

MUSICAL SELECTION *Now the Heavens Start To Whisper* Bringle / Pilkington
Chancel Choir
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Pastor Jim Rowell
SCRIPTURE Isaiah 2:1-5 & Philippians 1:10-12
One: The Word of the Lord!
All: Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE: *A Celebration of Hope*
RESPONDING IN FAITH

OFFERING: Tithes & offerings may be placed in the boxes with crosses at the main exit of the Narthex or given via www.sopc.net.

One: May these gifts, given in gratitude and love...
All: Change us and the world to serve your purpose.

MUSICAL SELECTION *People Look East* Dale Wood
Organ

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles' Creed* Elder Bruce C Hurley
I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE Pastor Jim Rowell

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Elder Bruce C Hurley

One: Lift up your hearts!
All: We lift them up to the Lord!
One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right to give our thanks and praise!
One: Let us pray to the Lord.

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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION Pastor Jim Rowell / Elder Bruce C Hurley

*ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

COMMUNION HYMN #525: *Let Us Break Bread Together*
verse 1 (Sing prior to eating the bread.)
verse 2 (Sing prior to drinking the cup.)
verse 3 (Sing after drinking the cup.)

PRAYER Pastor Jim Rowell

*CLOSING HYMN #93 *Lift Up Your Heads*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Pastor Jim Rowell

*POSTLUDE *Zion Hears the Watchmen's Voices* David Cherwien

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STRIKING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder Bruce C Hurley

WE GATHER TOGETHER TO PRAISE GOD

PRELUDE *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* Sylvia Oines

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Jeremiah 33:14-16 The Johnson Family

PRAYER OF HOPE

CONGREGATION SINGS #137 *He Came Down*

**He came down that we may have hope;
He came down that we may have hope;
He came down that we may have hope;
Hallelujah forevermore.**

*GATHERING OF OUR HEARTS Elder Bruce C Hurley

One: Gracious God, shake us awake, for we await you.
All: We wait for signs of hope.
One: Shaping God, waken the earth and come, for we await you.
All: We wait for signs of peace.
One: Surprising God, tear open the heavens and come.
All: We wait for signs of joy.
One: Mysterious God, enliven our hearts as we worship you in wonder and trust.
All: We wait for signs of love, on this day and in this season.

*OPENING HYMN #82 *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

*CALL TO CONFESSION Elder Bruce C Hurley

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of light, once again we approach the season of Advent unprepared. We are not alert at your coming; we are too busy with preparations of our own design. We are exhausted by trying to do everything ourselves, and cannot keep awake to watch for you. Like your people of old, we do not call upon your name, except to blame you. Yet, you are our maker, and we are all the work of your hand. Forgive us and restore us. Illumine our lives, that we may be witnesses to your faithfulness. Amen.

*MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

One: Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is gone; the day is near.
Through Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven!
All: Praise be to God! Come, Lord Jesus, come!

*GLORIA PATRI

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.

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Mary Dempster

We invite children ages 4k - 4th grade to sit in the Children's Corner after the Children's Message. A designated adult will be sitting with the children, and age appropriate activities will be provided that go along with worship. Parents will pick up their children after the service.



The choir's anthem is based on hymn #94 which focuses on the coming of the long awaited Messiah. The music during communion is a setting of the carol *Es ist en Ros (Lo, How a Rose)*. *People, Look East* is an Advent carol calling all of creation to prepare for the arrival of the Promised One.

Please see December 8th and 24th in the *Upcoming Events* section below.

Worship Assistants

Sunday, December 1st:

Liturgist: Bruce Hurley
 Counters: Bruce Hurley, Liz Harris
 Usher: Mary Johnson
 Greeters: Tom & Betty Shuler
 Acolyte: N/A Communion
 Children's Message: Mary Dempster
 Children's Corner: Kathy Keane
 Prayer Ad Volunteer: Frank Sheppard
 Communion Elements Preparation: Sharon Watkins
 Communion Servers: Ernie & Julie Bussells, Elizabeth Taylor, Bruce Hurley
 Advent Wreath: The Johnson Family

Sunday, December 8th:

Liturgist: Bruce Hurley
 Counters: Kathy Keane, Jeanne LeBoeuf
 Usher: Ron Kesterson
 Greeters: Jeanne LeBoeuf, Sue Kesterson
 Acolyte: Abby Dempster
 Children's Message: Pastor Jim Rowell
 Children's Corner: Kathy Keane
 Prayer Ad Volunteer: Julie Bussells
 Advent Wreath: The Dempster Family

Church Staff

Interim Minister: Pastor Jim Rowell; jim@sopc.net
Director of Music Ministry: Dr. Lloyd Pilkington
Office Administrator: Mrs. Annah G. Hiers; sopc@sopc.net
Accompanist: Elder Sharon Watkins
Building Superintendent: Mr. Karl Thompson
Volunteer Financial Administrator: Elder Sharon Staton; sharon@sopc.net
Nursery Coordinator: Mrs. Amy Schwartz



OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Thursday 10 am - 2 pm



Sunday, December 1: 1st Sunday in Advent; Communion

9:00 am - 11:00 am - The Well Church
 9:30 am - Choir
 9:45 am - Sunday School for All Ages
 11:00 am - Worship
 11:00 am - 3:00 pm - Liberty Church
 11:00 am - 4:00 pm - Mision Cristiana Elim Int'l.
 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm - Love Revolution

Monday, December 2:

8:00 am - 4:00 pm - Peaceful Gatherings Nature School
 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm - Admin. Ministry Meeting
 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm - Cub Scouts
 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm - Troop 91
 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm - NANA
 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm - Mision Cristiana Elim Int'l.

Tuesday, December 3:

8:00 am - 1:00 pm - Peaceful Gatherings Nature School
 11:00 am - 12:00 pm - Staff Meeting
 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm - PW Coordinating Team Meeting
 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm - Yoga
 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm - Missions Ministry Meeting
 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm - NANA
 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm - Mision Cristiana Elim Int'l.

Wednesday, December 4:

8:00 am - 4:00 pm - Peaceful Gatherings Nature School
 4:45 pm - 6:00 pm - Lesser Epistles Bible Study
 5:45 pm - 7:45 pm - NAMI
 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm - NANA

Thursday, December 5:

8:00 am - 1:00 pm - Peaceful Gatherings Nature School
 10:30 am - 1st Thessalonians Bible Study
 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm - Christian Education Ministry Meeting
 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm - Liberty Church

Friday, December 6: OFFICE CLOSED

6:45 am - 7:45 am - Men's Lanterns Prayer Group
 8:00 am - 4:00 pm - Peaceful Gatherings Nature School
 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm - Mision Cristiana Elim Int'l.

Saturday, December 7:

8:00 am - 4:30 pm - Scout Leader Training

UPCOMING EVENTS:

December 8: Special Music of the Season in Worship
December 10: Rachel Circle's Christmas Luncheon at Miyo's at 12:30 pm
December 12: Hannah Circle's Christmas Cookie Party for SOPC's Residents of Presbyterian Communities and Dinner Following at Miyo's
December 13: Joint Adult Sunday School Classes' Christmas Dinner Party at Carol Griffith's Home
December 15: Prime Rib Fellowship Supper
December 20: Church Christmas Party at Chestnut Hill Plantation Clubhouse
December 22: Christmas Joy Offering
December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service; Music Begins at 5 pm; Worship Begins at 5:30 pm.

A nursery is available in Building A during Sunday school & worship for children ages 0 - 4. If you have any questions, please see an usher for help.



Guests are invited to stop by the **welcome table in the narthex/lobby**. Please take a goody bag with you as a reminder of the gift of God's love. Also, please leave your information for us on the yellow card and place it in the offering baskets. Thank you for worshipping with us today.



If you would like to place **fresh flowers** in the sanctuary for worship on a specific Sunday, please call the church office at 803-772-1761.



SESSION (*indicates chair)
Clerk of Session: Polly Robinson
Class of 2025:
 John Carter - Buildings & Grounds*
 Ed Keelen - Good News*
 Sharon Staton - Missions*
 Sharon Watkins - Worship*
Class of 2026:
 Liz Harris - Fellowship
 Kathy Keane - Christian Ed*
 Banks Robinson - Fellowship*
Class of 2027:
 Bruce Hurley - Disciple Care*
 Jeanne LeBoeuf - Missions
 Kitsie Miller - Fellowship
 Elizabeth Taylor - Administration*
Trustees:
 Frank Sheppard - Administration*, Carol Griffith - Fellowship
Treasurer: Kathy Locklair
Presbyterian Women Moderator (SOPW):
 Julie Bussells*

In Our Prayers:

Polly Robinson	SOPC's Homebound Members
Ed Keelen	Our Christian Friends in Ukraine
Ernie & Julie Bussells & family	Iglesia Presbiteriana de Nueva Paz, Cuba
Donna Moore	Daniel and Elizabeth Turk (Missionaries)
Aletha Robinson	Those Less Fortunate
Sandra Johnson's Parents	Providence Home
John Carter	Those reaching out through our Facebook Prayer Ad
Alene Rogers	Long Term Care:
Janet Jordan & Daughter & Sister	Dave, Rich & Sam Allen
Jane Blackwell	Edith Blanchett
Al & Margaret Charles	Kathie Cashion
Fran & Jeffrey Brannon	Barbara Fowler
Ira Leon	Bobby Sellars (Father of John Paul Sellars)
Barry Shatzer	Patricia Williams
Kynslee Davis	

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Please join us for **Love Revolution** in the Pavilion today from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm and help serve food to our neighbors in need!

Providence Home Christmas Giving: SOPC will provide Christmas gifts for the men of Providence Home again this holiday season. Let's bring a little joy to these men by letting them know we care. Please stop by the Providence Home table in the narthex today to see how you can help. Thank you.

December 20th us our **SOPC Christmas Party** at Chestnut Hill Plantation Clubhouse at 6 pm. RSVP to Liz Harris by December 15th. There will be an optional White Elephant gift exchange with a \$10 limit, (no gift cards.)

We hope that you are making plans to join us for the churchwide **Prime Rib Fellowship Supper on December 15th** at 6 pm! **Tickets are \$15** per person aged 13 and up. Donations will be accepted for children 12 and under. **Reservations and payment are requested by December 12th.**

Our Youth Group will not meet today. We hope that you have safe, joyous Thanksgiving celebrations and travels with those you love!

Rachel Circle's Christmas Luncheon will be Tuesday, December 10th, at Miyo's on Columbiana Drive at 12:30 pm.

Hannah Circle will be hosting a Christmas Cookie Party for our SOPC family residents at Presbyterian Communities on December 12th. Afterward, the ladies of the circle will share a meal at Miyos.

Each week of Advent, our Worship / Music Ministry will share a video story and musical meditation about the history and meaning of a specific Christmas carol. Links to the videos will be sent out via email from the church office.

Both adult Sunday School classes will have a joint Christmas Dinner at the home of Carol Griffith on Friday, December 13th at 6:30 pm.

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service will be Tuesday, December 24th, with music beginning at 5 pm and the worship service beginning at 5:30 pm. Invite a friend or neighbor!

It's time to nominate a beloved member of **SOPW for this year's Honorary Life Award!** This woman should be a dedicated Christian, a loyal member of SOPC and SOPW, a member of the PC(USA,) and someone who works with the church to make the world a better place. Please send your nominations to Shelagh Wirth: 803-629-7851; swirth1949@gmail.com; 110 Robin Forest Dr., West Columbia, SC 29170.

What makes SOPC special?! If you are willing to share a few sentences about what makes SOPC special to you, personally, for our church website, please contact Mark Dillard. Personal stories make all the difference when inviting new friends to journey with us!

If you would like to **volunteer in the sanctuary's sound booth** occasionally, please contact the church office. Training provided!

If you happen to be going by the store & would like to contribute any **items to the shelves we use for the Blessing Box and to give to those who come to our door**, please bring them by the church office or leave them in the large baskets on either side of the main doors to the sanctuary. There is a list of suggested items available from the church office. Did you know that 10-20 individuals come to our door looking for help each week?