



**Welcome to Worship on the Lord's Day
2nd Sunday of Advent
December 8, 2024**

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

BRINGING GOD'S LIGHT INTO THE CHURCH

RINGING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Judith Graves

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

Mary Ann Wright

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Graves Family

Leader: So today we light the candle of peace—as a reminder and as a prayer.

People: Let it be so. Amen.

*HYMN

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

#96 (Purple)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Holy God, when John was Born, Zechariah leaned down and whispered words of love into his ear. We know that you do the same for us, day in and day out, yet we fail to hear it. We forget that in the beginning we were made good. We doubt that we could possibly be enough. We hustle for our self-worth and wear ourselves out aiming for perfection. We deflect words of praise. We hide behind shiny first impressions. Forgive us. Trusting our worth is the hardest job. Open our ears as you open our hearts, so that we might rest on the foundation of goodness you have laid for us. Gratefully we pray, Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Hear and trust this good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

People: **Thanks be to God. Amen!**

*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS The Gloria Patri #581 (Purple)

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SHARING FAITH WITH OUR CHILDREN Rev. Savannah Demuyneck

WE HEAR AND RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING Malachi 3:1-4 p. 676 (pew Bible)

NEW TESTAMENT READING Luke 1:57-80 p. 724 (pew Bible)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

The World's Been a-Waitin' So Long

L. Shackley

There will be joy when the Messiah comes. There will be joy when the Messiah comes.

There will be joy when the Messiah comes, the world's been a-waitin' so long.

There will be joy when the Messiah comes. There will be joy when the Messiah comes.

There will be joy when the Messiah comes, the world's been a-waitin' so long.

There will be peace when the Messiah comes. There will be peace when the Messiah comes

There will be peace when the Messiah comes, the world's been a-waitin' so long.

Come to us Messiah, O lord, we've been a-waitin' so long. O come, Messiah, O come we've been waiting' so long.

There will be love when the Messiah comes. There will be love when the Messiah comes.

There will be love when the Messiah comes, the world's been a-waitin' so long.

Come, Messiah, come, Messiah, we've been waiting' so long.

SERMON

“Can't Help But Sing”

Rev. Savannah Demuynck

HYMN

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

104 (Purple)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His Only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

#592 (Purple)

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

SENT TO SERVE AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Love Has Come

#110 (Purple)

*POSTLUDE

(**Please stand as you are able.*)

Liturgy adapted from *Close to Home Series* by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org



This Week's Activities

Today	11:00 am	Worship
Monday	3:45 pm	Senior Fitness
Tuesday	10:00 am	Bible Study
	6:00 pm	Cub Scout Pack 34
Wednesday	6:45 am	Men's Group
	6:00 pm	Family Night Supper
	6:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday	10:00 am	Children's and Adult Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship

Welcome to Mount Olive Presbyterian Church! We are so glad you are here. If you would like more information on ways to get involved, see Pastor Savannah after the service.

The **Altar flowers** are given to the glory of God and in memory of Shelton Blanton by Ann and his family.

The **Service Circle** will meet at the home of Tena Boyd on Dec. 9th at 6 p.m. If able, please bring a batch of cookies and the recipe. Also, bring items for shut in baskets.

Session Summary Session met on November 24 for the stated meeting. We received updates on the Outreach collections for both backpack buddies and flood buckets (\$470 collected in addition to donations, more has come in since then!). Spiritual growth reminded us of the Family Night Supper on December 11 - we hope to see you there! Finances are in good shape and so far Stewardship pledges are over where they were last year. The workings of the church are continuing as usual as we head toward the end of this year.

The Spiritual Growth, Nurture and Care Committee typically serves a meal to the family when someone in our church family passes away. Instead of doing our usual funeral meal for Rudy Hooks, Cheryl Crumpler Hooks wanted to share a meal with her whole church family! You may remember the midweek Family Night Supper meals from years ago; please join us **Wednesday, December 11th at 6:00 for a fellowship meal, Family Night Supper style.** We are asking those in attendance to bring side dishes, desserts and beverages. Fried chicken will be provided. Please plan to join us for a time of fellowship and visitation with Cheryl and our MOPC family!

Advent Readers are needed: can be families, friends, or an individual that would like to do the reading and light the candles. Dates needed are Dec. 15, 22 and 24th. Please contact Joy Bayles or Lynda Roten if interested.

III Century Singers presents their annual Christmas Concert “Celebration of Carols” today, December 8th, at First Baptist Church in Goldsboro at 3 pm and again December 12th at First Baptist Church in Mount Olive at 7 pm. Admission is free but donations are accepted.

There are extra **church histories**, if anyone would like a copy. Please pick one up in the church office.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Concerns

- Brenda Schroeder— UNC Chapel Hill Hospital, heart valve issues, fall
- Pam Wood— leukemia and heart attack

Ongoing Concerns

(names listed for 2 months)

- Eddie Best—health concerns
- Ann Blanton— mouth & eye issues

Our Christian Sympathy is extended to the families of:

(names listed for 2 months)

- B. J. Lee - father of Julie Graham

Homebound/Nursing Facilities

- Edna Colson
- Bobbie Coley
- Vennie Jordan
- Robbie McSwain

Please call or email the church office with your prayer concern. Church members and their family will be included in the worship bulletin for the durations listed above. Please let us know as prayers are answered, so we can celebrate with you; or as needs change, so we know how best to pray with and for you. If you have a confidential concern, please contact Pastor Savannah at savannah.mopc@gmail.com

A Brief History of Mount Olive Presbyterian Church

Two thousand, twenty-four, marks the 150th anniversary of Mount Olive Presbyterian Church. Organized in 1874, by the Reverend Alexander Kirkland, sixteen members gathered to begin what would become Mount Olive Presbyterian Church of the Wilmington Presbytery. In 1875 a lot was given to build a wooden building on the site of our current sanctuary. By 1914, the membership had outgrown the old wooden building and the church was moved to the back of an adjacent lot to make room for a new sanctuary. The new brick building was completed in 1916. Additions and improvements to our Church have continued through the years. The Mount Olive Church joined with Baker Presbyterian in 1988 and has been blessed by the guidance and love of the various ministers who have served as our leaders. We are proud of the work our congregation continues to accomplish as shared in our mission statement, "called together by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit, Mount Olive Presbyterian Church is committed to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with all people, to nurturing Christian discipleship, and to serving the world in the name of Christ." As we celebrate our past, we look to a future defined by renewed commitment and spiritual growth.