



**Welcome to Worship on the Lord's Day
1st Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2024**

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

BRINGING GOD'S LIGHT INTO THE CHURCH

RINGING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joy Bayles

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

*LITANY OF THE GREENS

How can we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the King? "

With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the eternal Christ?

With garlands of wreaths of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, our savior?

With arrangements of holly and ivy, symbolizing His passion, death and resurrection.

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the Son of God?

By hearing again the words of the prophets who foretold the saving work of God.

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

All Glory to God in the highest!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader: So today we light the candle of hope, because hope keeps our hearts alive as we wait.

A: May this light be a reminder that the wait is always worth it.

People: **We are close to home. May we carry hope with us. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

When you're a kid and you get homesick at a sleepover or a summer camp, you call home and your parents come and get you. Sometimes, that's what love looks like. Love bails us out. In the same way, when we call upon God to confess that we've messed up, or forgotten something, or overlooked the truth, God answers with grace. God answers with love. So let us confess today, knowing that nothing could keep God from loving us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious God,

We find ourselves with two options every day—

to stay homesick for the world you had in mind, or to allow cynicism to win.

Do we hope against hope, or do we throw in the towel?

Do we insist on a better world, or do we assume it's impossible?

Forgive us for the days when cynicism wins.

Forgive us for numbing our homesick hurt instead of using it to fuel a better world.

Kindle in us a hope that won't let go.

Gratefully we pray. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Even when we give up on hope, God does not give up on us. We are loved. We are claimed. We are invited closer to God's home. So hear and trust this good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

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

*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS Our Hope, Our Life #847 (Purple)

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SHARING FAITH WITH OUR CHILDREN Joy Bayles
Two Cents A Meal Offering

WE HEAR AND RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION D. J. Jarman

FIRST LESSON Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19 p. 2, 3 (pew Bible)
*CAROL O Little Town of Bethlehem # 121 (Purple)

SECOND LESSON Genesis 22:15-18 p. 15 (pew Bible)
CAROL O Come, O Come Emmanuel # 88 (Purple)
(verses 1,4,6,7)

THIRD LESSON Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 p. 489 (pew Bible)
CAROL It Came Upon the Midnight Clear #123 (Purple)
(verses 1 & 5)

FOURTH LESSON Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9 p. 491,492 (pew Bible)
*CAROL Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming #129 (Purple)

FIFTH LESSON Luke 1:26-35, 38 p. 723, 724 (pew Bible)
*CAROL Hark! The Herald Angels Sing #119 (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)

1st verse

*POSTLUDE

(*Please stand as you are able.)



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
	6:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday	9:00 am	Girl Scout Troup 389
Sunday	10:00 am	Children's and Adult Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship

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

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

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!

III Century Singers presents their annual Christmas Concert “Celebration of Carols” December 8 at First Baptist Church in Goldsboro at 3 pm and again December 12 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.

Church office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays 9 am to 2 pm and Wednesdays 9 am to 12 pm. The office is closed Mondays and Fridays. Pastor Savannah is in the office Tuesdays and Thursdays.

- Announcements for the bulletin should be submitted no later than **11 am on Tuesday** to be included in that Sunday’s bulletin.
- Announcements for the newsletter should be submitted no later than the **25th** to go in the following month’s newsletter.
- A Communications request form should be completed in writing. Forms are available in the closet with the mailboxes near the office.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Concerns

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

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.