



Advent

What is the chief end of man?

The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever.
-Westminster Shorter Catechism Q. 1

What do we do when we go to church?

We come to church to experience God in a way we are not able to individually. When we gather to worship God at church, the body of Christ collectively experiences and gives worship to the God of the universe. We do this by hearing directly from God reading Scripture, speaking to Him by praying, worshiping Him by singing songs, receiving His love and grace through celebrating the Lord's Supper, and learning about Him by hearing the Word of God interpreted through the sermon. We may or may not feel anything different here, but we believe that whatever it is that we experience when we are at church is the closest thing we have to experiencing an encounter with the living God. We're glad you're joining us.

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

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,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
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.

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

Call To Worship

Psalms 121: 1-2

I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

People Look East

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.

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.

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, He is on the way
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, He is on the way

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.

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, He is on the way
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, He 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.

Emmanuel Has Come

Behold the Lamb of God has come among us
He waits in in every circumstance to show us
The beauty and the light that hides
Awaken every heart to come to know Him

Chorus:

*He is holy
He is wonderful
The only one worthy
He is love up close
So I'll take time to
Remind my heart
Emmanuel has come
Emmanuel has come to us*

How patient that He would become a baby
The longing of the world fulfilling slowly
Like stars appearing in the night
Eyes be open wide to see the mystery

Chorus

Emmanuel Prince of Peace
Born in you
Born in me
The hope of all creation
Emmanuel has come
Emmanuel has come to us

Welcome & Announcements

Get Connected

The following are opportunities to connect with others in the church. If you are interested in more information, please email Beth Goss (beth.goss@brookhavenpres.com).

Community Groups: Monthly gatherings for dinner and relational connection.

Cohorts: Groups that meet bi-monthly for the sake of exploring or growing in areas of similar interests or life circumstances.

Discipleship Groups: Small groups in which people are growing in their knowledge of Jesus in the context of meaningful community.

Leadership: The mechanism in which we are encouraging our people to invest in others as Christ has invested in us. For more information on the various leadership teams, please go to the BPC website (www.brookhavenpres.com/leadership).



Congregational Prayer

Psalm 8

1 O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

2 Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.

3 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

4 what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

5 Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

6 You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet,

7 all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

8 the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

9 O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come,
your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from the evil one.

For yours is the kingdom and the power
and the glory, forever.

Amen.

Matthew 6: 9-13

*Children of all ages are welcome in the
service at all times. Anyone going to class
may do so now.*

Sermon

Galatians 2: 15-21

15 We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; **16** yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

17 But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! **18** For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. **19** For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. **20** I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. **21** I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.

Lord's Supper

For Christians, the Lord's Supper is the most sacred thing we do all week. We believe as Presbyterians that though the bread and wine do not become the physical body and blood, nevertheless something mysterious and spiritual happens when we eat and drink by faith, so that we are spiritually nourished and our union with Christ and one another is signified and sealed. For that reason, anyone who is not a Christian and does not see this as sacramental may feel free to abstain, as we do not want to force you to do something with your body that is inconsistent with your heart. However, the Heidelberg Confession says that for those who are displeased with themselves because of their sins, and yet trust that these are forgiven them, the Supper may help remind them that their weakness and sin is covered by the suffering and death of Christ. If you think your child is ready to go through confirmation and receive communion, please contact Blythe.

For anyone that may find it easier to remain seated during communion, single-use communion cups are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Please feel free to ask any BPC member for assistance.

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our
Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius
Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he
descended into hell. On the third day he rose
again; he ascended into heaven. He is seated at
the right hand of the Father, and he will come
to judge the living and the dead. I believe in
the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life
everlasting.
Amen.

Confession

Leader:
In this season of Advent, we are reminded
of God's love for us, shown in the impossible
act of God becoming incarnate, taking on
human flesh, to reach us in love and save
us from our worst abilities. This is the God
to whom we pray, to whom we make our
confession. Let us then come to God with the
truth of our lives, first in silent prayer.

All:

**In the days that have been, O God, we have
walked along crooked paths strewn with
our selfishness and greed, our prejudice,
and our apathy. We confess that we have
hidden from the light, from the light which
exposes everything, the love and the hate,
the good deeds and the harmful ones.**

**On this day we admit to you our failings,
where we have wandered, when we have not
listened. We confess to you our sin.**

**In the days to come, remind us of your love
and grace. Show us your power to transform
hearts and minds. Sate us with peace in our
souls that we will take peace into this war-
weary world. In Christ we pray.**

Assurance of Pardon

The promise is true: God loves us, God forgives us, God is coming to us even now to save us. Thanks be to God. Alleluia!
Amen.

Prayer & Reflection

We encourage you to use the time before and after you receive communion to be still with God. For each of us this may look different, but you can use this time to read back over the scripture, reflect on God's love and forgiveness for you, sing along with the song or pray through the following prompts:

-For God to give you deep rest in Him.

-For God to give you a hunger to know and be with Him.

-For God to show you how He wants you to respond to anything from the service today that convicted, encouraged, or compelled you to action.

-For anyone in your life who may be struggling.

Offering

An offering box is located on the left of the stage as an opportunity to give back to God. You may also donate online through Church Center.

Communion Song

Emmanuel

Glory to the newborn King
Let all the earth now sing
Gloria

Glory to the Father's Son
Emmanuel has finally come
Gloria

Chorus:

Emmanuel
You are with us
Our hope, our joy
Our deliverance
Through fire, through flood
Through the wilderness
Emmanuel
You are with us

When the mountain seems so tall
When life won't make sense at all
Gloria
In the midst of suffering
When we've lost the words to sing
Gloria

Chorus

Behold a virgin shall conceive
Child of heaven, Christ the Lord
His government will be released
Oh, and all the world will be restored

Chorus

Glory to the newborn King
Let all the earth now sing
Gloria

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!
"Christ is near," we hear it say.
"Cast away the works of darkness,
All you children of the day!"

Startled at the solemn warning,
Let the earthbound soul arise;
Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.

Honor and glory
To the Father and the Son
With the everliving Spirit
Let your kingdom come,
Let your kingdom come.

See, the Lamb, so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from heaven.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all, to be forgiven.

So, when next he comes in glory
And the world is wrapped in fear,
He will shield us with his mercy
And with words of love draw near.

Honor and glory
To the Father and the Son
With the everliving Spirit
Let your kingdom come.
Honor and glory
To the Father and the Son
With the everliving Spirit
Let your kingdom come,
Let your kingdom come.

Benediction

Psalm
145: 8-9

8 The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. **9** He is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

CHRISTMAS

At BPC

Saturday, December 6th: ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our annual Christmas party will be on Saturday, December 6th at 7:30pm. This is our adults-only party, and it is always a ton of fun! There will be a band playing and a food truck providing dessert.

Sunday, December 14th: POTLUCK BRUNCH + LESSONS AND CAROLS

On Sunday, December 14th, we are having our annual potluck brunch and Lessons and Carols. Lessons and Carols is a traditional Christmas worship service with a progression of Advent and Christmas scripture readings and Christmas hymns, songs, or carols in place of a sermon. It is quite suitable for elementary-aged students who can understand the readings, and for children (or adults) who don't like to listen to sermons. In that sense, it's not a service for children, but it is perhaps a bit more kid-friendly. As always, children are welcome in the service at all times, and parents can make the decision as to whether or not they would like their children to join for the service.

Details:

- 9:45am: Children's Ministry classes open for drop off any any point for children ages 5 and under.
- Please RSVP on the link found on the events page on the BPC app or website if you need childcare.
- 10:00am: Brunch - Bring a breakfast dish to share!
- 10:45am: Lessons and Carols Service begins

Sunday, December 21st: SUNDAY WORSHIP

We will have our worship service as normal at 10:00am. All Children's Ministry classes will be open.

Wednesday, December 24th: CHRISTMAS EVE

The service will be at 5:30pm. Children's Ministry classes will be open for children ages 3 and under.

Please RSVP on the link found on the events page on the BPC app or website if you need childcare.

Thursday, December 25th: CHRISTMAS DAY

Everyone is welcome for an abbreviated version of our Lessons and Carols service on Christmas morning at 10:00am. It will be kid-friendly with shorter readings and Christmas songs that many kids will know. There will not be childcare, but there will be donuts for the children (and adults) to enjoy during the service. Pajamas are welcome!

Sunday, December 28th - SUNDAY WORSHIP

We will have our worship service as normal at 10:00am. All Children's Ministry classes will be open.

ADVENT REFLECTION WEEK 1:

Hope by Dana Simpson

I've never been very good at waiting, so as we begin this season of hopeful anticipation, waiting on the arrival of our savior Jesus, I'm going to skip ahead to the arrival of Jesus. When it was time for Jesus to be born, Mary and Joseph traveled to the town of Bethlehem, "and she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn" (Luke 2:7). The birth of Jesus was incredibly...ordinary? Anticlimactic? Is that heretical for me to say? It almost reads like a Christmas comedy. Mary was very pregnant. In my head, she was so pregnant that she must have been thankful shoelaces hadn't been invented because she wouldn't have been able to tie her shoes. So pregnant that she was probably tired of people commenting on her size, asking about her symptoms, and Joseph must have pulled over the donkey at least once an hour for bathroom breaks on their journey. They finally arrived at the inn, and with absolutely no empathy for this family, the innkeeper turned them away. He had no idea he had turned away the mother of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. They didn't pull the God card though, and instead continued on their journey to give birth basically in a cave surrounded by animals. After being visited by angels in a field, the shepherds journeyed to see the Savior, the anointed one, and when they arrived, they found...a baby. Were they underwhelmed by how ordinary the scene was upon their arrival? It doesn't seem so because they went and told everyone what they had seen with amazement! I think the magi, the shepherds, and Mary and Joseph grasped the miracle of the incarnation that we (or at least I) sometimes miss. The birth of our Savior, the Son of God made human, was the ultimate meeting of the sacred divine with the ordinary. A child is already a miracle, but what the shepherds stumbled into that day was the Holiest of Holies, the place where the divine presence met with humans on earth. One of my favorite authors, Madeleine L'Engle, wrote in her book *Walking on Water: Reflections on Faith and Art* that "there is nothing so secular that it cannot be made sacred, and that is one of the deepest messages of the Incarnation." As we enter into the Advent season, this is what I want to challenge us to reflect on. In the most ordinary and mundane moments of our days, how can we be present enough to find the sacredness? As St. Athanasius puts it, God became what we are so that we might become what He is. Our very ordinary lives have been given eternal purpose, and we can have hope because the Holy Spirit continues to meet us in ways that make the unassuming sacred and earth like heaven.

UPCOMING DATES:

Sun 11/30: Advent Begins!

Fri 12/5: Motherhood Unscripted at 9:30am

Sat 12/6: Church-wide Christmas Party at 7:30pm (BPC)

Sun 12/7: Sunday School at 8:30am (BPC - Room 204)

Sun 12/7: Youth Group at 6:00pm (BPC - Gym/Backyard)

Mon 12/8: Prayer for Sally at 9:00am (BPC - Room 101)

Wed 12/10: Infertility and Loss Support Group Dinner at 6:30pm
(Taqueria del Sol in Chamblee)

Please go to the BPC website or app to find out more details about the events above.