



**Welcome to Worship on the Lord's Day**  
**4th Sunday of Advent**  
**December 18, 2022**

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

BRINGING GOD'S LIGHT INTO THE CHURCH

RINGING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lighting of the 4th Advent Candle

Jeff, Sherry and  
Caleb Smith

\*HYMN

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

#145 (Blue)

CALL TO CONFESSION (Zephaniah 3: 14-15)

“Sing, Daughter Zion;  
shout aloud, Israel!

Be glad and rejoice with all your heart,  
Daughter Jerusalem!

The Lord has taken away your punishment,  
he has turned back your enemy.

The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you;  
never again will you fear any harm.”

Let us confess our sins before God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (unison)

Merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength.  
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
In your mercy, forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be,  
that we may delight in your will  
and walk in your ways  
to the glory of your holy name.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Micah 7: 18b-19) unison

**“You do not stay angry forever  
but delight to show mercy.  
You will again have compassion on us;  
you will tread our sins underfoot  
and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.”  
Through Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.**

\*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS (sung in unison)

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you  
Hail, Hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.”

SHARING FAITH WITH OUR CHILDREN

## WE HEAR AND RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

\*GOSPEL READING                      Matthew 1:1-25                      (pew Bible page 681)

ANTHEM                                      Rise Up Shepherd and Follow                      Spiritual

SERMON                                      "From Sinners.....For Sinners"                      Pastor Bob Bardin

\*HYMN                                      Angels We Have Heard on High                      #23 (Blue)

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH                      Apostle's 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.**

## 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**

\*HYMN                                      Joy to the World                      #40 (Blue)

## SENT TO SERVE AS GOD'S PEOPLE

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE Go With Us, Lord #535 (Blue)

**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way  
through this and every coming day  
that in your Spirit strong and true  
our lives may be our gift to you.  
Amen.**

POSTLUDE

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

††††

**The altar flowers** are given today to the glory of God and in memory of Hubert and Clara Price by Margaret Anderson, Patsy West and families.

**This Week's Activities**

Today	11:00 am	Worship
	1:00 pm	Session
Tuesday	8:00 am	Walking Club
Wednesday	6:45 am	Men's Group
	5:30 pm	<i>Disciplines for the Inner Life</i> meeting
Thursday	3:45 pm	Chair Yoga
Saturday	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
Sunday	9:30 am	Christmas Worship in Fellowship Hall

The **Christmas Eve Service** will be held at 7 pm in the Sanctuary. Worship on **Christmas Day** will be at 9:30 am in Baker Fellowship Hall and dress is casual.

There will be a meeting in the Sanctuary on Wednesday night, December 21, 5:30 p.m., for all those who have signed up to participate in *Disciplines for the Inner Life*. The meeting will conclude no later than 6:30 p.m. If you have signed up and are unable to come to the meeting, please see Pastor Bob so he can arrange an alternative time for you.

**Genesis** (Mount Olive Center) is holding a drive through live nativity on Dec. 23 from 5-7 pm. They are also having a Christmas Eve Service in their dining room at 6:30 pm. Please see Barry if you have any questions.

The **ACIA Thrift Store in Mt. Olive** is encouraging donations of winter clothing, other clothing and household items because of low inventory.

**The family of Mary Kelly** would like to thank you for the prayers, thoughts, calls, cards, visits, the delicious food brought to our home and for the wonderful dishes prepared for the funeral meal. We will never forget your generosity and kindness during this time of our loss.

**Ushers:** We will begin having an usher near the door to greet people before worship on Sunday mornings. If you would like to sign up to serve as an usher/greeter, there is a sign up sheet on the table near the bulletins. Please indicate if you have a preference of dates to serve or dates that would not be suitable for you. Thank you for your help.



## In Our Thoughts and Prayers

### Recent Surgeries or Illnesses

*(names listed for 2 weeks)*

- Bobbie Coley, several health concerns, Wayne UNC Healthcare
- Richard Hansen, hernia surgery in November
- Eleanor Ballance, (grandmother of Brittany Schroeder, stroke and fall)

### Ongoing Concerns

*(names listed for 2 months)*

- Brenda Schroeder, knee-related issues and preparation for knee surgery
- Gwyn Price (sister in law of Margaret Anderson and Patsy West, hip replacement surgery)
- Robert Wall, (friend of the Bennetts, health issues and possible surgery)
- Sonny Cain's father, (chemotherapy for lung cancer, prostate treatment completed)
- Taylor Dail, (Harvey and Sandra Dail's son, in New Bern with his parents for outpatient physical therapy)
- Linda Jennings, (Alice Adam's sister, colon cancer treatment)
- Bill Cox (brother of Lynda Roten, remission of lymphoma)
- Aubrey Blizzard, continuing health issues

- Brent Crutchfield (best friend of Justin Rectenwald, stage 4 colon cancer)
- Nellie Davis (sister of Betty Lou Kornegay, back injury/paralysis.)
- Mitzi Leshner-Thomas (brain tumor)

### Our Christian Sympathy is extended to the families of:

*(names listed for 2 months)*

- Mary Kelly, Nov. 29
- J. B. Price, Oct. 20
- Lee Sargent, Oct. 19

### Homebound/Nursing Facilities

- Vennie Jordan
- Barry Giddings
- Robbie McSwain
- Rudy Hooks

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 Bob.



### **Church 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.