

Sunday Worship Celebration

December 22, 2024

4th Sunday of Advent



The purpose of Groce United Methodist Church is to build the family of God through praising God, bringing others to Christ, teaching the faith, strengthening the fellowship, and sending forth in service.

Groce United Methodist Church
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Jill Rhinehart - Pastor
Joel Matthews - Music Director/Organist
Debbie Ross - Handbell Director
Gayle Decker - Administrator
Veronica Bagwell - Secretary
Tammy Peek - Custodian

*** Where indicated, stand if you are able.**

CHIMES OF THE HOLY TRINITY

PRELUDE

“Bring a Torch, Janette Isabella”
Traditional

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jill Rhinehart

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rocky Redd

Leader: God has done great things for us!

People: God’s love is heralded in the promise of Christ.

Leader: Holy is God’s name!

People: God’s promises are fulfilled in the coming of Christ.

Leader: God’s mercy extends from generation to generation.

People: God’s salvation is offered in the gift of Christ.

Leader: Let us pray. Holy God, your prophet Micah foretold with faith that a new ruler would come forth from Bethlehem— today we celebrate the fulfillment of your promise; your daughter Elizabeth proclaimed with faith that her cousin was to be the mother of her Lord— today we celebrate the fulfillment of your promise; your servant Mary proclaimed with faith that she would be called blessed by all generations—today we celebrate the fulfillment of your promise. Make us bold enough to proclaim with faith—the coming of your kingdom, the coming of your justice, the coming of your peace. May we sing out the good news of your salvation, trusting in fulfillment of your promises. All this we pray in the name of the one who comes. AMEN.

*OPENING HYMN 234

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, even in the midst of this season of goodwill, there is much to confess. In spite of holiday cheer, stress and anxiety rule our lives. We miss the reason for the season, focusing instead on Christmas parties, long to-do lists, and trying to get the shopping done. We fail to think about your reordered world— a world where the lowly are lifted up and the hungry are filled with good things. Help us adjust our Christmas priorities, that we might join with you, O God, in preparing a world that welcomes the one who brings us peace.

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Jill Rhinehart

The ancient promises of God are fulfilled. God does not forget us. God’s mercy extends from generation to generation. Let our souls discover peace and joy in God!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Brandee & Caroline Morris

CHILDREN'S CHANGE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER Rocky Redd

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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.

ANTHEM

Chancel Choir

“While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks”

Arr. Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2: 8—20

MESSAGE

“When God Shows Up”

RECEIVING GOD'S GIFTS

Ushers will come forward

OFFERTORY

Laura Jones—solo

Pam Rogalski—signing

“Mary Did You Know?”

*DOXOLOGY

*CLOSING HYMN 240

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

*SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION

Jill Rhinehart

CHIMES OF THE HOLY TRINITY

POSTLUDE

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Traditional

*Our service of worship has ended.
Now, our worship through service begins.*



Poinsettias

Anonymous—**Honor** of Annette Coleman & Carol Arrowood

Rachel Burgin—**Memory** of Gary Burgin

David Honeycutt—**Memory** of Sondra Honeycutt

Will & Michelle Troxell—**Memory** of Dean & Mary Betty Troxell and Dean, Brian & Adam Troxell

Announcements

The first four pews on both sides are fragrance-free.

Sunday's Ushers—Thank you to our Ushers! JoAnn McGough, Pam Rogalski, True Morse, Ed Saxman, Betty Jones (steward)

Mid-year Graduate! - Congratulations to Lily Kromer, grand-daughter of Phil Kromer, on her Summa Cum Laude Graduation from Western Carolina University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Anthropology!

Staff Love Offering! - The Staff Parish Relations Committee asks you to prayerfully consider a love offering for the staff to express our appreciation for their dedication in 2024. You can place this offering in the plate on a Sunday, mail it to the church, or bring it to the church office. If you plan to give an offering, we ask that you please **turn it in by today, December 22.** Mark “Love Offering” on your check/envelope notation line.

Church Office Closed—The church office will be **closed December 25—26** in observation of the Christmas Holiday, as well as **January 1** for the New Year Holiday.

United Methodist Men—will meet on **Thursday, January 2, at 6:30pm** in the Jack Bass classroom.

New Worship Time! - The results are in! Based on the results of a congregation-wide vote, our new permanent time for **Sunday worship will be 10:30am beginning on January 5.** Sunday School will begin at 9am with Coffee Fellowship at 10am. Thanks to all who voted!

Safe Sanctuary Training—Pastor Jill Rhinehart will offer a Safe Sanctuary training on **Tuesday, January 7th, at 1:30pm** for those who have not had the training and those that need a refresher course. If you are unable to attend this course, but would still like to take the training, please call the office and we will provide a second training as needed.

Welcome Table—will resume normal operations on **January 9.** They will be serving a community meal **from 5—6:30pm.**

2025 Altar Flower Calendar - The Altar Flower Calendar for 2025 is now up on the bulletin board outside the front office. Please consider providing flowers for our Sanctuary Altar through out the coming year!

Haywood Street—Hats, gloves, scarves can be added to the tree outside the Nursery. THANK YOU for all your generous treasures.