



**Welcome to Worship on the Lord's Day  
4th Sunday of Advent  
December 22, 2024**

**WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

BRINGING GOD'S LIGHT INTO THE CHURCH

RINGING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Ann Wright

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP      Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Williams Family

B: Today we light the candle of love to remind us of this truth.

**People: May it burn brightly in this space and even brighter in our hearts. Amen.**

\*HYMN

People, Look East

#105 (Purple)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of safe spaces, we wish we were more like Mary, who in the face of great change, went and sought help. She did not wait for help to find her; she walked to the shelter she needed. Too often we wait silently for the world to change around us instead of speaking up for the things we need. Forgive us for failing to care for ourselves the way you would care for us. Give us the courage to be more like Mary.

God of safe places, we wish we were more like Elizabeth, who greeted Mary with laughter and contagious joy. How many people have crossed our doorstep and how many times have we failed to see them? Give us the courage of Mary, and the grace of Elizabeth. 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      Micah 5:2-5      p. 658,659 (pew Bible)

NEW TESTAMENT READING      Luke 1:39-55      p. 724 (pew Bible)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Gloria in Excelsis Deo!

Arr. L Larson

Joy has dawned! The angels are singing. Christ is born this holy night. Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Welcome the Child, the King forever. Hope has come tonight in Bethlehem. Go, worship the  
newborn King!

Joy has dawned! The heavens are ringing. Christ is born in a humble stall. Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Find the Child lying in a manger. Peace has come tonight in Bethlehem. Go, worship the newborn  
King!

Born to reign in us forever, born to set his people free; dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every  
longing heart.

Joy has dawned! The shepherds are bringing gifts of love, adoration and praise. Gloria in excelsis  
Deo!

This is the Child that God had promised. Love has come tonight in Bethlehem. Go, worship the  
newborn King!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

SERMON

“Sharing the Truth”

Rev. Savannah Demuyneck

HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

# 132 (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](http://sanctifiedart.org)



**This Week's Activities**

Today	11:00 am	Worship
	1:00 pm	Session Meeting
Monday	3:45 pm	Senior Fitness
Tuesday	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
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 **Christmas Joy Offering** will be received today. Please make checks out to MOPC and designate Joy Offering on the memo line. You may place them in the offering plates.

The **Christmas Eve Service** with communion will be Tuesday, Dec. 24th at 7 pm.

MOPC has a **Senior Fitness and Balance class** which meets on Mondays at 3:45 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The class will not meet on Monday, Jan. 30.

The **Church Office** will be closed Dec. 24th, 25th, 26th and Jan. 1.

**Thank you note**

The family of B. J. Lee would like to express our sincere gratitude for the overwhelming support we have received during this difficult time. Your visits, food, phone calls, cards, and beautiful flowers have brought comfort and strength to us. Each gesture of kindness has meant so much and has truly helped to ease our hearts.

Thank you for being there for us, and for keeping our family in your thoughts and prayers. Your support has been a great source of comfort and healing.

With heartfelt thanks,  
Julie Graham and family

**Church Leadership**

**Elder Class of 2024**

Ralph Schroeder  
Charlotte Stentz Price  
Patsy West

**Elder Class of 2025**

Margaret Anderson  
Robin McSwain  
Keith Wright

**Elder Class of 2026**

Joy Bayles  
Gordon Bennett  
Lisa Dismore

**Clerk of Session**

Lynn Williams

**Moderator**

Rev. Savannah Demuynck

## In Our Thoughts and Prayers

### Concerns

- Jordan Williams-leg surgery recovery
- Ray Price-stent placement recovery
- Ann Blanton- eye surgery recovery
- Brenda Schroeder-UNC Chapel Hill Hospital, heart valve issues, fall

### Ongoing Concerns

*(names listed for 2 months)*

- Eddie Best—health concerns

### Homebound/Nursing Facilities

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

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

*(names listed for 2 months)*

- Everette Coates, father of Doug Coates
- Ann Williamson -mother of Cheryl Kornegay
- Pam Wood
- B. J. Lee - father of Julie Graham

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](mailto: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.