

Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church



December 16, 2018
3rd Sunday of Advent

8:45 and 11:00 a.m. Services for the Lord's Day

WE WELCOME YOU to worship at Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church. If you are visiting, we are especially glad you are here. Please sign the Friendship Register when it is passed. Questions about the life and ministry of our church may be addressed to any member of the staff or to one of the elders of the church. Officers can be identified by their name tags.

DISCOVERY CLASSES are offered for those who want to know more about membership in Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church. The next session will meet on Feb. 3, 10 and 17, 2019, at 9:45 a.m. in the Parlor. To find out more or sign up, please contact kfeldman@oapc.us.

A NURSERY is provided in room 102 for infants-5K at 8:45 a.m., during 9:45 Sunday School for infants-2 yrs., and at 11 a.m. for infants-3 yrs. An usher can direct you to the nursery.

KIDS' KIRK (Scottish for "church") at 11:00 a.m. includes a brief child-friendly worship experience, snack, and free play. Ages 4 years – 1st grade may leave after Children's Time with our volunteers, and be picked up in Room 105. All children 2nd grade and older are invited to remain in Worship.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP BAGS are available. Ushers will be happy to provide these.

HEARING DEVICES and LARGE PRINT HYMNALS are available. Ushers will be happy to provide those as needed.

DVDs OF TODAY'S WORSHIP may be ordered (for \$10 each) by contacting the Church Office.

RESTROOMS are located near the front and rear entrances to the Sanctuary.

TEXT MESSAGE GIVING IS FAST AND EASY. Text OAPC to 73256. Standard text message rates apply.

421 Oakland Avenue Rock Hill, SC 29730
803-327-2006 www.oapc.net oapc@oapc.net
Office Hours: Mon.-Fri., 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
For after-hours emergency contact, please call 803-329-6276

Prelude

Joy to the World

arr. Donald Hustad

Welcome and Life of the Church

Rev. Jeff Bryan

One: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

***Passing the Peace**

***Congregational Introit #106** – *Prepare the Way, O Zion* – vs. 1

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 who came in God's most holy name.

***Call to Worship** (8:45) Jerry Padgett; (11:00) Leslie and Lily Bickford

One: We light this candle in joy.

Jesus says: I am coming soon.

All: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

One: Rejoice in the Lord; again, rejoice!

All: Be gentle to all: the Lord is near.

Come, let us worship God.

***Hymn #82**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

***Call to Confession**

(11:00) Rev. Landon Dillard

***Prayer of Confession**

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. (Silent, individual prayers of confession.) Through Jesus Christ, the Lord. Amen.

***Declaration of Forgiveness**

***Responsive Hymn #581**

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.***

Gospel Reading

Luke 3:2b-6, pew Bible, NT pg. 58

(8:45) Goody Thomas; (11:00) John Moore

One: The word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

**All: 'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"**

Anthem

The White Dove

Johannes Brahms

*A snow-white dove from heaven flew down to the earth,
In angel form it greeted a Maid of lowly birth,
With peace and joy, its tidings fill'd her breast,
For she, above all women, would be forever blest.
Kyrie eleison.*

*The gates of heav'n would open, the angel then did tell,
and Christ our Blest Redeemer would deign on earth to dwell;
The Holy Babe who lay her arms within,
should be the promised Saviour to purge the world from sin.
Kyrie eleison.*

*And when our life is ended, on Thee will we call,
The Son of Holy Mary, Who died to save us all;
In mercy hear us when we cry to Thee,
from fear to death's dark angel, O Jesus, set us free.
Kyrie eleison.*

Children's Time

At 8:45 a nursery is available for Infants-5K in room 102. At 11:00, a nursery is available for Infants-three years. Following the Children's Time, children ages 4 years-first grade are invited to go with their leaders to Kids' Kirk (Scottish for "church"). They may be picked up in Room 105.

*Hymn #108

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Gospel Reading

Luke 3:7-18, pew Bible, NT pg. 60

Sermon

“John the Baptist”

Rev. Jeff Bryan

*Affirmation of Faith Apostles' Creed Rev. Jane Summey Mullennix

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.

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 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.

Offering of Ourselves and Our Gifts to God and the Church

Offertory (8:45) *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* (Agape Alumni) arr. Lois Hill
(11:00) *Psalms 139* (Agape and Alumni Choir) Allen Pote

*Hymn #606 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

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

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn #110

Love Has Come

*Charge and Benediction

One: What is God sending us out to do?

All: Love God. Love neighbor.

One: What is the only thing that counts?

All: Faith working through love.

Postlude

O Come, Emmanuel

arr. Wilbur Held

*All who are able, please stand.

Announcements – Dec. 16, 2018

421 Oakland Avenue, Rock Hill, SC 29730; 803-327-2006; www.oapc.net

You are encouraged to take this insert home so you will have a current calendar of upcoming events and information you may share with a friend or neighbor.

Christmas Joy Gift Offering is TODAY!

Please find the offering envelope in today's bulletin, and give generously, knowing that your contribution gives hope for the future of our denomination's ministry and witness to the saving grace of the ONE whose birthday we celebrate especially this Advent and Christmas season. GIVE, thanking our God for the incredible gift of love and grace found in our Savior!

Celebrating Susan Read and 17 Years of Ministry

Please join us in celebrating Susan Read and her long, faithful, and fruitful ministry as the OAPC Organist. Susan's work has included teaching children, accompanying choirs and ensembles, leading worship on Sundays, as well as for weddings, funerals, and special programs. She will be sorely missed. All are invited to a reception in Susan's honor after worship this morning, in the Fellowship Hall. You may add a personal thank you note and/or monetary gift to Susan's basket at the Reception.

Lay Led Worship Meets Every Sun. during Advent (12/2-30), 8:30 a.m., Hut

The Lay Led Worship group, which usually meets on 2nd & 4th Sundays, meets every Sunday during Advent, in the Hut at 8:30 a.m. This is a casual gathering, sharing coffee and our "joys and concerns," a time of scripture, devotion, prayer, support and a hymn or two. Bring a friend and join us.

Rehearsals for Nativity Play Rehearsals

Want your Elementary age child to participate in the Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. service Nativity Play? Sign-ups are in the Welcome Center or email Landon: ldillard@oapc.us. We will practice **today after Worship** (speaking parts only), **Wed., Dec. 19 at 5:00 p.m.**, and **Mon., Dec. 24 at 3:15 p.m.**

Christmas Stories for the Holidays – Available in the OAPC Library

The OAPC Library is open! If you would like a children's Christmas story for the holidays, the library has a lot to offer. Go by and check them out!

Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen, next service dates: Tues., Dec. 18, & Sat., Dec. 29, 10 a.m.

Join the OAPC volunteers on our 3rd Tues., Dec. 18, or our 5th Sat., Dec. 29. No special skills are needed! Call Hannalie Ferguson, 803-327-7947.

Bethelwoods Camp and Conference Center, Christmas Break for Kids, Dec. 27-29

Looking for a camp experience during Christmas break? Register your kids for the 2018 Winter Retreat, Dec. 27-29, retreat includes advent teaching, Christmas crafts, holiday games and traditional camp adventures! Register today at www.bethelwoods.org.

Family Promise Needs Your Help – Dec. 23-30, 2018

Our yet-to-be-housed guests from Family Promise will be staying at our church the week of Christmas. Just like Mary and Joseph had nowhere to stay that first Christmas, so are the Family Promise families without a home this Christmas. But, unlike them, we CAN make room at the "inn!" And we can do it in the name of the Holy Child born that morn. Please sign up in the Welcome Center or at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0c45adad2fa2fa7-family> to be an **Evening Host, (male and female hosts needed Thurs., Fri., or Sat.), or be an Overnight**

Host (male needed for Thurs., male & female needed for Sat.), or 3 people to reset rooms (9-10:30 a.m. Sun., Dec. 30). And we would love to be able to offer Christmas-themed crafts for the families. As always, we need sheet sets of all sizes and new, self-inflating blow-up mattresses. If you can help, please contact Jane Summey at jsummey@oapc.us.

Provide a Meal for our College Ministry, Monday nights at 7:00 p.m.

We received a great response in providing meals for the fall semester. We now need OAPC members who would be willing to provide a meal for our Winter/Spring College Ministry meetings. We have about 10 students (2 are vegetarian). If you are interested in helping, please sign up using the Sign-Up Genius link (you do not have to create an account to sign up): <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090948aeae2ba5fe3-college>. Contact Landon with any questions: ldillard@oapc.us.

Alternative Christmas Gifts, Deadline: Dec. 30

Beyond OAPC's Alternative Gift Fair (AGF), you can celebrate Christ's birth with alternative gifts through December 30. Honor loved one by making donations in their names to our Mission Partners; use the AGF Catalog found on our website and in the Welcome Center. You also can "give twice" by ordering fair trade, handmade gifts online through SERRV, a nonprofit organization. Your purchase will benefit artisans in developing countries. To place your order, use this link: www.serrv.org/?a=OAPC, and our Mission Partners will receive 20% of all purchases. Questions? Email Jane Summey: jsummey@oapc.us.

Military Veteran Information Requested for Archives

If you became a member of this church after 2016 and have served in the military at any time, please give us: your full name, branch of service, dates you served (which war, or peace time,) rank (current rank or when you left,) the date you joined OAPC, and a photo (in uniform if possible) for us to scan or copy. Place these in the Library office mailbox. The Archive maintains two veteran notebooks, plus two plaques in the Oakland Ave. entrance to the Sanctuary. Questions? Please phone Mary Love Hammond, 803-328-0920.

Upcoming Publication Deadlines – Noon on Mondays

Acorn and Bulletin: **Dec. 17** for Tues. Acorn (Dec. 18) and Sun. Bulletins (**Dec. 23 & 30**); Oakleaf: **March 13**, for the 2nd quarterly issue of 2019 (April-June)

Stock Transfer

If you would like to give stock, our broker is John Palko with Scott & Stringfellow. Our account number is 63827650; the DTC number is 0702; their phone number is 800-476-3768. Please remember, we must receive the sale of the stock by Dec. 31, 2018.

Contributions for 2018

Donations must be received in the offering by Sun., Dec. 30, or in the Church Office by noon on Mon., Dec. 31. The IRS requires donations to be received (or postmarked) by Dec. 31, 2018, to receive credit on your 2018 Contribution Statement.

Fast, Simple Online/Mobile Giving to OAPC

You may make donations or payments through our website: www.oapc.net (Donate) or through the Church Life app (Give) on your smart phone. Using either location, please indicate the purpose of your funds, (pledge, Montreat registration, Youth fundraiser, etc.) in the comment portion.

Text Message Giving is Fast and Easy

Text OAPC to 73256. Simplify your Christmas and Spread God's love this Season through the AGF Catalog Make a donation in honor of someone you love. Support OAPC Mission Partners listed in the Alternative Gift Fair catalog, found on our website (click [here](#)) and in the Welcome Center, through Dec. 31. Celebrate the birth of Jesus with joy!

Prayer Concerns

We print Joys, Deaths and New Prayer Concerns in the bulletin. For the most current and complete list of all prayer concerns, check the Prayer Board near the Welcome Center.

Joys: Erwin Barron

Bereavements: Tricia Gregory and family (her brother, Julius, died on Dec. 3); Laura Back and family (her aunt Bobbie, Joe Hardy's twin sister, died recently)

New Concerns: Tom Garret (father of Gina Jones), Kelly Herring, Dewey Isaac (stepfather of Rhonda Werner), Johnny Johnson (father of Ashley Landrum), Chuckie Koonce (father of Cathi Leigh Nicholson), Cherie Mabry, J. L. McDaniel Milliken, Ann McWatters, Joel Nichols, Liz Quinn, Mary Scott Robinson (Mary Katherine and Billy Robinson's daughter), Bud Roller (father of Jill Bigham), Unity Presbyterian Church

The Church at Work

Office Hours: 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday

Sunday, December 16

- 8:30 Lay Led Worship and Coffee, Hut
- 8:45 Worship, Sanctuary
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 10:15 Agape Choir Alumni Gathering, Balcony
- 11:00 Worship, Sanctuary
- 12:00 Reception Honoring Susan Read, Fellowship Hall
- 12:00 Nativity Play Practice
- 4:30 Agape Youth Choir Rehearsal, Music Suite
- 6:00 Communion, Westminster Towers Heritage Room
- 6:00 Agape Choir at Westminster Towers
- 6:30 OAPC Worship on CN2 (previous Sunday's service)
- 7:00 Agape Choir Christmas Party, Werners', 1424 Bryson Gap Dr., Ft. Mill

Monday, December 17

- 5:30 7 and Under Team A Basketball Practice, Activities Center
- 5:30 AA (Alcoholics Anonymous), Presbyterian Student Center
- 6:30 8 & 9 Team C Basketball Practice, Activities Center
- 7:00 Session, 202
- 7:30 Mite Boys A Basketball Practice, Activities Center

Tuesday, December 18

- 10:00 Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen, 902 Crawford Rd.
- 11:30 A&B PW Circle, 2207
- 12:00 AI-Anon, 2207
- 5:30 AA (Alcoholics Anonymous), Presbyterian Student Center
- 5:30 7 & Under Team B Basketball Practice, Activities Center
- 6:00 Stephen Ministers, 2107/Conference Room
- 6:30 8 & 9 Team B Basketball Practice, Activities Center
- 7:00 Revelation Ringers, 2205/Hand Bell Room

7:30 Mite Boys B Basketball Practice, Activities Center

Wednesday, December 19

10:00 Disciple, 2107/Conference Room

5:00 Nativity Play Practice, Sanctuary

5:30 AA (Alcoholics Anonymous), Presbyterian Student Center

6:00 Facilities Group, 202

6:00 Holy COW! (Children's Choirs on Wednesdays), Music Suite

6:30 13 & Under Team A Basketball Practice, Activities Center

7:30 13 & Under Team B Basketball Practice, Activities Center

7:30 Chancel Choir Rehearsals, Music Suite

8:30 Junior Boys Basketball Practice, Activities Center

Thursday, December 20

10:00 Stephen Leaders, 2107/Conference Room

12:00 Al-Anon, 202

2:45 STAR (Student Recreation and Tutoring), Fellowship Hall

4:00 Archives, 108/Library

5:00 Disciple I, 2212

5:30 7 & Under Team C Basketball Practice, Activities Center

5:30 AA (Alcoholics Anonymous), Presbyterian Student Center

6:30 8 & 9 Team A Basketball Practice, Activities Center

7:15 Depression/Bipolar Support Group (DBSA), Presbyterian Student Center

Friday, December 21

5:30 AA (Alcoholics Anonymous), Presbyterian Student Center

Saturday, December 22

10:00 Chemically Dependent Anonymous, Presbyterian Student Center

Sunday, December 23 – OAPC Hosts Family Promise Guests (12/23-30)

8:30 Lay Led Worship and Coffee, Hut

8:45 Worship, Sanctuary

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 Worship, Sanctuary

12:00 Piano Dedication, 2110/Chapel

4:30 Agape Youth Choir Rehearsal, Music Suite

6:30 OAPC Worship on CN2 (previous Sunday's service)

Advent/Christmas/Holiday Schedule 2018

Dec. 23 4th Sunday of Advent (8:45 a.m. & 11 a.m. Worship)

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

5 p.m. Family Service, features a dramatic recreation of the Nativity with children and music by the Holy COW! and Agape Choirs.

10:30 p.m. Extended Musical Prelude

11:00 p.m. Candlelight and Communion - musical leadership includes Chancel Choir, hand bells, soloists, organ, and OAPC Consort instrumentalists.

Dec. 30 One Combined Worship at 11 a.m. (Sunday School will not meet.)

Jan. 6 Epiphany (8:45 a.m. & 11 a.m. Worship)

