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Pine Grove United Methodist Church

Winston-Salem, NC

Together In Worship

Third Sunday in Advent

December 15, 2013

Eleven O'clock

“Lord, help me to be part of what you are doing in this community.”

You are invited to prepare your heart for
connecting with God during this time of worship
by focusing on these words or your own:
“Come into my heart, Lord Jesus....”

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Robin

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

Acolytes

PRELUDE “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Polly Caudle

Hammered Dulcimer

*WE SING OUR PRAISE “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” 196

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You are invited to respond with the **words in bold**.

(inspired by James 5: 7-10)

Oh God, you call us to patience and diligence...

But we get discouraged and give up too soon.

Lord, have mercy.

Oh God, you call us to collaborate in community...

But we neither trust nor honor the gifts of others.

Christ, have mercy.

Oh God, you call us to be full of joyful confidence...

But we burden ourselves with anxiety and fear.

Lord, have mercy.

(a moment of silent prayer)

Forgive us, O God,
and lead us in the ways of patience, community and joy.
adapted from a prayer written by The Rev. Susan A. Blain
and posted on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways website

*WE SHARE OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST All

Please turn to your neighbors and say:

"The Peace of Christ be with you." responding with *"And also with you."*

*WE SING OUR PRAYER Unison

(Tune: "O Little Town of Bethlehem")

**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!"**

WE LIGHT THE ADVENT WREATH

WE PRAY Our Lord's Prayer Pastor Robin

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass
against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver
us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and
the glory, forever. Amen**

WE GIVE OUR PRAISE TO GOD THROUGH GOD MOMENTS

WE GIVE GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS All

OFFERTORY "Angels and Shepherds" Beverly Myers

*DOXOLOGY 95

**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.**

WE ASK GOD'S BLESSING OF THE GIFTS Pastor Robin

DISTRIBUTE THE LOVE FEAST ELEMENTS

"Joy to the World!" and "Away In a Manger" Joyful Ringers
*HYMN "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" Congregation, 240

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th' angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th' incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

**Be present at our table, Lord
Be here and everywhere adored;
Thy creatures bless and grant that we
May feast in paradise with Thee. Amen.**

THE CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

“Mary Had a Little Lamb...That's My Story and I'm Sticking to it.”

By Ellen Brunnel

Produced through special arrangement with Close Encounters Ministries

“Away in a Manger”

Children and Congregation

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

HYMN

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

Congregation, 220

Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King!

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light;
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King!

Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King!

Saints, before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear;
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King!

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

The servers will light your candle and each will light the candle of their neighbor. Please tip the unlit candle to the lighted candle to keep from burning anyone with dripping hot wax.

*HYMN

“What Child Is This”

Congregation, 219

What child is this who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

*HYMN “Silent Night, Holy Night” Congregation, 239
Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

Please join together in lifting our candles

Silent night, holy night,
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

*WE GO OUT TO SERVE Pastor Robin
*CHIMING OF THE HOLY TRINITY
*POSTLUDE “One Small Child” (arr. Doran) Beverly Myers

* * * * *

**Please Stand As You Are Able*

EXPLANATION OF A LOVE FEAST

Following the offertory dedication, The Joyful Ringers will play. Then we will join together in singing “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”. While the children ring and everyone sings the hymn, diners (from German meaning servers) will enter the sanctuary with baskets of lightly sweetened Love Feast Buns. They will pass the baskets down each pew to allow each person to take one of the buns. After all have been served, the diners will exit the sanctuary and return with trays of Love Feast Coffee, sweetened with sugar and milk. Cups will be passed down each pew until all have been served. After the diners

leave the sanctuary, Pastor Robin will invite everyone to pray together the blessing printed in your bulletin. During the presentation of the Children's Christmas Program "*Mary Had a Little Lamb...That's My Story and I'm Sticking to it.*" by Ellen Brunnel, we will partake of the coffee and buns. The diners will return to collect the cups and napkins during "Angels from the Realms of Glory". Please put the napkins and any leftover buns into your coffee cup. Remember, this feast is **not** the Eucharist (Holy Communion) so if you belong to a denomination that forbids Communion with other churches, please feel free to join in this Agape Meal.

Our Prayer List

The Mercer Family, Lisa Oland (Chemo), Janet McCoy, Brenda Hogue, Whitney Ladd (radiation treatment), Mary Philbin (surgery Jan. 7th), John Mangum (heart), Greg Carnes (cancer), Julie McCombs, Louise Southern, Debbie Campbell (mastectomy), Christina (studying in Peru), Audra Burke (brain cancer), Greg and Sherrie Jones (health problems), Kris Abshire (cancer), Annie Ruth Ulfing (cancer), Myra Thompson (heart), Jerry Hawkins (cancer treatment), Donna Schroyer (recovering at home), Susette Westmoreland (broken rib), Shela Boland (recovering at home), Bobby Crutchfield (cancer), Ted Marzullo (cancer), Carol Markey (cancer), Clyde Holcomb (home), Martha Thomas (home), Jennifer Collins (bed rest), Chris Council (excellent test results), Rennie Smith (home), Raymond White (Forsyth Hospital), William Mabry (Baptist Hospital), Mildred Holder, Janet Jennings (cancer)

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY is extended to the family and friends of Mr. Roy Spach, who went to be with our Lord and Savior Thursday, December 12, 2013. Please remember Ruth, R.L. & Cindy and the family during this time of grief.

Please remember to **pick up the Christmas cards and stockings today** after worship to deliver to our shut ins. Thank you!

Mark Mercer #1333381
4285 MSC
Raleigh, NC 27699-4285

Chris Blanton #1321732
4285 MSC
Raleigh, NC 27699-4285

Thank you for supporting these men with your prayers and cards!

WORSHIP ASSOCIATES - December 15, 2013

Usher Emeritus: Roy Spach

Head Usher: Dee Fair

Ushers: John Fonda, Tom Mahannah,

Scott Pugh, Calvin Tanner

Greeters: Friendship Class

Greeters Next Month: Asbury Class

Children's Church: Lori Genevie

Next Sunday: Susette Westmoreland

Provide Bread for New Visitors: Lisa Hale

Provide Bread Next Week: Peggy Sizemore

Sanctuary: **Volunteers needed**

Sanctuary Next Month: **Volunteers needed**

Collect Pew Pads: Small Group 12

Collect Pew Pads Next Month: Young Adult Ministries

Crisis Control Ministry Gift: Canola Oil, 24 ounce size



Deck the Halls – The Communication Committee would like to invite you to **the first annual Pine Grove UMC Parade of Holiday Homes**. This is an open house event hosted by several of our members at their homes on **December 21st from 5pm until 8pm**. Light refreshments will be provided along with a guided tour of each home filled with the Christmas spirit. **Donations will be accepted** at each home to help raise funds **for the audio/visual upgrades** for the church sanctuary. If you are interested in hosting, please contact Brent Shutt at 336-945-7927 or email me at bshutt1@triad.rr.com.



Christmas Eve in the City! An interactive experience of Christmas Eve Communion like never before. We will **gather at the church at 4:30 pm**. We will open our worship time with praise and prayer. Then we will be sent out to serve.

Service opportunities are:

- Carols at the SECU House – we will sing and serve communion.
- A Christmas Eve Supper in Salem Woods – we will serve our neighbors supper and spend meaningful time in the community.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

SUNDAY 15th 9:45 Children's Program practice 11:00 Worship Service – Love Feast and Children's Program 6:00 Live Nativity	WEDNESDAY 18th 5:30 Chancel Choir Reception by UMW 6:30 optional Chancel Choir rehearsal 7:30 Chancel Choir practice
MONDAY 16th 10:00 Small Group #6 6:30 Pack meeting 7:00 Cub Scouts 7:00 Boy Scouts	SATURDAY 21st 9:30 Manna Meals 5:00 Parade of Holiday Homes
TUESDAY 17th 6:30 Girl Scouts	SUNDAY 22nd 11:00 Worship Service – Cantata 4:30 Youth

Please remember that the IRS requires all **2013 donations be received by Tuesday, December 31, 2013**. Envelopes with mailed contributions must be postmarked by December 31, 2013. Any contributions placed in the offering plates Sunday, January 6, 2014 must be counted as 2014 contributions regardless of the date on the check. Thank you for helping us adhere to these IRS regulations.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to improve our communications. Our church newsletter will resume January 2014. We are making necessary revisions due to several USPS changes with bulk mailings. Our broken, outdated phone tree has been replaced with a new system. It has been installed and we are working through the process of learning the program as well as entering all member information. We will place a note in the bulletin when this process is complete and phone tree messages can begin. We are very grateful for the time and energy that Kelly Hale has contributed to this process. If you would like to receive messages by phone or email please complete and place the following in the offering plate:

Name _____

Home phone _____

Cell phone _____

Email _____

My Dear Family and Friends:

Merry Christmas! It is indeed the most wonderful time of year—the time when we remember the ultimate Christmas gift—when God gave us His own Son.

This time of year gives us the opportunity to reflect on our blessings. Even if He has allowed us to walk through hard times or difficult situations, we know He promises that all things work together for good to those that love Him and are called according to His purposes (Romans 8:28).

Open Arms wants to “Thank You” for your gifts and especially your prayers. We are so blessed for your support and kindness. You are a faithful partner and Open Arms Ministry would not be here if not for you. Your faithfulness helps so many people, adults and children. Open Arms is feeding many more people, both in food and in spirit. In fact, a meal at Open Arms may be the only meal a child has that day.

Our tutoring programs have almost doubled. We have expanded upstairs, which is a blessing to have that extra space. We are still working on the upstairs, but we did have someone give a gift to paint outside and install a new HVAC system. We have also done painting inside, along with getting the ceiling repaired from old roof leaks. Many churches have been over to help with numerous projects. The rear deck is being replaced by a scout for his Eagle Project.

We have so many good things going on at Open Arms. But we are coming up on year end and we have a short fall of \$16,000. God has blessed us, but we just cannot get to that break-even point on our balance sheet. Believe me; I am not complaining because 2012 short fall was \$28,000? And because of you and your kindness, we have been able to get it down to \$16,000.

When your thoughts come to giving this Christmas Season, please remember Open Arms Ministry. We all have been so blessed by being born again and knowing Jesus as our Lord and Savior. “It is more blessing to give than receive”.

If you would like to give your gift in honor or memory of someone, please send the address or instructions as to how you would like this to be addressed. We will send out a card letting your loved one know a gift has been received in their honor. Or you can put a note in their Christmas Card, letting them know how you have honored them by helping others. What a blessing.

From Open Arms Ministry, we want to wish each one “Merry Christmas and a Blessed and Happy New Year”.

Blessing & Shalom,

Paul Mullican,

Open Arms Board Chairman

Open Arms Community of the United Methodist Church

47 E. Sprague St., Winston-Salem, NC 27127

Polly Caudle

Open Arms Board Secretary

A Short Christmas Sermon: Keeping Christmas

Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people, and to remember what other people have done for you; to ignore what the world owes you, and to think what you owe the world; to put your rights in the background, and your duties in the middle distance, and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground; to see that your fellow-men are just as real as you are, and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy; to own that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life, but what you are going to give to life; to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe, and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness -- are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and the desires of little children; to remember the weakness and loneliness of people who are growing old; to stop asking how much your friends love you, and ask yourself whether you love them enough; to bear in mind the things that other people have to bear on their hearts; to try to understand what those who live in the same house with you really want, without waiting for them to tell you; to trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke, and to carry it in front so that your shadow will fall behind you; to make a grave for your ugly thoughts, and a garden for your kindly feelings, with the gate open -- are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world -- stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death -- and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love? Then you can keep Christmas.

And if you keep it for a day, why not always?

But you can never keep it alone.

Community Celebrations

Centenary UMC Chancel Choir will present their annual **Lessons and Carols Service** with instrumentalists from the WS Symphony and Centenary's Cantus Choir, West End Ringers and Carillonners **today at 5:00pm**. The music-filled prelude begins at 4:30pm, so come early for a great seat and to hear even more selections of wonderful Christmas music! **Centenary UMC is located at 646 W. Fifth Street in Winston-Salem**, and parking is available in the lot across from the church on 5th Street and also in the lot behind the church on 4 ½ Street.

Thoughts to ponder

We are the people born of the missio Dei. This means that the church is a result of the missionary God and not the producer of it. The church is defined by its mission and not the other way around. We are the missional people of God and we have a job to accomplish that only we, as Jesus's people, can do.

Compliments of Sandy Waldron

PINE GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1130 Jonestown Road

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Office: 336-765-2569

Parsonage: 336-765-2479

Pastor's Cell Phone: 336-618-7998

Pastor: rfitzgerald@wnccumc.net

[twitter@reverendmommy](https://twitter.com/reverendmommy)

Church Web Page: www.pinegroveumc.org

****NEW****Church Office email: office@pinegroveumc.org



OUR PURPOSE

**To connect people to God through the heart,
mind + mission of Jesus Christ**