will meet January 7<sup>th</sup> at Burnsville First Presbyterian Church. Dinner at 5:30 with program presented by the folks at Camp Grier our PCUSA Summer Camp.

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Sing at Newdale has been cancelled due to the anticipated cold weather forecast for this evening.

**Church Staff**

Pastor of Worship, Jim Taylor-828-963-0349cell  
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Director of Music, Eveline Horrell--828-766-9184

Grassy Creek Presbyterian Church PCUSA  
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Spruce Pine, NC 28777  
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## Grassy Creek Presbyterian

*December 31, 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:** *When He Came*

*by Mosie Lister*

**Preparation for the Word**

**Call to Worship**

The Christmas tree lights have dimmed.

**The once-wrapped gifts have been shared.**

But the awesome love of God still shines brightly in our hearts.

**Our spirits resound with the good news of salvation.**

God is with us!

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*\*Hymn of Praise—23 Angels We Have Heard on High*

### **Unison Prayer of Confession**

We confess, O God, that we are not ready to come down from the Christmas “high.” So much time was spent in gathering, wrapping, and delivering gifts; in preparing for family gatherings and times with friends; in decorating our homes. But somehow, right after Christmas Day, we feel a letdown. We don’t want that “high” to be over. We want to feel the “peace on earth” feeling, but we let it go. So shake us up, Lord! Get us ready to be people of compassion and hope. Wake us up, Lord! Help us see the beauty and possibilities of peace around us. Fill us up, Lord! Fill us to overflowing with joy. Let our words, our thoughts, and our actions speak of your love for us. In Jesus’ Name, we pray ... (a *time of silent confession*) Amen.

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Hear the good news. The time is now; the place is here: God has redeemed us from sin; God has claimed us as the children of Hope.

**Praise God, all people, for life is given to us anew; we are forgiven indeed. Thanks be to God. Amen**

### **The Word Proclaimed**

#### **First Lesson**

**Luke 2: 1-20**

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem:       *Star Eternal***

**by *Pepper Choplin***

**Second Reading – *The Coming of God*       by *Ann Weems***

### **Sermon:**

**Manger Stories**  
**Pastor Jim Taylor**

### **Response to the Word**

***\*Hymn of Response—40 Joy to the World***

***\*Christmas Affirmation of Faith - Insert***

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

**Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory:**

***\*Doxology***

***\*Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving***

By these gifts, Gracious God, may those who have so little be clothed with your abundant grace; may the hungry be fed with food that strengthens them and hope which gives them new life; may all who are searching find that they are your beloved children. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***\* Hymn of Sending—49 Once in Royal David’s City***

***\*Charge and Benediction***

**Postlude**

***\*Please stand if able.***

### *Christmas Affirmation of Faith*

We believe that God has come to us as a little child, making our weakness his strength, securing our salvation by becoming one of us, blessing us with a steadfast savior, filling our hearts with joy to be shared with one another.

We believe that God has birthed righteousness and justice into the world, giving us a law that will be written upon our hearts, making the cause of the oppressed the highest priority, declaring an everlasting reign of peace, defeating the power of pain and suffering.

We believe that God calls us to participate in this reality of love, inviting us to proclaim Christ's resurrection at the Table, transforming us as disciples to go out into the world, sending us forth to announce his kingdom of peace and comfort, challenging us to see everyone as nothing less than beloved children.

This we believe.

This we preach.

This we seek to embody in word and deed.

"Written by Rev. Stephen M. Fearing"

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