



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.

Highest Hallelujah

Jesus Christ, from heaven down to earth
Our salvation through the virgin birth
King of Glory held within His mother's arms
Grace appearing, hope for every heart

Chorus:

Holy, holy

"Come let us adore Him" as the angels sing

Glory, Glory

The highest hallelujah to the newborn King

The highest hallelujah to the newborn King

Humble Savior from manger to the cross
Our Redeemer forever God with us
Gift of mercy, Jesus our Emmanuel
Peace surrounding, love is here to dwell

Chorus

O come all ye faithful, you joyful, triumphant
O come with your whole heart and let us
adore Him

O come and behold Him in wonder, in
worship

O come with your whole heart and let us
adore Him

O sing choirs of angels, in great exultation
O come with your whole heart and let us
adore Him

Chorus

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.

O Come O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel,
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

O come, Thou dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain

O come, desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace.

Refrain*He Comes*

He comes, the Lord's anointed One
And we shall see His face
As clear as if the rising sun
Poured out the light of grace

He comes, and we shall hear His voice
Not as some distant sound
But tones that make the heart rejoice
When love, long lost, is found

He comes, not to the wise and great
But to the bound and poor
So low Himself that potentates
Must kneel to pass His door

He comes, with favor in His hands
Our empty souls to fill
To make a highway through the sands
And bid the storms be still

He comes, and we shall come to Him
Set free from ancient chains
Adorned in mercy's diadem
To glory and His reign

He comes, the Lord, as one of us
He comes to judge the earth
How wonderful, how glorious
His long awaited birth

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

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 4: 3-9

3 In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. **4** But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, **5** to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. **6** And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" **7** So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

8 Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. **9** But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?

1st Corinthians 15: 20-26

20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. **21** For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. **22** For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. **23** But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. **24** Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. **25** For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. **26** The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

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

In The Bleak Midwinter

In the bleak midwinter
Icy winds made moan
Earth stood hard as iron
Water like a stone
Snow on snow had fallen
Snow on snow on snow
In the bleak midwinter long and long ago

Angels and archangels
May have gathered there
Cherubim and seraphim
Rising in the air
None but only Mary
In her maiden bliss
Worshipped the beloved
With a mother's kiss

Heaven cannot hold Him
Nor can earth sustain
Heaven and earth shall fall away
When He comes to reign

What then can I give Him?
Empty as I am
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb
If I were a wise man
I would know my part
What then can I give Him?
I must give my heart

Come Behold The Wondrous Mystery

Come behold the wondrous mystery
In the dawning of the King
He the theme of heaven's praises
Robed in frail humanity
In our longing, in our darkness
Now the light of life has come
Look to Christ, who condescended
Took on flesh to ransom us

Come behold the wondrous mystery
He the perfect Son of Man
In His living, in His suffering
Never trace nor stain of sin
See the true and better Adam
Come to save the hell-bound man

Christ the great and sure fulfillment
Of the law; in Him we stand

Come behold the wondrous mystery
Christ the Lord upon the tree
In the stead of ruined sinners
Hangs the Lamb in victory
See the price of our redemption
See the Father's plan unfold
Bringing many sons to glory
Grace unmeasured, love untold

Come behold the wondrous mystery
Slain by death the God of life
But no grave could e'er restrain Him
Praise the Lord; He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliverance
How unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected
As we will be when He comes

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 :

Evan Lowell

Scriptures: Read Isaiah 6 & 7; Matthew 1:18-25

Advent is the season where God invites us to sit honestly in our longing, to acknowledge the ache of life in a broken world, while also lifting our eyes toward a promise more secure than anything we could construct for ourselves. Few passages hold this tension more vividly than Isaiah 7.

King Ahaz found himself pressed on every side by powers far greater than Judah could withstand. Isaiah's message to him was simple: *Trust the Lord. Let Him be your hope.* But hope is painful, because real hope forces us to face the truth that we are not in control. Real hope forces us to risk something... even to risk the pain of deferred fulfillment. Ahaz could not bear that vulnerability. Instead of trusting God, he placed his hope in Assyria: a power that ultimately became his ruin.

And yet, in the face of Ahaz's failure, God did not withdraw. He spoke a deeper promise: *"The Lord himself will give you a sign... the virgin will conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel."* Even when His people refused to trust Him, God declared that one day He would come Himself, God with us, to rescue and renew.

This is the hope Advent trains our hearts to embrace. Like Ahaz, we are tempted to entrust ourselves to things we can see and manage: success, comfort, distraction, control. But every substitute hope ultimately turns on us. Advent gently exposes those misplaced hopes and invites us to see the One hope that will not fail.

In Jesus, the holy God of Isaiah 6 became a child, small, vulnerable, and born into scandal, so that we would know beyond all doubt that God is for us, with us, and fighting on our behalf. Mary and Joseph accepted this costly hope when the world around them insisted they were foolish. They embraced God's promise even when it meant misunderstanding, hardship, and uncertainty. Their lives proclaim to us that the hope God offers is worth trusting, even when it hurts.

Advent reminds us that our hope is not ultimately in a better version of this life, but in the world to come - the new creation Isaiah foretold - where God Himself will dwell with His people and every sorrow will finally cease.

**As you wait this Advent, take heart:
The sign has come.
God is with us.
And He will bring us all the way home.**

UPCOMING DATES:

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)

Sun 12/14: Sunday School at 8:30am (BPC - Room 204)

Sun 12/14: Christmas Potluck Brunch at 10:00am (BPC - Gathering Space)

Sun 12/14: Lessons & Carols Service at 10:45am (BPC - Sanctuary)

Sun 12/14: Youth Group Christmas Party at 6:00pm (BPC - Gym/Backyard)

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