

AND BY THE LIGHT OF THAT SAME STAR

The wisemen came from country far;

TO SEEK FOR A KING WAS THEIR INTENT,

And to follow the star wherever it went



JOY

Fletcher's Chapel United Methodist Church

8330 Fletcher's Chapel Road, King George, VA 22485
Church: (540) 775-7247 Parsonage: (540) 625-2834

Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2015

The Prelude

***Chiming of the Hour**

***The Call to Worship**

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon the holy name of the most high God.

The Lord is our strength and our salvation.

Proclaim the mercy of the One who comes as one of us.

The Lord is our strength and our salvation.

Trust and do not be afraid.

The Lord is our strength and our salvation.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of peace.

The Lord is our strength and our salvation.

Hallelujah! Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Wreath Meditation & Lighting (see insert)

***Hymn**

“There’s A Song in the Air”

UMH 249

The Opening Prayer

Merciful God, you come into our midst longing for communion with us, becoming one of us. Break our resistance to life with you, show us the path toward just relations, and bring us into your unimaginable peace; in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

Time of Sharing and Prayer

Celebrations of God’s Grace and Prayer Concerns

The Pastoral Prayer/The Lord’s Prayer (UMH 895)

The Children’s Message [Loose Change Collection]

***Hymn**

“What Child Is This?”

UMH 219

Prayer for Illumination:

Holy Word, you are our guide and ultimate assurance. By your Holy Spirit, open us to your promises and commands and shower us again with the fire of your love. **Amen.**

The Old Testament Reading – Zephaniah 3:14-20 p. 1423

Special Music

The New Testament Reading – Philippians 4:4-7 p. 1771

The Gospel Reading – John 1:11-13 p 1594.

This is the Word of God, written for the People of God.

Thanks be to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The Message “Socks & Underwear – Gift Received”

The Receiving of God’s Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory Music

***The Doxology** (UMH 95)

***The Prayer of Dedication:** Gracious God, in gratitude for all that you have given us, we bring our tithes, offerings, and labor to help feed a world hungry for healing and hope; for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

***Hymn** “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing” UMH 240

***The Charge and the Blessing:**

Go to love and serve the Lord, showing mercy to all. May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus, for whom we watch and wait. **Amen.**

***The Postlude** “Bless the Lord” (2X)
Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God’s Holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

**Please stand as you are able.*

All are Welcome to our service of worship this morning. We are glad you are here. Please take a moment to fill out a welcome card and place it into the offering plate during the collection.

Our Thanks to Those Assisting with Worship Today:

Scripture Readers: Linda Newton (8:30)
Greeters: Stephenie Newton (11:00)
Advent Wreath: Carol & Scott Kieffer (8:30)
Kay & Daryl Roy (11:00)

Assisting with Worship December 20:

Scripture Readers: Tina Lauber (8:30)
Advent Wreath: Ron and Robin DeWaters (11:00)

The Loose Change Offering is collected by the children on the Second Sunday of each month. These gifts will go to Heifer International whose mission is to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and care for the earth. By giving families a hand-up, not just a hand-out, the Heifer Project empowers them to turn lives of hunger and poverty into self-reliance and hope. With gifts of livestock and training, Heifer Projects help families improve their nutrition and generate income in sustainable ways.



Coffee Fellowship this morning from 9:30 – 10:00. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for a time of refreshment as we celebrate with a Christmas theme. We need volunteers to sponsor the Coffee Fellowship in 2016. Please see Pastor Mike if you would like to host a Coffee Fellowship.

Minsters:	All Members
Pastor:	Michael B. Reaves
Lay Leader:	Marie Williams
Musician:	Kay Roy

December 13 - 20, 2015

TODAY	<u>Loose Change Collection</u>
	<u>Bring Poinsettias to Church</u>
	8:30am Worship
	9:30am Coffee Fellowship
	10:00am Sunday School
	11:00am Worship
Tues	2:00pm Advent Study Week 4, Daytime Class
	7:00pm Advent Study Week 4, Nighttime Class
Wed	9:30am Heritage Hall Nursing Home Ministry
Sat	9:30am UMW Meeting
Sun	8:30am Worship
	9:45am Sunday School Opening (Sanctuary)
	10:00am Sunday School
	11:00am Worship

Upcoming:

Thurs, 12/24	7:00pm	Christmas Eve Service
Wed, 12/30	4:00pm	Serving Dinner at Thurman Brisben
Sun, 1/3		<u>Communion Sunday/Canned Food Collection</u>

Birthdays This Week

12/19 Brooke Ayers 12/20 Addison Hilton



Thank You for your generous response to our Stewardship Emphasis. You can still submit your Estimate of Giving for 2016. Extra cards are available in the church office. To date, we have received fourteen cards. Please see Pastor Mike if you have any questions.

Heritage Hall Nursing Home Ministry meets this Wednesday. Meet at the church at 9:30 a.m. to carpool or be at Heritage Hall at 10:00 a.m.

Advent & Christmas Series

Socks and Underwear: Not What You Want, But What You Need

Sunday, November 29: Unexpected Gift

Sunday, December 6: Gift Return

Sunday, December 13: Gift Received

Sunday, December 20: The Best Gift Ever

Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve:

A Service of Carols, Communion, and Candlelight (7:00 p.m.)

Sunday, December 27: The Day After

Prayer Concerns

Prayers for our Community and the World: The congregation and guests of Fletcher's Chapel and our community; the residents and staff of the Thurman Brisben Center; Our Bishop and his cabinet.

Prayers for Our Church Family: Colleen Bowie, Jeanne Bullock, Arlene Coates, Delores Coates, Faye Coates, Audrey Davenport, Louise Henderson, Gwen Henderson, Grace Humberger, Karis Humberger, Evelyn Jackson, Lolita James, McKennah Lauber, Sherri Minx, Audrey Schindel, Clifton Seay, Annette Stahler, Pete Sullivan

Prayers for our Families and Friends: Krystalene Balao, Mikie Barker, Wesley Berry, The Cameron Family, Barbara Canaday, Felecia Cook, Darrell Critzer, Warren Fletcher, The Frazier Family, Gage Ford and Family, Wayne Gallahan, Jake Gallelo, Jeff Gilley, Theresa Guarracino, Barbara Hatchell, Adalynn Hawkins, Sylvia Kennedy, Elva Kilby, Becky Lafferty, Ceili Leahy, David Lee, Ronald Marshall, Bryan McGhee, Mike Nave, Adolfo Pangilinan, Lina Perry, David Pitts, Elaine Cooley Pitts, Brad Pruett, Robert Pruitt, Hubert Roberson, Patrick Robinson, Sam Robinson, Brent Rowand, Barbara Rowe, Joey Rowe, Joseph Sirrels, Ron Seward, Claude Stevens, Mary Stewart, Ryland Tedeton, Joan Wehner, Jen Ulrich

Prayer Request Cards are available in the pew racks.

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: JOY

Last Sunday we lit the candle of peace. We light it and the candle of hope again as we remember that Christ, who was born in Bethlehem, will come again to judge the world and bring it everlasting peace.

(The candles of hope and peace are lit.)

The third candle of Advent is the Candle of Joy. When the angel Gabriel told Mary that a special child would be born to her she was filled with joy. She sang a song that began with the words: "My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my savior.

Just as the birth of Jesus gave great joy to his mother, so his presence in the world gave joy to those who had none before. He healed them and gave them hope and peace when they believed in him. From hope, peace, and love grows joy.

We light the candle of joy to remind us that when Jesus is born in us we have joy and that through him there will be everlasting joy on earth.

(The candle of joy is lit.)

Joy is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the joy we find in Jesus Christ.

Let us pray: **Thank you God for the joy you give us. We ask that as we wait for all your promises to come true, and for Christ to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today, and everyday to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your joy with each other. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.**

Sung Response:

A candle is burning, a candle of joy.
A candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.