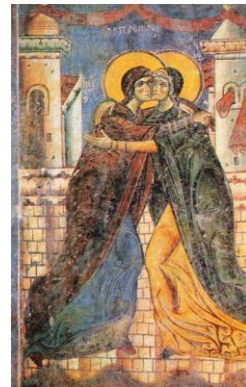


*Virtual Worship Service for the Lord's Day  
The Third Sunday in Advent, December 11, 2022*

*Crossnore Presbyterian Church  
200 Chapel Drive, P.O. Box 386  
Crossnore, NC 28616*



Welcome and Church Family News (PDF attachment)

Choral Call to Worship # 92 *While We Are Waiting Come*

<https://youtu.be/aizsMBcT2GI> - Geneva Presbyterian Church, Laguna Hills, CA

WAITING

While we are waiting come

While we are waiting come

Jesus our Lord Emmanuel

While we are waiting come

With power and glory come

With power and glory come

Jesus our Lord Emmanuel

While we are waiting come

Come Savior quickly come

Come Savior quickly come

Jesus our Lord Emmanuel

While we are waiting come

**Lighting of the Advent Candle of Joy**

We light the first two candles to remind us of God's gifts of peace and hope. **(light two purple candles)**

We are more than halfway done with our journey through Advent, and today we light the rose candle which commemorates the gift of joy. **(light the rose candle)**

As we await the birth of Christ, we look forward to the joyous celebration we will share with each other. The prophet Zephaniah tells us to shout out for joy because God will transform God's people; indeed, God is transforming God's people here and now. The angels told the shepherds abiding in the fields that they brought tidings of great joy for all people!

These tidings are just as joyful for us today as they were for those shepherds 2000 years ago. That goodness is this: that we are loved of God and called the children of God. By lighting this candle, we remember the words of the Apostle Paul who told us to rejoice in Jesus Christ who is the provider of peace, the harbinger of hope, and the source of our joy.

**Let us pray:** God of hope, peace, and joy, we thank you for the excitement of this season and the deep joy we experience when friends and family are near. Help us share your joy with this world and each other that others will know you by knowing us. Amen.

**Call to Worship:**

In the midst of the barren land,

**flowers burst into bloom.**

In the midst of the dry desert,

**streams of water gush forth.**

In the midst of sorrow and sighing,

**joy and gladness dance together.**

We shall see the glory of God!

Hymn of Praise # 610 *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

AZMON

<https://youtu.be/Z-2ymkkV5t8> - Geneva Presbyterian Church, Laguna Hills, CA

O for a thousand tongues to sing  
My great Redeemer's praise,  
The *glories* of my God and King,  
The triumphs of God's grace!

Jesus, the name that charms our fears,  
That bids our sorrows cease;  
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'Tis life, and health, and peace.

Christ breaks the power of reigning sin,  
And sets the prisoner free;  
Christ's blood can make the sinful clean,  
Christ's blood availed for me.

My gracious Master and my God,  
Assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad  
The honors of Thy name.

To God all glory, praise and love  
be now and ever given  
by saints below and saints above,  
the church in earth and heaven.

**Call to Confession:**

In Advent, we prepare for the coming of Christ, full of grace and truth. Trusting in God's unfailing grace, let us tell the truth about ourselves, joining in our prayer of confession.

**Unison Prayer of Confession:**

Patient Lord, forgive our lack of faith in your loving power. We look around us and all that we see is what we don't have. We fail to notice the daily blessings you lavish upon us. Clear our blindness to the needs of others. Strengthen us and move us from lame excuses for not serving you. Help us to truly listen to one another, not with our pat answers ready, but with loving and generous hearts. Heal us and make us ready to truly be your disciples (moment of silent confession). In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon:**

Behold and believe in the wondrous power and love of God! It is poured out for us and for God's beloved world. Rejoice in this good news, our sins are forgiven.

Alleluia! Amen.

**Response to God's Grace and Mercy # 95 *Prepare the Way of the Lord***

PREPARE THE WAY

[https://youtu.be/GpZ\\_FowUKUQ](https://youtu.be/GpZ_FowUKUQ) - Duluth First UMC Chamber Choral, Duluth, GA

Prepare the way of the Lord; prepare the way of the Lord.  
And all the people shall see the salvation of our God.

**First Lesson: Luke 1:26-38**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered

what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

### **Second Lesson: Luke 1:39-45**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

**Sermon: "Holy Friendship" (PDF attachment)**

**Rev. Kathy Campbell**

### **Affirmation of Faith: adapted from Luke 1:46-55**

Our souls magnify the Lord, and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior,  
for he looks with favor upon us and sees our unrealized potential.

In the tradition of Mary, and all who have said "yes" to God,  
we stand here today, to add our assent to theirs.

Like Mary, we feel overwhelmed;  
we wonder if we are worthy, or capable, of following the calling.  
Like Mary, we have our questions and we will not be afraid to ask them.  
Like Mary, we will hear and ponder the assurance that God will empower us.  
Like Mary we will strive to say - "Let it be with us according to your will."

To whatever God is inviting of us at this time in our lives,  
and relying on God's grace, we say "yes."

### **\*Hymn of Meditation # 104 O Lord, How Shall We Meet You**

**VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN**

<https://youtu.be/VIORD3pYfSI> - First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville, TN

**O Lord, how shall I meet you,  
how welcome you aright?  
Your people long to greet you,  
my hope, my heart's delight!  
O kindle, Lord most holy,  
a lamp within my breast,  
to do in spirit lowly  
all that may please you best.**

**Love caused your incarnation;  
love brought you down to me;  
your thirst for my salvation  
procured my liberty.  
O love beyond all telling,  
that led you to embrace  
in love, all loves excelling,  
our lost and fallen race.**

### **Prayers of the People:**

Holy Friend, we thank you for the simple, humble things  
that come to us, bringing flashes of light and joy.

Thank you for–

A cardinal singing its heart out on a chilly dawn.  
Music that touches deep places in our soul.  
A small child who sits on our lap wanting us to read the story  
one more time.

Thank you for–

The savoring of words from a favorite poem or song.  
A small act of courtesy in the grocery store or at school or at work.  
The person who chats with us in a room full of people we don't know.

Thank you for–

A verse from the Bible that comfort us in distress.  
A simple carol that releases feelings of love and wonder.  
Old friends who remind us we are loved for the long haul.

Loving God, best of all we thank you for your Holy Child, Jesus,  
who though he was divinely rich, for our sakes became poor,  
and was carried in the womb of a village carpenter's wife  
who took refuge in a cattle shed, and there gave birth,  
cleaving history with a light and joy that can never be smothered.

Remembering how God chose a humble young woman and a carpenter to provide the nurture for Christ Jesus,  
let us seek the special blessing of God upon the ordinary people of faith who serve unnoticed and often  
unappreciated in the community.

Let us pray for...

Carpenters and other skilled workers who day by day ply their trades with skill and integrity to the glory of God;

Reliable citizens in service organizations, local government, school committees, emergency services, tutoring,  
feeding the hungry, scouting.

Police officers, street cleaners, teachers, gardeners, social workers, parking attendants, nurses, shop assistants.

Single parents who are always on call, providing physical and spiritual nurture and lovingly attending to a  
thousand small details every day.

The members in our own families whom we often take for granted, and steadfast friends who are always there  
when we need them.

The quiet achievers in our congregations, who though unheralded, express their faith in numerous practical  
ways.

God of grace, we pray for these, and so many like them, who constantly leaven this world with goodness and  
mercy, yet ask for nothing except the knowledge that they are doing Christ's work.

Help us, loving God, to learn the way of Christ from one another, and in your hands may our very ordinariness  
become a witness to your glory in Emmanuel. Through Jesus Christ our Savior, who taught us to pray: Our  
Father...Amen.

### **Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings:**

As we prepare for Christmas, let us remember that the true gift of Christmas is Emmanuel "God with us." May our offerings this morning reflect the hope, peace, and joy in our lives because we know that God is still with us and is still speaking and acting our lives and in our world. Let us receive this morning's offering.

### **Doxology # 609**

<https://youtu.be/qZfWUsFcaCA> - River Road Presbyterian Church

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Praise God in Jesus fully known; Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

### **Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:**

**Father, teach us how to listen for your call in our lives. Teach us how to be faithful stewards with the gifts you have entrusted to us. Teach us how to use this offering as a source of your ministry and mission. Teach us how to spend time beholding the miracles all around us. In the name of the greatest teacher, Emmanuel, we pray. Amen.**

### **Closing Hymn # 108 *Of the Father's Love Begotten***

**DIVINUM MYSTERIUM**

<https://youtu.be/6kK4JLP9i7U> - Westminster Cathedral Choir

**Of the Father's love begotten,  
ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega;  
he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been,  
and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore!**

**By his Word was all created;  
he commanded; it was done:  
heaven and earth and depths of ocean,  
universe of three in one,  
all that sees the moon's soft shining,  
all that breathes beneath the sun,  
evermore and evermore!**

**O, that birth forever blessed  
when the Virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
bore the Savior of our race,  
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,  
first revealed his sacred face,  
evermore and evermore!**

**Christ, to thee with God the Father,  
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving  
and unwearied praises be.  
Honor, glory, and dominion,  
and eternal victory,  
evermore and evermore! Amen.**

### **Charge and Benediction:**

Be people of joy.

Let joy live in your heart and share the joy of Christ with all you meet.

Share joy by seeing the good in each other.

Share joy by remembering good times and hoping for good times to come.

Share joy by praying for our world.

In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share joy.

As you go out into the wonder of God's creations, share joy, peace, and hope with those you meet.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with you and with God's beautiful and broken world. Amen.

*An Advent Prayer*

*Lord, help me to trust you, even when I am not sure.*

*Help me to find moments of silence to listen to your voice  
and reflect on the need for your grace and light.*

*Use me as an Elizabeth for some, and a Mary for others,  
encouraging and being encouraged.*

*And thank you for bring the dawn from on high to break upon me.*

*Help me walk in the light of your love. Amen.*