

**December 17, 2023**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**PRELUDE**

*“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*  
Wade, arr Paul Edwards  
Brass Ensemble

**WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP**

The Lord is getting us ready to receive a gift of great joy.

**Watch for this gift!**

Be vigilant and ready. For the gift is about to come.

**The promise of God is faithful and trustworthy.**

Watch, wait. The Gift is coming into the world!

**Praise be to God for such lavish love. AMEN.**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**HYMN 82** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

Children & Youth

**OPENING MUSIC**

*“Coventry Carol”*  
Traditional English, arr Don Gillis  
Brass Ensemble

**SEEKING GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Dear God, you are a great and awesome God.**

**Today we come to you in a prayer of confession.**

**We are sorry for the many things that we have done that are wrong in your eyes.**

**We are also sorry for all the things we should have done but we didn't do.**

**We are asking now for forgiveness for these things, and for other things**

**that we have done wrong and don't even know about.**

**Please forgive us.**

**In your name alone we pray, Amen.**

(Lynnae Keeley, age 13)

(Silent prayers)

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE

**RESPONSE**

**HYMN 92** *While We are Waiting, Come* (v. 1)

**\*HYMN 140**

*Once in Royal David’s City*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Isaiah 61: 1-4

**SERMON**

Laura Roberson Hadas

**ANTHEM**

*“Ding Dong Merrily on High”*  
arr Burkhardt  
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 believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ.**

**We believe that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We believe that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker.**

**We believe that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.**

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Adapted from the Confession of Belhar

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.**

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**\*HYMN 129**

*“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”*

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*“Joy to the World”*  
arr J. Ryther  
Brass Ensemble

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

**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.**

17<sup>th</sup> - Children & Youth

24<sup>th</sup> – Homework Helpers & Mission Team

**All Children of the church are invited to join us for Children's Choir!** We will be rehearsing during worship **today, 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.

**Caroling party!** Tomorrow (Dec. 18) at 3:00 at **Whitestone Retirement community**. We will gather at 2 at Starmount for a real Hot Chocolate (no Swiss Miss!) and a short practice session, departing for Whitestone at 2:45. If you cannot join our practice come directly to Whitestone. We will sing for a group of residents and then sing for Connie, as well.

**2024 Offering Envelopes** - Please stop by the Welcome Desk in the Narthex to pick up 2024 Offering Envelopes. Envelopes are not named or numbered. You have the option to pick up envelopes for weekly or monthly donations.

**Christmas Joy Offering-** During this season of Advent, Starmount Presbyterian Church will be collecting for “The Christmas Joy Offering” for PCUSA, which provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need. Please mark **“Christmas Joy”** in the memo line of your check if you wish to contribute.

**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!

**Honor Cards** - The Mission Ministry started selling Christmas Honor Cards 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 an Advent Small Group Study:** It will meet **next** Wednesday **Dec. 20** at 12:15, in person or online. 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.

**Plastics Recycling Update** – Congratulations, we're halfway there! As of November 30, you have kept **375** 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.

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

**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 or go directly to:** <https://starmountpres.org/calendar/>

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



#### Starmount Presbyterian Church Program Staff

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 17, 2023 · 10:00 a.m.**