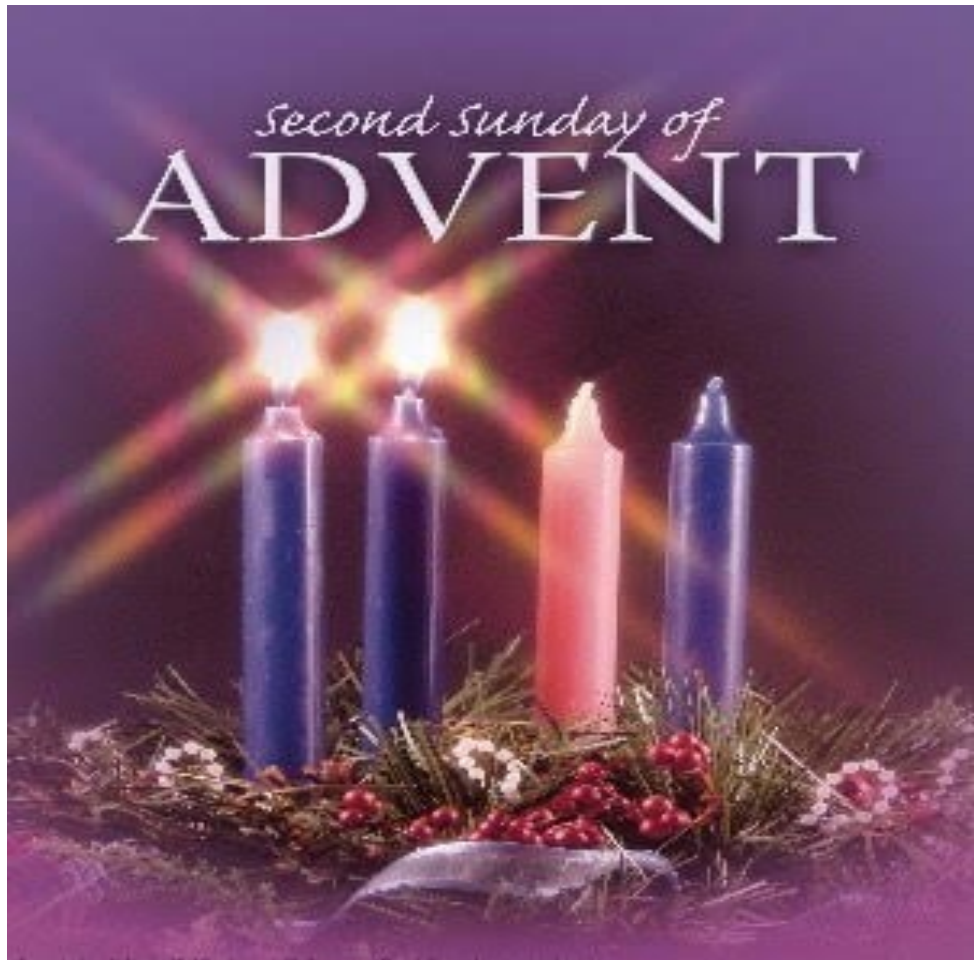


<b>SERVING THE CHURCH</b> <b>This Week</b>	<b>SERVING THE CHURCH</b> <b>Next Week</b>	
Liturgist: Linda Stenhouse Ushers: Jackie Koch Linda Stenhouse	Liturgist: Candie Vaitkevicius Ushers: Sharon Flesch	
<b>Elder of the Month</b> For December: Candie Vaitkevicius, 864-631-1010(H); 630-247-9507 (cell)		
<b>SESSION MEMBERS</b>		
<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>
Barb Daugherty	Linda Stenhouse	Barb Daugherty
Bill Marshall (NS)	Jackie Koch	Bill Marshall NS
Ronnie Storch	Candie Vaitkevicius	Linda Marshall



Cover Art:  
Provided by Google Images

**Sunday, December 10, 2023**

**Simpsonville Presbyterian Church**

**Simpsonville, SC**

*"Growing Together in Faith - Loving and Serving in the World"*



Office Hours: Mon.-Thur. 8:30-10:30 a.m.  
510 East Curtis Street \* Simpsonville, SC 29681 \* (864) 963-8854  
[www.simpsonvillepres.com](http://www.simpsonvillepres.com) E-mail: [office@simpsonvillepres.com](mailto:office@simpsonvillepres.com)  
Rev. Dr. Mary Anne Welch, Pastor  
Darrell Johnson, Pianist Jackie Koch, Office Administrator  
The WiFi Identity is FPCS-Guest and the password to connect is Grace4all.

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Dec. 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

**Welcome, announcements**

**Prayers and Concerns**

**Rev. Dr. Mary Anne Welch has office hours on Tuesdays from 9 a.m.—Noon. For an appointment, please call the Church office.**

**Please note that the wearing of masks during service and singing hymns is optional. NOTE: This service may be video recorded.**

**Please stand if you are able where asterisk.**

PRELUDE "Prelude on 'Wachet Auf'" arr. Smith

**\*OUR CALL TO WORSHIP** Linda Stenhouse, Liturgist

Leader: Comfort, O comfort my people!

**People: We welcome God's tender words to us today.**

Leader: Prepare the way for your God!

**People: We gather for worship to prepare ourselves for Christ's coming.**

Leader: Christ is coming! The glory of God will be revealed!

**People: Thanks be to God for this good news!**

**\*OPENING HYMN: #8 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"**

\*PRAYER OF ADORATION

JOURNEY TO THE MANGER: Reading: Sharon Flesch

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Ron & Judy Lundy

**RESPONSE: Advent Song (verse 1 & 2 and refrain) (bulletin insert)**

CALL TO CONFESSION

**CONFESSION OF OUR SIN** (unison prayer)

**Eternal God, John the Baptist prepares the way by calling upon us to repent. We have failed to share as we should. We have failed to honor the poor and the oppressed. We have failed to bear fruit worthy of your salvation. Have mercy upon us, God. Heal and forgive us so we can welcome Christ with pure and genuine hearts. Amen.**

**2023 YEAR END GIVING:** As you review your 2023 giving status, please consider a year end gift to the church. If you are mailing in your gift, please have it post marked by Saturday, Dec 30, 2023, or earlier to be considered as a 2023 gift for tax purposes. You can also leave your gift at the church office by Dec 31 with attention to Bill Marshall. If you have any questions, please contact Bill at 864-230-5268. If you are considering a gift of stock, please contact Bill directly and no later than tomorrow, Dec 11 as arrangements will need to be made to liquidate the stock and turn it into a taxable gift by Dec 31. Unless otherwise designated, all year end gifts will be applied to retiring our Sanctuary loan.

**2023 IN KIND GIVING:** Please have your "in kind" giving receipts and form submitted to the church office no later than Dec 31 for consideration on your 2023 tax return. In Kind forms are available from the office or on the bulletin board along the education hallway.

**2023 REIMBURSEMENT RECEIPTS:** If you have business receipts for 2023 (dated Dec 31 or earlier), please have them attached to the completed form and submitted to the church office by Monday, Jan 8, 2024.

Coming Next Sunday (Third Sunday of Advent):

Lessons and Carols: joint service with Lamb of God and Deeper Life

**VIDEO RECORDINGS:** Video recordings of services that have been previously recorded are available on the Church's website: [www.simpsonvillepres.com](http://www.simpsonvillepres.com). Click on "Videos" in the menu at the top or click on the picture of a worship service in the lower right.

**SAVE THE DATES:**

- Dec. 17: Lessons & Carols—joint service
- Dec. 24: Morning worship @ 10:30 a.m.
- Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ 7 p.m.

**ADVENT DEVOTIONALS** are available on the table in the Narthex.

**CHRISTMAS GATHERING:** A great time of fun, fellowship, and food was had by all who attended the Christmas Gathering Friday evening.

**CARDS:** Join us for card playing on Wednesday, Dec. 13th, at 11:00 at the church. Bring your own lunch.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN** will meet on Thursday, Dec. 14th, at 11 a.m. at the Church.

**CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING:** Inserted in today's bulletin is an envelope for contributions to the annual Christmas Joy offering. Thanks to this offering, current and retired Presbyterian church workers and their families can receive critical financial help. There are materials on the table in the Narthex with additional information on this worthwhile cause.

This year we will again have a **MITTEN AND SCARF TREE** which will be up in the Narthex on December 3 and 10. The donations will be sent to the Robert E. Cashion Elementary School.

**STEWARDSHIP:** The 2024 pledge card communication packet contained a budget summary supporting our plan to continue with Stated Supply into the new year. As we shared in our congregational meeting, due to high interest rates, we are targeting to retire our current Sanctuary loan by the end of Q1/2024. Through this, your financial support for current operations is critical. After you prayerfully consider and complete your 2024 Faith Promise, you may return it to the office (attention Bill Marshall) or place it in the offering plate any Sunday.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

**All: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.**

Leader: By the mercy of Christ, your sins are forgiven, for salvation is at hand for all who turn to God.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**RESPONSE: "While We Are Waiting, Come"**

*While we are waiting come*

*While we are waiting come*

*Jesus our Lord Emmanuel*

*While we are waiting come .*

**HYMN #536 "Lord, Make Us More Holy"**

SILENT PRAYER: A few moments of silent communication with God.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 40:1-11/Mark 8:31-36

SERMON: "Peace on Earth, Goodwill to All" Rev. Dr. Mary Ann Welch

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The 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 sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He will come to judge the living 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.**

**Prayer of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

**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,**  
**The power, and the glory,**  
**For ever and ever. Amen.**

PROCLAMATION OF OFFERING AND PRAYER (the offering plate is located on a back table in the sanctuary just inside the back double doors.)

OFFERTORY "The First Noel" arr. Bisharat

**\*The Doxology**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;*  
*Praise Him all creatures here below;*  
*Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts;*  
*Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*CLOSING HYMN #210 "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

\*BENEDICTION

\*RESPONSE: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

*Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,*  
*Born to set Thy people free;*  
*From our fears and sins release us,*  
*Let us find our rest in Thee.*

POSTLUDE "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light" Schop

**WELCOME TO SIMPSONVILLE PRESBYTERIAN!** Whether you are a long-time member or first time visitor, we are glad you are here. If you would like to learn more about the Simpsonville Presbyterian community, we invite you to contact us through our website [www.simpsonvillepres.com](http://www.simpsonvillepres.com), or by calling the church office at (864)963-8854.

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS** today are the beautiful poinsettias purchased in honor of and in memory of loved ones and special people. A list of memorials and honorees will be in the Christmas Eve morning bulletin.

**REFRESHMENTS** today are given by Linda Stenhouse. Thank you.

**BIBLE STORY BAGS** are available for children during worship. See an usher if you would like one for your child to use. Please return the bag to an usher after worship.

**PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK:** Darrell Johnson, Jean Kirkland

**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:** None

**LIFE IN THE CONGREGATION**

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Jean Kirkland; Bill Marshall (PA); Sue Marshall's mother, Linda Moseley (granddaughter of Jean Kirkland); Kitty Shealy, the Vaitkevicius family; Marilyn Hastings (friend of Jimmy Cheeks); Jessica Marshall (daughter-in-law of Bill & Linda); Everett (sister of Donnett); Bob Marshall (Bill Marshall (PA)'s father); Nicole Plante; the Ramsdell family (family of Ronnie); Scott Hatfield (son-in-law of Candie & Joe); Dixie Suit (sister-in-law of Kitty Shealy); the family of Helen Guthrie; Roger Edney (relative of Barb & Roger Daugherty). Do not hesitate to call or email the Church Office ([office@simpsonvillepres.com](mailto:office@simpsonvillepres.com)) about any pastoral concerns.

**SCHEDULES AND EVENTS**

**FOOD PANTRY:** Your continued prayers and giving hearts allow us to keep this mission to our neighbors going. Suggestions for the month of December are flour, sugar, snack cakes and cookies. As always, we are grateful for all donations.