

**Morning Worship
December 2, 2018
1st Sunday of Advent**

We Gather in God's Name

Greeting Jacob Goddard
The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Welcome & Announcements
Prelude *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent* Keefer
Lighting of the Advent Wreath (Hope Candle) Folger Family
Choral Response *Come Now, O Prince of Peace*

Prayer
Faithful God,
Out of death you bring life.
Renew us in hope,
That we may be alert
To the burgeoning of Christ's advent among us.
**God of promise, God of hope,
Into our darkness come.**

*Hymn 106 *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

Call to Confession
God does not want anyone to perish, but rather for all to come to repentance and new life. Confident that we are promised newness of life through Christ, we can turn to God, confessing our sin. Let us confess our sins together, so that we may know the forgiveness of God and what is hidden in us may become visible.

Prayer of Confession (unison)
God of Grace, you send signs of love in people who care. But often we shut those people out. We turn away your love when we need it most. We deny your hope within us, and keep ourselves isolated and afraid. Visit us with your salvation for we await you in need. We pray this in the name of our promised Messiah, Jesus Christ. (silent prayer) Amen.

Assurance of Pardon
God, who is just and gracious, has sent Jesus Christ into the world to redeem us, to lift us up, and to restore us to God. As we turn to God with sorrowful hearts, Christ intercedes on our behalf, turning our sorrow into joy through a renewed relationship with God. So with assurance I can say to you, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and restored to good and loving relationships.
Thanks be to God.

Holy Interruption *We greet our neighbors in Christ's love*

We Receive God's Word

Children's Sermon Rev. Gavin Meek
Preschool-Kindergarten age children are dismissed to the Pray n' Play program held in the room beside the church nursery in the main Church building. Children who are in the 1st grade and higher should return to their seats in the congregation.

Prayer for Illumination
Old Testament Lesson Malachi 3:1-4
New Testament Lesson Mark 13:24-26, 32-37

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Prepare the Way and Plan for the Future" Rev. Gavin Meek

We Respond to God's Word

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *A Declaration of Faith*, Presbyterian Church (USA)
God sent the promised deliverer to His people. Jesus, the long expected Savior, came into the world as a child, descended from David, was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, a virgin. He lived as a Jew among Jews. He announced to his people the coming of God's Kingdom, of justice and peace on earth. We affirm that Jesus was born of woman, as is every child, yet born of God's power, as was no other child. In the person and work of Jesus, God Himself and a human life are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated. The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule. Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection, he brings about the relationship, between God and humanity, that God always intended.

**Gloria Patri* (hymn 581)
**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.**

Dedication of Chrismons Jean Page Watson
You are invited to come forward and hang a Chrismon on the tree at this time.

Prayer of Dedication of Chrismons
Leader: For these symbols of Christ and Christianity which call us to focus on you,
People: We give you thanks, O God.
Leader: For the loving hands that have spent time in creating these symbols of our faith,
People: We give you thanks, O God.
Leader: For your love and sacrifice displayed by these Chrismons,
People: We give you thanks, O God. And we dedicate these Chrismons to you Lord, not as idols to be worshipped, but as tools that may be used to further our dedication to You and the mission you have called us to in Your name. Amen.

Offering Invitation
Offertory *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Jones

*Praise of God *We Give Thee But Thine Own*
**We give thee but thine own, what-e'er the gift may be;
All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee**

Prayer of Dedication

God Seals His Word Through the Lord's Supper

*Hymn 507 *Come to the Table of Grace*
Invitation to the Table
Epiclesis (Sung by all, three times)
**Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al-le-lu-ia!**

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you!
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise...
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.

Words of Institution and Sharing of Bread and Wine
Prayer after Communion

We Depart in God's Name

* Hymn 82 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*
* Benediction and Sending
* Choral Response *Blest Be the God of Israel*
* Postlude *My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout* Irish Tune

We **welcome** Rev. Gavin Meek to the pulpit this morning. Rev. Meek is the **Transitional Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk of New Harmony Presbytery** which consists of 65 churches in 12 counties in the northeast corner of South Carolina. As our transitional leader, Gavin is not only doing the work of the Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk, but is assisting us with discovering our main goals of assisting and supporting congregations and is helping us align our resources and structure toward them. He has served in ordained ministry in the PCUSA for 30 years, twenty of those in interim/transitional ministry, serving one other presbytery and eight congregations of various sizes in seven states. For ten years, he has been a part of the PCUSA faculty for interim education. Gavin and his wife, Jennifer (Jen) Kottler, who is ordained Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ and a spiritual director and professional life coach, are avid travelers; Gavin has been to 49 states and almost 60 countries and enjoys reading biographies, all things Scottish (his mother was born and raised in Scotland and Gavin has been there over a dozen times visiting family and leading tours), hiking, tennis and good food, good wine and a wee dram with friends.

