

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

217 Opequon Church Lane, Winchester, VA

22602 540-662-1843

www.opequonchurch.org



“From Generation to Generation”

INFORMATION FOR OUR GUESTS

To get the most out of your visit, may we recommend you familiarize yourself with the following:

- **We encourage you to share requests for prayer.** You may do so by completing the pink form found in the pew rack and placing it in the offering.
- **Trust your children to the care of our dedicated, loving workers!** The nursery rooms are located through the Gathering Area, down the Gallery and through the Dell Room. An usher will be happy to escort you. Our nursery ministry cares for infants and toddlers to age three. Our workers are masked and fully vaccinated for COVID.
- **Worship Bags are available for children ages 3-kindergarten.** These bags are in the back of the Sanctuary. Please return the bag and supplies to the basket when you are leaving.
- **Restrooms and a coat rack** are located off the Gathering Area, just outside the Sanctuary.
- **Large-print hymnals, Bibles and bulletins** are available from an usher.
- **Personal hearing assistance devices** are available from an usher if you would like to use one.
- **Transportation can be provided to worship.** Call the church office before 12:00 pm on Friday.
- **Online giving may be accessed by using this QR code:**



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David R. Witt.....	Pastor
Julia H. Burkley	Associate Pastor
Tracie Martin	Parish Associate
Laurie Carver.....	Nursery Supervisor
William Heavner	Organist
Susan Homan.....	Director of Music
Patty Klinefelter, Bill Martin, Mike Nutry, Pat Williams.....	Faith Community Nurses
Ken Smiy	Finance Administrator
Sherry Bean	Office Administrator
Robert Sydnor	Sexton
Carole Witt.....	Director of Christian Education
Rebekah Witt	Youth & Young Adult Director

SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 4, 2022

8:30 & 11:00 am

Second Sunday of Advent

WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

ENTRANCE OF THE WORD AND THE LIGHT

PRELUDE *The Peace Within Me*

Arranged by Franklin Ritter

Please use this time to prepare your inward spirit for the worship of God.

† All who are able, please stand. **Bold print**—all respond

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG No. 92 *While We Are Waiting Come*

CCLI#1622560

While we are waiting come; while we are waiting come.

Jesus our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting come.

With power and glory, come; with power and glory, come.

Jesus our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting come.

Come Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come.

Jesus our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting come.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES .. The Link Family/Janet Murphy (8:30)

The Ganoë/Veach Family (11:00)

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Say to those of a fearful heart:

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.

Behold! The glory of the Lord shines upon us!

Say to those with weak hands and feeble knees:

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.

Behold! In splendor, the Lord dwells among us!

My soul magnifies the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

The Mighty One has done great things. Holy is God’s name!

**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.**

**Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born 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.**

(Please be seated for prayer)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Fear can be a good thing. It can help us be attentive while driving down the highway. It can alert us to possible accidents. It can motivate us to do our best. However, fear can also be harmful. For so many of us, fear of the other, fear of failure, or fear of the unknown has led us to make sinful choices in our lives—choices such as building walls or tearing others down. Today, in confession, we ask for mercy and pray for guidance. As we confess, we come before an entirely merciful and loving God who says to us, “Do not be afraid.” Let us pray:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Patient God, you know just how often we make decisions from a place of fear rather than love. You know just how often we allow fear to take the place of logic, fanning unhealthy fires in our lives. You know just how often we tuck your words, “Do not be afraid” on dusty shelves and in the back of closets, stubbornly holding onto our own point of view. Forgive us for giving fear the microphone. Silence the voices of scarcity, shame, and rejection, which spark and feed so much of our fear, to recenter us in love. With hope we pray.

MOMENTS OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Family of faith, even when we forget God’s words, God does not forget us. Even when we lose our way, God does not lose us. Even when we fall short or make mistakes, God forgives and holds onto us. We are known, forgiven, and loved. Thanks be to God!

LITANY OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

†THE RESPONSE OF PRAISE NO. 121 (vv. 3,4)..... *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

CCLI# 1622560

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in: be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

†PASSING OF THE PEACE (Please share this prayer with those near you.)

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

ANTHEM*Advent Echo Carol*

Sanctuary Choir, CCLI# 1622560

Prophets told it long ago. Prepare the way, O Zion. Like a rose, he'll bloom and grow. Prepare the way, O Zion. He comes! He comes, the powers of earth confounding, the joy of peace resounding. Truth and justice in his hand. Son of God and Son of man. He comes! He comes, the powers of earth confounding, the joy of peace resounding. The lame will dance, the blind will see. Ransomed souls will be set free. Prepare, prepare the way. Hills and valleys shout and sing. Prepare the way, O Zion. Tribute of our hearts we bring. Prepare the way, O Zion. He comes, the powers of earth confounding, the joy of peace resounding.

THE READING OF GOD’S WORD:

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-10Pew Bible p. 558

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Luke 1:26-38.....Pew Bible p. 831

CONVERSATION WITH ALL AGES "Fear of the Unknown"

Pastor David Witt

†HYMN No. 99 *My Soul Gives Glory to My God*
CCLI#1622560

**My soul gives glory to my God; my heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.**

**My God has done great things for me: yes, holy is God’s name.
All people will declare me blessed, and blessings they shall claim.**

**From age to age to all who fear, such mercy love imparts,
dispensing justice far and near, dismissing selfish hearts.**

**Love casts the mighty from their thrones, promotes the insecure,
Leaves hungry spirits satisfied; the rich seem suddenly poor.**

**Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress,
remembering past promises with present faithfulness.**

SERMON “God Meets Us in Our Fear”
Pastor David Witt

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*
Arranged by Edward Broughton

†THE DOXOLOGY (Hymnal No. 606) AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

**We give you thanks, Holy One, for all good things: for this
universe and for Earth itself, for creatures and plants, for water
and food, for light and darkness; for Jesus, our brother, who
enlarged our vision, setting himself before us as the bread and
wine of abundant life; and for the Holy Spirit, who comes to us in
baptism and moves in our midst with the power to lead us to you.
Turn our offerings to your good will, and turn us always to you in
gratitude. Through Christ, the hope of our lives, we pray. Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (Hymnal pp. 9-10)

The Lord’s Prayer (Hymnal p. 35, we say “debts” and “debtors” in the prayer)

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and Cup (Please wait to unwrap until invited to partake)

Communion Music *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent*

Closing Communion Prayer

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME

†HYMN NO. 123..... *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*
CCLI# 1622560

**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all gracious King:
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing**

**Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world:
above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.**

**Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
and we at war on earth hear not the tidings that they bring;
O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the angels sing!**

**And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:
O, rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.**

**For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.**

†CHARGE AND BLESSING

†CLOSING RESPONSE NO. 384 (v.1) *Soon and Very Soon*
CCLI#1622560

**Soon and Very Soon we are going to see the King.
Soon and Very Soon we are going to see the King.
Soon and Very Soon we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the King!**

†POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 4 – 11, 2022

TODAY

2nd Sunday of Advent, Communion

8:30 AM Morning Worship (In Person & Live Stream)
9:45 AM Faith Formation – Assembly Room
11:00 AM Morning Worship (In Person)
3:15 PM Choir Cantata Practice – Sanctuary

THIS WEEK

Monday: Older Adult Ministry – 9:30 AM – Bageant Room
Windsong – 6:00 PM – Sanctuary
Men of Opequon (MOO) – 6:00 PM – Alto de Jalisco

Tuesday: Staff Meeting – 10:00 AM – Bageant Room
Circle of Conversation – 1:00 PM – ZOOM
Technology/Communications Team – 4:30 PM – Bageant Room
Ministry Team Night – 6:00 PM – Fellowship Hall

Wednesday: LOGOS – 4:30 PM – Fellowship Hall
Worship on Wednesday (WOW) Worship – 6:45 PM – Sanctuary
Choir Practice – 7:15 PM – Sanctuary

Thursday: Tai Chi – 10:30 AM – Memorial Sanctuary
Vision Team – 7:00 PM – Bageant Room

Saturday: Youth/Young Adults Sunday Practice – 10:00 AM – Sanctuary

NEXT SUNDAY

3rd Sunday of Advent, Youth/Young Adult Sunday
The Candle of Joy, Christmas Cookie Exchange
Morning Worship – 8:30 & 11:00 AM
Faith Formation – 9:45 – Assembly Room
Senior Outreach Ministry – 12:15 PM
Spring Arbor Worship – 1:30 PM
Blue Christmas Service – 3:00 PM – Memorial Sanctuary
Isaiah 35:1-10, Matthew 1:18-25
Sermon: “We Can Choose a Better Way”

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Kennedy Ransom Baby Boy in WMC NICU	Chesapeake Shooting Marj Rowe Our Lawmakers	Carol Ferrante Parker Plumb Tim Bullis
Kait Rusch Maralee Muscato Myra Gail Beck Family	Jane Willard Kenneth Carper & Family	Sandy Johnson Caregivers Caroline Hastreiter Nadine DeHaven
Melvin Reed Colorado Shooting UVA Community UI Community	Rich Friedrichsen Kathy Tobin Rich Valenti Ray Anderson	Ellen Neff Mary Lou Thomas Brenda & Terry Caldwell Ukraine
Annie Aisenberg Karen Lemons & Family	Daniel Crites David Lipkin Barbara Donegan Jack & Carol Treece	Afghanistan Casey Carr Michael Weller Ethiopia
Robin Owens Hospital Staff Kurt Hawkins Raya Jeffcoat	Jim & Jeanette Baccary Curt Budny Tim Loftis	Nancy Kerns Racial Injustice Mike Shade E.E.C.M.Y.
Brett Long Gwen Berryman Dennis Wakeman	Jane Lewis Doug Koch Dick & Sandy Widell	Church Mekane Yesus

PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY SERVICE

Sawyer Phillips, Joshua Blake, Max Crane, Andrew Crane, Thomas Crane, Edison Gomez, Jacob Heavner, Samuel & Julia Phillips, Brandon Michael, Michael White, Ben Jensen, Gavin Eanes and their families.

SERVANTS IN MINISTRY

<p>8:30 Worship Beadle – Mike Wygant Liturgist – Ben Brooks Ushers – Graham Taylor, Steve Bock, Jim Horner, Virginia Barr, Mason Vander-Toorn Acolyte – Virginia Barr Greeters – Trish and Mike Crawford Communion Servers – Bill and Debbie Bender, Mike Wygant, Beth Barr, Steve Bock, Alyce Callahan Livestream – Susan Ritter; Brad Jordan</p>	<p>11:00 Worship Beadle – Ron Smith Liturgist – Ann Denison Ushers – Mike & Fran Jeffries, Mike Nutry, Vicki Crites, Flynn Hall, Aubrey Astorino, Adelyn Astorino Acolyte – Flynn Hall Greeters – Pam Olsen, Bonnie Pitzer Communion Servers – Bill Deck, Marj Praml, Ron and Ann Smith, Carolyn Rutherford, Katherine Newhouse</p>
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TODAY WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Dennis Boyd, Re-Affirmation of Faith

Mike Crawford, Transfer, Warsaw United Methodist United Church

Leslie Louthan, Transfer, Warsaw United Methodist Church

Grant and Joan Patton, Transfer, Braddock Street United Methodist Church

Rick Ours, Transfer Macedonia United Methodist Church

NOTES ON TODAY'S MUSIC

It's very unlikely you've heard this morning's prelude before. It is an original composition by the late Lani Smith, a composer so prolific he published under several different names, this time as Franklin Ritter. Both the title and comforting mood of the music are very fitting to lead us into worship this second Sunday of Advent. This morning's offertory is also a Lani Smith arrangement, under another pseudonym, Edward Broughton. The traditional Advent hymn, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel", has musical roots that go back more than fifteen hundred years to monastic plainsong. The tune was updated and paired with the familiar text in 1851.

OLDER ADULT PLANNING MEETING

The Older Adult Planning Team meets tomorrow morning at 9:30am in the Bageant Room. This meeting is open to any older adult who would like to join in the conversations and planning for Happy Days events and other aspects of older adult ministry. Refreshments and coffee are provided along with a healthy dose of laughter.

CHRISTMAS GATHERING WITH THE MEN OF OPEQUON

The Men of Opequon's (MOO) Christmas gathering is tomorrow night at 6:00 pm at Alto de Jalisco in the Kernstown Commons Center (next to Alamo). Join us for a Dutch treat meal, followed by our annual "thieves' Christmas gift exchange" (bring a wrapped, \$10 or less serious or gag gift for the fun). It would be helpful to get a headcount to know how many to expect. Please let David Witt know by mailing pastor@opequonchurch.org or letting him know today.

WOW (Worship on Wednesday) This Week!

All LOGOS Worship Groups will be participating in WOW this Wednesday, December 7th at 6:45 pm in the sanctuary. The scripture is Luke 1:39-55 and the meditation is "Child of God."

COOKIE EXCHANGE Dec 11 between both services. Call any Fellowship Team Member for details. We can pick up, receive on Saturday morning (10th) @10 am or bring with you to church.

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11th

The session of Opequon Presbyterian Church calls for a meeting of the congregation next Sunday, December 11 at 10:45 am for the purpose of hearing the report of the Nominating Committee and proceeding to elect new officers: four ruling elders; three deacons; and one trustee. This will be a hybrid meeting. The ZOOM link will be made available this week. Please join us for this opportunity of electing leadership as you exercise your privilege and responsibility as members of Opequon Church.

BLUE CHRISTMAS

A service of healing and wholeness on **Sunday, December 11th at 3:00 pm in the Memorial Sanctuary**. This time of worship will include prayer, scripture reading, reflective music, and remembrance of our loved ones. The recorded service will be available later on the Opequon YouTube Channel

TWO CHRISTMAS CAROLING OPPORTUNITIES UPCOMING

- Neighborhood Caroling – **Wednesday, December 14 – 4:30 pm**
- Homebound Caroling – **Thursday, December 15 – 4:00 pm**

ROOTS & SHOOTS

The SeedMoney campaign runs until **December 15th!** The direct link is <https://donate.seedmoney.org/7768/opc-roots-shoots-garden> or you can search for "OPC Roots & Shoots Garden" on the SeedMoney website. We would greatly appreciate donations and shares of the page to help us reach that goal when the time comes!

SHERANDO FOOD PANTRY CHRISTMAS BOXES

If you are filling a Food Box for Sherando Food Pantry, **return filled boxes on** Thursday 12/8 between 6 and 8 PM, Saturday 12/10 between 9 and 11:30 AM, Thursday 12/15 between 9 and 11 AM. Any questions please contact Bill Burslem at wburslem331@comast.net

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS AVAILABLE

Did you know that Opequon has been the AUTHOR of its' own Advent Devotional book for MANY YEARS? We have been creating our own Advent Devotional book each year with daily readings that have been written by US! Each Advent has been a treasured collection of inspirational writings. This year we are continuing

this tradition of writing our own devotional. Devotionals are available today in the Gathering Area. It features an introduction, a daily ADVENT ADVERB and prayers. Please help yourself to a copy of the 2022 Advent Devotional.

CHILDREN'S Advent Booklets are available too. The title is 'From Generation to Generation' with many ideas and ways to connect with parents and grandparents to discover and learn what Advent was like for them as children. These booklets were distributed at LOGOS and are also available in the Gathering Area.

PLEASE GET YOUR PLEDGE IN NOW

Your support helps us reach out in many, many ways to many, many people. Pledge cards available in the pew racks or in the office; you may also send an email to financialadmin@opequonchurch.org. God's generosity to us is truly reflected in the many fingerprints we leave in the congregation, the local community, and in God's world. Join with us in making a difference, empowering our ministry.

WORSHIP NOTES AND REFLECTIONS

Notes on Today's Music

How does today's music witness to peace when we're afraid?

Notes on Today's Conversation with All Ages

What do you do when you are afraid?

Notes on Today's Prayers

Where do we need to focus on prayers this week?

Notes on Today's Scripture and Conversation with All Ages

- What makes us afraid?
- How does Mary react to the angel? What, exactly, is she afraid of or troubled by?
- What changes Mary's mind? What convinces her to trust this message? From where—or from whom—does she summon her courage?
- What is the relationship between fear and wonder? How do we decipher what types of fear are generative and what types of fear are destructive?
- In the face of fear, when have you been convinced to trust a new calling?
- Where do you see glimpses of Isaiah's vision coming to life?
- What actions can we take today to help bring this prophecy into fruition for the generations that come after us?