

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 20, 2020 6:00 p.m.

https://www.ballantynepres.com/webcast

To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest;

To all who mourn and long for comfort;

To all who struggle and desire victory;

To all who sin and need a Savior;

To all who are strangers and want fellowship;

To all who hunger and thirst for righteousness;

And to whoever will come —

This church opens wide her doors

And offers her welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with the justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Waiting for the consolation of Israel. Luke 2:25



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NEW TESTAMENT READING

2 Corinthians 1:12-24, page 964

Paul's Change of Plans

¹² For our boast is this, the testimony of our conscience, that we behaved in the world with

simplicity and godly sincerity, not by earthly wisdom but by the grace of God, and supremely so

toward you. ¹³ For we are not writing to you anything other than what you read and understand

and I hope you will fully understand— ¹⁴ just as you did partially understand us—that on the day

of our Lord Jesus you will boast of us as we will boast of you.

¹⁵Because I was sure of this, I wanted to come to you first, so that you might have a

second experience of grace. ¹⁶ I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia, and to come back to

you from Macedonia and have you send me on my way to Judea. ¹⁷ Was I vacillating when I

wanted to do this? Do I make my plans according to the flesh, ready to say "Yes, yes" and "No,

no" at the same time? 18 As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been Yes and

No. ¹⁹ For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy

and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. ²⁰ For all the promises of God find their

Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. ²¹ And it is

God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, ²² and who has also put his seal on

us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

²³ But I call God to witness against me—it was to spare you that I refrained from coming again to

Corinth. ²⁴ Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, for you stand

firm in your faith.

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Away in a Manger

She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7



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CONFESSION OF FAITH: Westminster Shorter Catechism No. 64

Question: What is required in the fifth commandment?

Answer: The fifth commandment requireth the preserving the honor, and performing the duties, belonging to every one in their several places and relations, as superiors, inferiors or equals.

PSALM OF PREPARATION

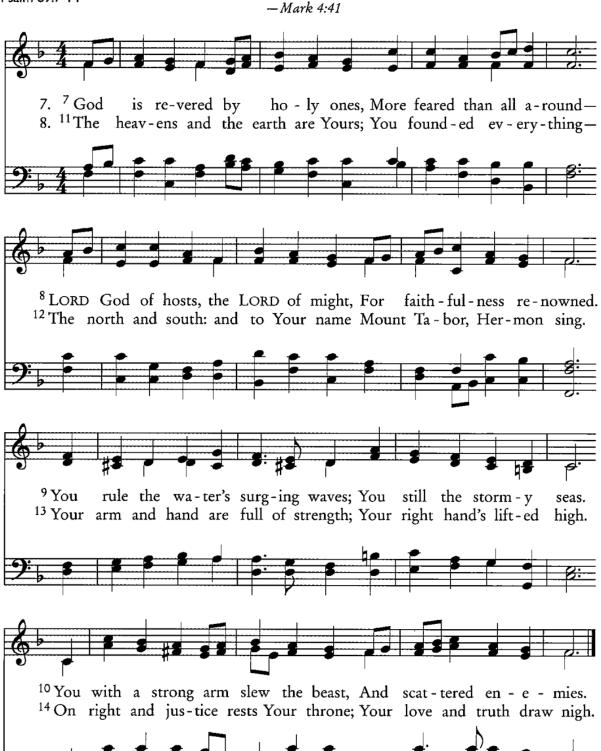
89B

God Is Revered

Psalm 89:7-14

Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?

-Mark 4:41



THE PREACHED WORD OF GOD

Dr. Mantle Nance

"Favor & Faithfulness"

Deuteronomy 5, ESV page 150

The Ten Commandments

5 And Moses summoned all Israel and said to them, "Hear, O Israel, the statutes and the rules that I speak in your hearing today, and you shall learn them and be careful to do them. ²The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. ³Not with our fathers did the LORD make this covenant, but with us, who are all of us here alive today. ⁴The LORD spoke with you face to face at the mountain, out of the midst of the fire, ⁵while I stood between the LORD and you at that time, to declare to you the word of the LORD. For you were afraid because of the fire, and you did not go up into the mountain. He said:

6""I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

⁷ "You shall have no other gods before me.

⁸ "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁹ You shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ¹⁰ but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

¹¹ "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

¹² "Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. ¹³ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁴ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant, or your ox or your donkey or any of your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. ¹⁵ You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

¹⁶ "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹⁷ "You shall not murder.

¹⁸ "And you shall not commit adultery.

¹⁹ "And you shall not steal.

²⁰ "And you shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

²¹ "And you shall not covet your neighbor's wife. And you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field, or his male servant, or his female servant, his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.'

²² "These words the LORD spoke to all your assembly at the mountain out of the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and he added no more. And he wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me. ²³ And as soon as you heard the voice out of the midst of the darkness, while the mountain was burning with fire, you came near to me, all the heads of your tribes, and your elders. ²⁴ And you said, 'Behold, the LORD our God has shown us his glory and greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire. This day we have seen God speak with man, and man still live. ²⁵ Now therefore why should we die? For this great fire will consume us. If we hear the voice of the LORD our God any more, we shall die. ²⁶ For who is there of all flesh, that has heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the midst of fire as we have, and has still lived? ²⁷ Go near and hear all that the LORD our God will say, and speak to us all that the LORD our God will speak to you, and we will hear and do it.'

²⁸ "And the LORD heard your words, when you spoke to me. And the LORD said to me, 'I have heard the words of this people, which they have spoken to you. They are right in all that they have spoken. ²⁹ Oh that they had such a heart as this always, to fear me and to keep all my commandments, that it might go well with them and with their descendants forever! ³⁰ Go and say to them, "Return to your tents." ³¹ But you, stand here by me, and I will tell you the whole commandment and the statutes and the rules that you shall teach them, that they may do them in the land that I am giving them to possess.' ³² You shall be careful therefore to do as the LORD your God has commanded you. You shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. ³³ You shall walk in all the way that the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live, and that it may go well with you, and that you may live long in the land that you shall possess.

* HYMN OF RESPONSE



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* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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^{*} Congregation Standing

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

At this time, we do not plan to collect the offering by passing the plate. These are available in the back of the sanctuary. Online or mail-in giving are still encouraged, but you can drop a check in the plate if that is more convenient.

ONLINE: http://www.ballantynepres.com/giving/

MAIL: Please mail tithe checks (no cash) to the treasurer's address. She will immediately deposit to the church's account and forward the Wells Fargo e-mail confirmation to you:

Marilyn Spencer - BPC Treasurer 3020 Shaker Drive Charlotte, NC 28210

THIS WEEK

Dec. 23 No Prayer Meeting or Youth Group

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Worship, 6 p.m.

Dec. 25 No Men's Bible Study

SAVE THE DATES

Dec. 27 No In-Person EVENING Worship - Live-Stream Only

Dec. 30 No Prayer Meeting or Youth Group

Jan. 1 No Men's Bible Study

SESSION

Dr. Mantle Nance	Senior Minister	980-329-8458
Mr. Kenneth Jackson	Missions	704-604-0331
Dr. Brian Jerby	Women's Ministry	704-574-0678
Mr. Dennis Kachmarsky	Clerk	704-996-9561
Mr. Bob Stone	Personnel	704-442-0109
Mr. Mark Seeley	Elder Emeritus	

DIACONATE

Mr. Sam Bullard	Mercy	704-451-1569
Mr. Rob Kelley	Building/ Grounds	704-907-5474
Mr. Keith Kowadlo	Men's Ministry	704-618-6181
Mr. Jake Spencer	Chair/ Finance	704-617-0197
Mr. Tim Teague	Clerk	704-770-1421

STAFF

Pianist	803-389-5395
Intern	616-647-7743
Music Coordinator	704-604-0330
Administration	704-953-1951
Intern	828-989-7356
WIM Intern	770-823-2508
Treasurer	704-617-0304
	Intern Music Coordinator Administration Intern WIM Intern

MISSIONARIES AND SUPPORTED MINISTRIES

Scott & Victoria Andes	RUF International - USC	Columbia, SC
John Baber	RUF - UNCC	Charlotte, NC
Michael and Laura Cochran	World Witness	England
Drew & Lauren Goodman	World Witness	Sully, Wales
Josh & Ashley Grimm	RUF - Queens	Charlotte, NC
John & Judy Lehner	Pilgrim Grace for Spain	Charlotte, NC
*Human Coalition	1505 E. 4 th Street	Charlotte, NC
Rob & Rachel Turner	Arsenal Hill Presbyterian	Columbia, SC
Michael & Lauren Wenzler	RUF - CSU	Ft. Collins, CO
Justin & M. Westmoreland	Trinity Presbyterian Church	Norman, OK
*Missionary of the Month		

CHURCH FINANCIAL UPDATE

11/30/20 YTD	Actual	Budget	Variance
Income	\$285,603	\$310,933	(\$25,330)
Expenses:	\$310,113	\$310,933	(\$820)
Net Income/ (Deficit)	(\$24,510)	\$0	(\$24,510)

BALLANTYNE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH'S MISSION IS TO DECLARE GOD'S GLORY TO BALLANTYNE, SOUTH CHARLOTTE, AND BEYOND.