

December 15, 2024
10:30 a.m. | Chapel
3rd Sunday of Advent
Advent Lessons and Carols

Gathering Around the Word

Lighting of the Candles

Jesus is the Light of the World!

Prelude

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
The Carillon Handbell Choir

Arr. by Sandra Eithun

Welcome and Announcements

*As the Friendship Folder is passed in your pew, please record your attendance in worship today.
For our guests, please enter your name and contact information so we may welcome you.*

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Allison and Tom Tootle

On this day we light this candle in HOPE. We bear witness to the light of Christ with all the faithful of every time and place: With Isaiah and Jeremiah, prophets of Israel, we await the promised salvation of the Lord, and look for the coming of the one who will bring justice and righteousness to the earth. We light this candle in PEACE, with John the Baptist, calling from the wilderness, we cry: "Prepare the way of the Lord! Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." We light this candle in JOY, with Mary, the mother of Jesus, we magnify the Lord, rejoicing in God our Savior, for the Mighty One has done great things for us, and holy is God's name.

✦ **Call to Worship** (*responsively*)

Canticle (Isaiah 12:2-6)

Marilyn Davis

Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust, and will not be afraid,

**for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might;
GOD has become my salvation.**

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day:

**Give thanks to the LORD, call on GOD's name;
make known GOD's deeds among the nations.**

Sing praises to the LORD, for the LORD has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.

**Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

✦ **Carol**

Lift Up Your Heads

Arr. by Keith Christopher

**Lift up your heads, you mighty gates;
Behold the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here.**

✦ Please stand in body or in spirit.

Please silence your cell phones during worship.

Choir: Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

All: **Redeemer, come, we open wide
Our hearts to you; here, Lord, abide.
Your inner presence let us feel;
Your grace and love in us reveal.**

Choir: Your grace and love in us reveal.

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Being Renewed in Grace

✦ **Call to Confession**

John the Baptist told the gathering people to bear fruits worthy of repentance for the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. When we confess all that separates us from the love of God and neighbor we prune away the dead branches of our lives and allow new branches to spring forth. Let us confess our sins.

(Time for Silent Confession)

✦ **Prayer of Confession**

Almighty God, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; we have not loved you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. Deepen within us our sorrow for the wrong we have done, and the good we have left undone. Lord, you are full of compassion and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy; there is always forgiveness with you! Restore to us the joy of your salvation; bind up that which is broken, give light to our minds, strength to our wills, and rest to our souls. Speak to each of us, and let your word abide with us until it has wrought in us your holy will. Amen.

✦ **Assurance of Pardon**

✦ **Passing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you!

✦ **Sung Response 582**

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen. (Repeat)**

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Proclaiming the Word

Lesson	<i>Jeremiah 31:31-34</i>	Karen Jordan
Carol	<i>Wait for the Lord</i> Soloists - Samantha Heuwagen, Marilyn Davis, Jillian Melko, Matt Shank	Jacques Berthier
Choir:	Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord; keep watch, take heart!	
All:	Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord; keep watch, take heart! (Repeat)	
Soloists:	Prepare the way for the Lord. Make a straight path for God. Prepare the way for the Lord. Rejoice in the Lord always: God is at hand. Joy and gladness for all who seek the Lord. The glory of the Lord shall be revealed. All the earth will see the Lord. I waited for the Lord. God heard my cry. Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, our God. Seek first the kingdom of God. Seek and you shall find. O Lord, show us your way. Guide us in your truth.	

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Lesson	<i>Isaiah 9: 2-7</i>	Tom Traylor
Carol	<i>Prepare the Way, O Zion</i> The Chancel Choir	Arr. by Kenneth Dake
	Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near! Let every hill and valley a level way appear. Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story. O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name. He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above. His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love. Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding. O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.	

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Lesson	<i>Micah 5:2-4</i>	Marilyn Davis
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Carol*Come Now, O Prince of Peace*

Arr. Jeremy J. Bankson

Choir: Come now, O Prince of peace,
 Make us one body,
 Come, O Lord Jesus,
 Reconcile your people.

**All: Come now, O God of love,
 Make us one body.
 Come, O Lord Jesus,
 Reconcile your people.**

**Come now and set us free,
 O God, our Savior.
 Come, O Lord Jesus,
 Reconcile all nations.**

**Come, Hope of unity,
 Make us one body.
 Come, O Lord Jesus,
 Reconcile all nations.**

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Lesson*Luke 1:26-33*

Becca Bradley

Carol

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
 The Chancel Choir

Arr. Jonathan Strommen Campbell

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.
 Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
 Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
 Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
 By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
 By thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley; Music: arr. Jonathan Strommen Campbell, © 2013 Birnamwood Publications (ASCAP) A division of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc.;
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Lesson*Luke 1:34-38*

Betsy McDaniel

Carol*My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout*

Arr. Anne Krentz Organ

Choir: My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
 And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
 So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

**All: My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.**

Choir: Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.

**All: My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.**

Choir: From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread; every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.

**All: My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.**

Choir: Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.

**All: My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.**

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Homily

It's Impossible

Rev. George Tatro

Responding to the Word

Offering Invitation

From our abundance we share for the building of God's Kingdom here on earth. Let us bring forth our tithes and offerings.

Offertory

He is Marvelous

Rosephanye Powell

The Chancel Choir, Jillian Melko, soloist

He is marvelous! Jesus is wonderful! Give Him glory!

Shout to the Lord and proclaim:

He is marvelous, oh so wonderful!

Give Him the glory and praise!

For He is King of Kings. (He is the King!)

And He is Lord of all creation!

Yes, He is King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

Shout to the Lord!

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✦ **Doxology** (*all singing*)

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

Prayers of the People and 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Lesson

Isaiah 35:1-10

Rev. Rachel Mulgrave

Bearing and Following the Word Into the World

Carol

People Look East

Henry Lebedinsky

Choir:

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad, Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Bird, is on the way.

All:

**Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Star, is on the way.**

**Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.**

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✦ **Charge and Blessing**

✦ **Postlude**

On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry

Arr. by David Cherwien

*The ushers this morning are Angela and Don Baker.
The greeter this morning is Lisa Lucas.
The Stephen Minister this morning is Rebecca Eldridge.*

The Worship Leaders this morning are:

*Rev. George Tatro, Senior Pastor
Rev. Rachel Mulgrave, Director of Faith Formation and Discipleship
Heidi Chinnock, Director of Music Ministries and Organist
Amy Noel Welch, Collaborative Pianist
Steve Navarro, guitarist
Tom Traylor, percussion
Marilyn Davis, Liturgist
Laura Morgulis, violin
Luz Elena Sarmiento, clarinet*

The Session is working on our budget for 2025. If you have not made your pledge for 2025, we ask that you make your pledge as soon as possible and prayerfully consider increasing your commitment. If you are a historic or frequent giver, please prayerfully consider a gift before the end of the year.

Upcoming Events at JCPC

*As the Friendship Folder is passed in your pew, please record your attendance in worship today.
For our guests, please enter your name and contact information so we may welcome you.*

2024-2025 Open Enrollment for Preschool is underway | jcpcusa.org/preschool

Text/Email Scam Alert

Please be aware that none of the church staff will ask you for money or gift cards.
If you receive this message from anyone, please delete it and do not act upon it.

Amani Women's Center

There are two plastic tubs in the Welcome Center. One is for sewing material and the other is for sewing notions. They will also accept working sewing machines. These will be taken to The Amani Women's Center to help with their work with west African women.

Christmas Songs Through the Years

Sunday, December 22 | 11:45 - 1:00 p.m. | Calvin Room

Join us on Sunday, December 22, from 11:45 AM to 1:00 PM in the Calvin Room for *Christmas Songs Through the Years*, a special Sunday School class led by Craig Cunningham exploring the history of Christmas albums and songs over the last 75 years. We'll highlight iconic albums and songs, including Bing Crosby, Elvis Presley, Nat King Cole, and Amy Grant, and listen to some of the most beloved songs of the season. Pack a snack to share as we celebrate the music that brings the Christmas story to life!



Johns Creek Presbyterian Church

Poinsettias 2024



In Honor of

Our Grandchildren

Given by Rebecca and David Eldridge

ZOOM Friday Keepers

Given by Lynn Gantt

Our Daughter and her family,

Anna and Zak Hutchings, Wyatt and Zoey

Our Son and his wife, Nicholas and Christy Irwin

Greg's Mother, Geary Irwin

Given by Chris and Greg Irwin

Our Children and Grandchildren

Given by Karen and Mac Jordan

My Mom, Margaret Martin

Given by Betsy McDaniel

The Myers and Matchett Families

Given by Rose, Zach, Taryn, and Caitlin Myers

Pastor George Tatro

Pastor Rachel Mulgrave

Given by Alice Ann Nilsen

Aidan, Nate, Annie, Luca, and Noah -

Our Grandchildren

Our Pastors and Church Staff

Given by Sharon and Rich Shuler

Coty Tootle

Jean and Johnny DeArmon

Given by Allison and Tom Tootle

Grayson, Cooper, and Hannah, Grandchildren

Given by Sharon and Rick Zellmer

In Loving Memory of

Richard and Barbara Snelling

Given by The Bentley Family

Buck Bothwell

Louise and Eugene Bothwell, Buck's parents

Eloise and Bill Ellington, Billie's parents

Given by Billie Bothwell

Our Parents

Given by Rebecca and David Eldridge

Ellen Waugh, Karen's sister

Given by Karen and Mac Jordan

George David Nilsen

Given by Alice Ann Nilsen

Rev. Dr. Jerald B. Landrey

Given by Carolyn Landrey

Dennis Stabler

Given by Dawn and Johnny Melin

Jean and Wayne Grabner

Given by Rose, Zach, Taryn, and Caitlin Myers

Esther and Gil Navarro (Steven's Parents)

Juanita and Jack de Clercq (Jean's Parents)

Given by Jean and Steven Navarro

Grace and Dr. Clark Douglas, Sharon's Parents

Barbara and Olin Shuler, Rich's Parents

Given by Sharon and Rich Shuler

Margaret and Earl Ditmars, Sharon's parents

Catherine and Richard Zellmer, Rick's parents

Given by Sharon and Rick Zellmer



Positive Impact Angels

(in place of Salvation Army Angels)

You are invited to choose an “angel” from the tree in the Welcome Center or Atrium and provide Christmas gifts for a teen or choose an angel that has a single need for the host home.

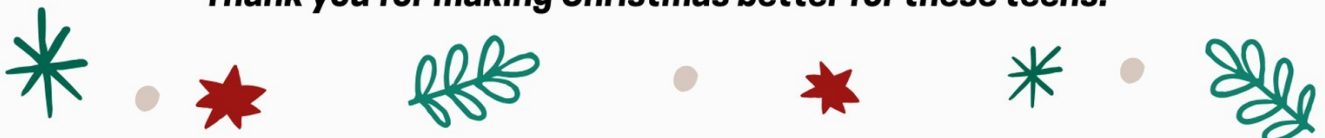
We want their safe houses to feel more like homes!

- **There will be a sign-up sheet when you choose an angel.**
- **Please return the items unwrapped in a bag with the angel attached.**
- **Return by Monday, December 16, 2024.**
- **Questions? Contact Joanna Pope at joannaepope@gmail.com.**

JCPC has a new partnership with an organization called Positive Impact International which is a non-profit that provides safe shelter homes for teenagers who find themselves homeless. So far, we have provided meals, household items, bedding, and furniture and would like to provide Christmas for the teens. Palms 68:6 says “God sets the lonely in families” and that is what we, as a congregation, have been able to do!

A series of Host Homes is in place with trained adults prepared to accept children 24/7 while their own home situation is addressed. Meals, a bed, transportation to school and counseling are available, with the parents or guardian’s approval. There are now 5 houses and 17 teenagers that are our new “foster family” and we will continue to support this amazing non-profit as it grows and meets the needs of children without homes.

Thank you for making Christmas better for these teens!





Donate to one of JCPC's local missions in the name of someone you know. You will receive a donation card that you can give them as a gift stating a donation was made in their name. See the list below for the missions to choose from.

Bashor Men's Shelter (Central Presbyterian Church Atlanta, GA)

Your gift helps to provide hot dinners on cold nights or provide warmth with a hat, gloves, and a blanket.

Hands of Christ Duluth Co-op

Your gift provides food, emergency assistance, and hope to neighbors in need.

Habitat for Humanity, Greater Atlanta Area

Your gift helps to build a home for a family in our nearby community by funding materials and fixtures.

A Beacon of Hope, Atlanta Region

Your gift provides advocacy for a patient struggling with an unplanned pregnancy and helps provide long-term care for a patient and their child for 1 year.

Amani Women Center, Atlanta Region

Your gift helps provide sewing machines to the Amani Sewing Academy.

EXPLORE JCPC

New Member Information Class

Are you curious about the community of Johns Creek Presbyterian Church? We invite you to our 1-hour information session! Join us to learn more about:

- What We Believe
- Our Vision
- How We Serve
- How We Care for One Another
- Ways to Become Involved
- Q&A Session

Sunday, January 12th at 11:45 AM

-or-

**Tuesday, January 28th at 7:00 PM
in the JCPC Dining Room**

RSVP

Contact Dawn Melin
to reserve your spot.

*(770)235-7628 or
dhmelin@comcast.net*





Session Elders

Class of 2024

Aisha Furtado (Youth Elder), Education Ministry Team
Dawn Melin, Mission Ministry Team
Zach Myers, Connecting Ministry Team
Rich Shuler, Stewardship Ministry Team
Tom Traylor, Clerk of Session and Stewardship Ministry Team and Personnel

Class of 2025

Roy Davey, Worship Ministry Team
Marilyn Davis, Worship Ministry Team
Debi Doverspike, Mission Ministry Team
Vivek Furtado, Youth Ministry Team

Class of 2026

Craig Cunningham, Youth Ministry Team
John Gutekunst, Education Ministry Team
Alice Ann Nilsen, Caring Ministry Team
Jim Pope, Stewardship Ministry Team and Personnel

Name Tags for Sundays

Please check on the round table in the Welcome Center for your name tag either before Sunday School or Worship. They will be in alphabetical order. If you don't have one, there are adhesive name tags you can use. There will be a clipboard with a list where you can add your name, and a name tag will be available for you the following Sunday. Please return your name tags to the table before leaving the church today.

Special note about our cameras

Welcome to worship! For many years, JCPC has recorded its worship services for those who are homebound or absent from worship. We are now able to Livestream the service from the worship hour. The worship leaders and the first few rows of the worship space are visible in these videos. The back rows are not visible in the Livestream or recording. Thank you for being with us this morning, and we hope you'll watch online when you can't be with us in person.

Scan to Give:



Would you like to receive Connections emails? Scan here:



Johns Creek Presbyterian Church | 10950 Bell Road | Johns Creek, GA 30097

www.jcpcusa.org | 770-813-9009