

**December 3, 2023**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**HYMN 95**                      *Prepare the Way of the Lord*

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**    Book Study Group

**OPENING MUSIC**

"A Jubilant Fanare"  
by Kevin McChesney  
Chancel Handbells

**SEEKING GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord God, we call you by the right names: Emmanuel, Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God. But too often we call our neighbors by the wrong names: Outsider, Dangerous, Lazy, Different. We call ourselves by the wrong names, too: Inadequate, Unworthy, Lost Cause, Unlovable. You who are the root of every family tree and know us better than we know ourselves, forgive us. Remind us who we are and to whom we belong. Call us by the names that lead us into your light.

Rev. Jenny McDevitt

**(Silent prayers)**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

**RESPONSE**

**HYMN 423**    *Create In Me A Clean Heart, O God*

**CHILDREN'S CONVERSATION**

**\*HYMN 105**                      *People, Look East*

**SCRIPTURE READING**                      Mark 13: 24 - 37

**SERMON**                                      "A Weary World"  
Rev. Dr. Charlie Lee

**ANTHEM**                                      "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"  
arr. Dobrinski  
Chancel Handbells

**OUR LIFE TOGETHER**

**INVITATION TO GENEROSITY**

Offering boxes are available at the back of the sanctuary.  
Gifts may also be made online at [starmountpres.org](http://starmountpres.org).

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We are an Advent people, a people of hope.  
For us, Advent is a time of waiting, and so we wait.  
We wait for the coming of the One who is the fulfillment of God's promise, the fulfillment of hope, the declaration that we have been redeemed. Our world is filled with reminders that God's promised redemption is not yet complete. Pain and suffering, hatred and violence, injustice and intolerance remain. But because we are an Advent people, we know that none of these things will win in the end. The Holy One is coming, to make holy once again all that was, is, and ever will be.  
*(adapted from Rev. Rebecca F. Harrison)*

**CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

**\*HYMN 756**                                      *O God of Every Nation*

**BENEDICTION**

**\*Please stand in body or spirit**

Starmount Presbyterian Church  
[starmountpres.org](http://starmountpres.org)  
(336) 299-8131

**Announcements**

**Thank you for joining us for worship this Sunday!** We hope you will find it to be an uplifting and meaningful experience. If you are a **guest or visitor**, we invite you to stop by our information desk in the Narthex (entry space). We have a gift for you as well as some information about our wonderful community of faith. If you feel comfortable sharing your contact information, we invite you to also fill out a visitor card.

**Families with young children** are invited to stop by the children's corner in the Narthex. Here you can check in your children for nursery care and staff can direct you to our downstairs classrooms. There are also worship/activity bags available.

**During the season of Advent, we are celebrating all the different ways we connect. We are honored to have different groups from our church family leading worship through lighting the Advent candles.**

3<sup>rd</sup> - Book Study Group  
10<sup>th</sup> - Women of the Church  
17<sup>th</sup> - Children & Youth  
24<sup>th</sup> - Homework Helpers & Mission Team

**Poinsettias!** Put your order in today for a Poinsettia in memory or in honor of your loved ones. Sign-up forms can be found on the welcome desk in the Narthex. All orders must be in by **Monday, December 11 at 12:00pm.**

**Advent Workshop, today at 11:30 am** in Fellowship Hall. Join us for Fellowship, Crafts and Activities for all ages.

**Triad Health Project Stocking Stuffer Project – We will be stuffing stockings after church today, December 3. Please join us!**

**The Starmount Chancel Choir** will present "A Weary World Rejoices" by Joseph M. Martin, along with piano and string quartet on Sunday, **December 10** during worship. This work takes us on a journey through the weary days of winter through the babe's birth, which awakens us by grace, we rejoice and our world is changed forever. We hope you will join us for this special musical celebration of the season!

**Join us for an Advent Small Group Study:** It will meet Wednesdays at 12:15, in person or online on **Dec. 6, Dec. 13 & Dec. 20.** This study is based on the book *Holy Disruption*, by Traci S. Daub. Reading the book is not required to participate, but if you would like to purchase the book, look for the link in the weekly email. If you would like to attend the class via zoom, contact the church office for a link.

**All Children of the church are invited to join us for Children's Choir!** We will be rehearsing during worship **on December 3 & December 17**. We will then perform what we've learned during the **10 am service on Christmas Eve**. Please contact Sarah Downey, [sarah@starmountpres.org](mailto:sarah@starmountpres.org) for more information.

**Honor Cards** - The Mission Ministry will be selling Christmas Honor Cards beginning the first Sunday of Advent. This year you can buy cards to honor your friends with your donation to Greensboro Urban Ministry, Habitat for Humanity or UKirk. Each card is \$5.00 and we can accept cash or check. Check out your Starmount email and the website for links to purchase honor cards online at [www.starmountpres.org](http://www.starmountpres.org). Contact Cathy Ingram with questions at [csingram@gmail.com](mailto:csingram@gmail.com).

Join us for a **service of remembrance** following worship on **Sunday, Dec. 10th**. For many, the weeks between Thanksgiving and New Year's are not always the "most wonderful time of the year." Instead, they are often filled with pain, stress, and grief. We will gather in the columbarium for a brief service of music and prayers to give voice to those feelings and make space for God's Spirit.

**Starmount Presbyterian Youth (SPY)** activities for December -

**4<sup>th</sup>** - Burrito Buddies

Come to dinner at Qdoba @ Friendly for dinner once a month. Laura will be there from 6-7:30!

**17<sup>th</sup>** - Sermon Talk-Back

Meet after church to debrief and explore the themes of the sermon of the day. Lunch will be provided!

**22<sup>nd</sup>** - Youth & Alumni Christmas Party


Come celebrate the last day of school for the Christmas break! We will have dinner, play games, and have an ugly sweater contest. Time and Location TBA.

**2023 Angel Tree** - Each year our church provides Christmas gifts for the children of Triad Health Project's clients. This year the Angel Tree will be up in the Narthex at the end of November. Choose a tag off the tree with item(s) to purchase, wrap them with the tag on it and **return by December 10**.

**Drop & Shop** - Do you need to get some holiday shopping done without the kids? Children 3 years old to 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join us on **Saturday, December 16, 9 am - Noon**. Registration is required by December 13.

Please join us, on **Monday, December 18 at 3:00 p.m.** for **caroling at WhiteStone**, 700 S. Holden Road. We will gather at 2:30 in the WhiteStone Fellowship Hall. Song sheets will be provided.

**Homework Helpers** meets weekly on Thursday from 4-5:30pm. We need transportation, snack and dinner providers, and homework helpers to work with students. Contact Laura ([laura@starmountpres.org](mailto:laura@starmountpres.org)) for more information!

**Plastics Recycling Update** - Congratulations, we're halfway there! As of October 31, you have kept 278 pounds of plastic out of the landfill. Way to go! Just a couple of reminders: if it has a symbol like this  or it's crinkly, it **CANNOT** be recycled. We will be collecting **through the end of January** so as you do your holiday shopping, keep in mind that the plastic mailers that online retailers use and the air pillows that come in the boxes from online retailers **CAN** be recycled.

**Have you ever wondered where you can find out all that is happening at the church? A link to the church calendar can be found at the bottom of the church website homepage:**  
[www.starmountpres.org](http://www.starmountpres.org)

### **Starmount Presbyterian Church Program Staff**

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Rev. Dr. Charlie Lee, Pastor

Rev. Scott Lawson, Parish Associate

Sarah Downey, Director of Music

Michael Parker, Pianist/Organist

Cindy Lee, Director of Children's Ministries

Laura Roberson Hadas, Director of Youth & Refugee Ministries



**Welcome to Sunday Worship  
December 3, 2023 · 10:00 a.m.**