

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 20, 2020 11:00 a.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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INSTRUMENTAL INTROIT

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Stand in awe before the Lord, for the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14



PRAYER OF ADORATION AND INVOCATION

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, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN

- Leader: Lord God! Eternal and Almighty Father, we acknowledge and confess before your holy Majesty that we are poor sinners, conceived and born in guilt and in corruption, prone to do evil, unable of ourselves to do any good, who, by reason of our depravity, transgress without end Your holy commandments.
- All: Therefore, we have drawn upon ourselves, by Your just sentence, condemnation and death. But, O Lord! With heartfelt sorrow, we repent and deplore our offenses. We condemn ourselves and our evil ways, with true penitence, beseeching that Your grace may relieve our distress.
- Leader: Have compassion on us poor sinners, O most gracious God, Father of mercy, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your son and our Lord.
- All: And in removing our guilt and our pollution, grant us the daily increase of the grace of your Holy Spirit, the one who mortifies all sin within us by producing the fruits of holiness and righteousness, which are well pleasing in Your sight. We plead your mercy by the powerful name of Jesus, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Isaiah 55:1, 6-7

Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.



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OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 46, ESV page 672

Judgment on Egypt

46 The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet concerning the nations.

²About Egypt. Concerning the army of Pharaoh Neco, king of Egypt, which was by the river Euphrates at Carchemish and which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon defeated in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah:

³ "Prepare buckler and shield, and advance for battle!
⁴ Harness the horses; mount, O horsemen!
Take your stations with your helmets, polish your spears, put on your armor!
⁵ Why have I seen it?
They are dismayed and have turned backward.
Their warriors are beaten down and have fled in haste; they look not back terror on every side! declares the LORD.

⁶ "The swift cannot flee away, nor the warrior escape; in the north by the river Euphrates they have stumbled and fallen. ⁷ "Who is this, rising like the Nile, like rivers whose waters surge? ⁸Egypt rises like the Nile, like rivers whose waters surge. He said, 'I will rise, I will cover the earth, I will destroy cities and their inhabitants.' ⁹Advance, O horses, and rage, O chariots! Let the warriors go out: men of Cush and Put who handle the shield, men of Lud, skilled in handling the bow. ¹⁰ That day is the day of the Lord GOD of hosts, a day of vengeance,

to avenge himself on his foes. The sword shall devour and be sated and drink its fill of their blood. For the Lord GOD of hosts holds a sacrifice in the north country by the river Euphrates. ¹¹Go up to Gilead, and take balm, O virgin daughter of Egypt! In vain you have used many medicines; there is no healing for you. ¹² The nations have heard of your shame, and the earth is full of your cry; for warrior has stumbled against warrior; they have both fallen together." ¹³The word that the LORD spoke to Jeremiah the prophet about the coming of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon to strike the land of Egypt: ¹⁴ "Declare in Egypt, and proclaim in Migdol; proclaim in Memphis and Tahpanhes; say, 'Stand ready and be prepared, for the sword shall devour around you.' ¹⁵Why are your mighty ones face down? They do not stand because the LORD thrust them down. ¹⁶He made many stumble, and they fell, and they said one to another, 'Arise, and let us go back to our own people and to the land of our birth, because of the sword of the oppressor.' ¹⁷ Call the name of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, 'Noisy one who lets the hour go by.' ¹⁸ "As I live, declares the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts, like Tabor among the mountains and like Carmel by the sea, shall one come. ¹⁹ Prepare yourselves baggage for exile, O inhabitants of Egypt! For Memphis shall become a waste, a ruin, without inhabitant.

²⁰ "A beautiful heifer is Egypt, but a biting fly from the north has come upon her. ²¹Even her hired soldiers in her midst are like fattened calves: ves, they have turned and fled together; they did not stand, for the day of their calamity has come upon them, the time of their punishment. ²²"She makes a sound like a serpent gliding away; for her enemies march in force and come against her with axes like those who fell trees. ²³They shall cut down her forest, declares the LORD, though it is impenetrable, because they are more numerous than locusts; they are without number. ²⁴ The daughter of Egypt shall be put to shame: she shall be delivered into the hand of a people from the north."

²⁵ The LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, said: "Behold, I am bringing punishment upon Amon of Thebes, and Pharaoh and Egypt and her gods and her kings, upon Pharaoh and those who trust in him. ²⁶ I will deliver them into the hand of those who seek their life, into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and his officers. Afterward Egypt shall be inhabited as in the days of old, declares the LORD.

²⁷ "But fear not, O Jacob my servant, nor be dismayed, O Israel, for behold, I will save you from far away, and your offspring from the land of their captivity. Jacob shall return and have quiet and ease. and none shall make him afraid. ²⁸ Fear not, O Jacob my servant, declares the LORD, for I am with you. I will make a full end of all the nations to which I have driven you, but of you I will not make a full end. I will discipline you in just measure, and I will by no means leave you unpunished."

THE CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE GLORIA PATRI

Trinity Hymnal No. 734

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen. * HYMN OF PREPARATION

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See, amid the Winter's Snow

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ... being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself. Phil. 2:5, 8



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THE PREACHED WORD OF GOD

"Christ Formed In You" Galatians 4:12-20, ESV page 974

¹²Brothers, I entreat you, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You did me no wrong. ¹³You know it was because of a bodily ailment that I preached the gospel to you at first, ¹⁴ and though my condition was a trial to you, you did not scorn or despise me, but received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus. ¹⁵What then has become of your blessedness? For I testify to you that, if possible, you would have gouged out your eyes and given them to me. ¹⁶ Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth? ¹⁷ They make much of you, but for no good purpose. They want to shut you out, that you may make much of them. ¹⁸ It is always good to be made much of for a good purpose, and not only when I am present with you, ¹⁹ my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you! ²⁰ I wish I could be present with you now and change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.





- 5. Let us, like these good shepherds, then employ our grateful voices to proclaim the joy; trace we the babe, who hath retrieved our loss, from his poor manger to his bitter cross; treading his steps, assisted by his grace, till man's first heav'nly state again takes place.
- 6. Then may we hope, th'angelic throngs among. to sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song; he that was born upon this joyful day around us all his glory shall display; saved by his love, incessant we shall sing eternal praise to heav'n's almighty King.

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* BENEDICTION

* DOXOLOGY

Trinity Hymnal No. 731

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below: Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: Amen

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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: <u>http://www.ballantynepres.com/giving/</u>

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 SUNDAY AT BPC

11:00 a.m. Morning Worship – In Person and Live Streamed <u>https://www.ballantynepres.com/webcast</u>

6:00 p.m. Evening Communion Worship – In Person and Live Streamed <u>https://www.ballantynepres.com/webcast</u>

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)