

Brandon Presbyterian Church

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Morning Worship

The Lord's Day, December 13, 2020

*During the prelude, please prepare your heart
to worship our gracious, Almighty God together.*

Meditation

"O HOLY NIGHT"

Long lay the world in sin and error pining 'til He appears and the soul
felt its worth a thrill of hope the weary world rejoices for yonder breaks
a new and glorious morn fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born O night, O Holy night, O
night divine!

Prelude

JACQUELYN THORNELL, ORGANIST

"There's a Song in the Air" by Josiah G. Holland

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship *

ISAIAH 9:6-7

Leader: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

**People: And the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name
shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting
Father, Prince of Peace.**

Leader: Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be
no end,

**People: On the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it
and to uphold it**

Leader: With justice and with righteousness from this time forth and
forevermore.

People: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Hymn of Praise *

N^o. 208

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye
to Bethlehem; come and behold him; born the King of angels;

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

2 God of God, Light of Light; lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb: very
God, begotten, not created; [Refrain]

3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heav'n
above; glory to God, in the highest; [Refrain]

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be
all glory giv'n; Word of the Father, late in flesh appearing; [Refrain]

Invocation *

Hymn of Praise *

N^o. 200

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

1 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 men, from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

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

3 And ye, 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.

4 For lo! the days are hast'ning on, by prophet bards foretold,
when with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Responsive Reading

LUKE 1:26-38

Leader: In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said,

People: **"Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"**

Leader: But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her,

People: **"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God."**

Leader: "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.

People: **And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."**

Leader: And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her,

People: **"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God."**

Leader: And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God."

People: **And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.**

Pastoral Prayer

Special Music

AINSLIE CURTIS / CLARINET

"Carol of the Bells"

Dismiss Children For Children's Church (3 & 4 year olds)

Reading of Holy Scripture

John 1:9-13(NIV)

⁹The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through

him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

Sermon

DR. JOHN K. DAWSON

"The Light"

Hymn of Response *

N^o. 196

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

1 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 ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

2 Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, appear; come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear! O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth: "Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

3 Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end; by his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend. Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall; this the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

4 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.

Offertory Prayer

Doxology *

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.*

Benediction

* Congregation Standing

Sermon Notes

John 1:9-13

"The Light"

I. The Problem

II. The Promise

III. The Power

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the Glory of God.

ATTENDANCE & FINANCIAL UPDATES

Worship Services (10:00): Dec 6	71
Live Views	22
Total Online Views	37
Sunday School	57
Last Week's Offering:	\$10,851.00
Weekly Budgeted Offering:	\$ 7,194.00
Year-to-Date Giving:	\$ 315,974.00
Year-to-Date Budgeted Giving	\$ 352,506.00 (-\$36,532)

Announcements

Christmas Cantata: Please join us tonight at 6:00 PM, for our virtual Christmas program - "Carols at Christmas". It will be live streamed on our youtube channel: www.youtube.com/channel/UCGmzy521B7L2DpUAATtzGHA

Christmas Eve: The Session, with a heavy heart, has decided it is best not to hold the Candlelight Service this year.

2020 Giving: 2020 has been a very challenging year for many reasons but your heart for giving has shone through. Thank you for your faithful support of our Church with your tithes and offerings and I encourage you to continue using any giving method you prefer. For online giving, simply go to the website below. It's a website that the Presbyterian Church in America's Foundation has set up for us: <https://secure.egsnetwork.com/donate/CAA2067B89F8403>

It is best if you choose ACH (electronic bank transfer) rather than using a credit card because BPC is not currently charged a fee for ACH. If you are not comfortable with the online giving then you can continue to bring or mail your tithes to the church.

I'd also like to remind the congregation that any contributions you would like to have credited to your 2020 giving statement must be postmarked or delivered to the church before Jan 1st. If you have any questions please contact me via email: luther@brandonpres.com or (601) 209-0231.

Christmas Special Offering: During the worship service on December 20th we will take a special offering for the PCA Ministerial Relief Ministry called look/after. It's purpose is to look after retired pastors, widows, and other PCA church servants in need.

French Camp Offering: Thank you to everyone that donated to the French Camp project. We raised \$1,600.

2021 Offering Envelopes: Offering Envelopes are in the breezeway.

Flowers: The flower calendar for 2021 has been posted on the bulletin board downstairs. If you have a date you prefer please sign up early to reserve that date. Thank you to all who provided flowers for church services this year.

Brandon Presbyterian Church
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Phone: (601) 825-5259 Email: secretary@brandonpres.com
www.brandonpres.com

IN PRAYER

- **MTW Missionary of the Month:** Michael and Mary Lott (SE Asia)
- **Ministry of the Month:** Palmer Home
- **Shepherding Group of the Week:** Jackie Thompson and Chris Groebe
- **Child(ren) of the Week:** Jackson, Jude, and Lily Smith
- **College Student of the Week:** Eli Whitten
- God would bless us with new **conversions, visitors, families, & members.**



- **Julie Rogers:** Dr. says shoulder is looking good, started physical therapy; going back to work on Dec 14th. Thanks for the prayers and help.
- **Debbie Ford** (Beeg Ford's daughter-in-law): had heart surgery Dec 3rd.
- **Cheryl Marbury** (Jeanne Monsour's sister-in-law): outpatient surgery on her back Dec 3rd; pray for reduced pain & increased mobility.
- **Jean Beasley** (Jeanne Monsour's neighbor): at St. D with seizures and heavy sedation; pray for the best treatment.
- **Amy Kaiser:** Amy's mother passed away on Nov 24th.
- **Taylor** (Ken & Nancy Bramlett's grandson): back home, improving.
- **Jennifer & Michael McDonald** (Julie Rogers' daughter & son-in-law): both have COVID; Jennifer has a huge blood clot in her right arm.
- **Jerry Moore:** please pray for him to regain strength and for his new medications to be effective.
- **Sandra Mahaffey:** mother, Virginia Arnold, passed away on Nov 18th.
- **Daisy Lucas** (Kathy & Jim Smith's niece): chronic liver disease; continues to improve; doctors have been able to further reduce her steroids and other medications; she is feeling much better.
- **Steve Pilgrim** (Charlie Moak's son-in-law): COVID-19; much improved but still weak.
- **Ken Bramlett:** having difficulty with pain in his legs, has not gotten out of bed much lately.
- **Kelly Langford** (Jacquelyn Thornell's daughter): passed away on Nov 3rd; please pray for her husband David, son Jack, Jacquelyn and family.
- **Bill Glover:** Parkinson's, may have Shy-Drager syndrome as well; found some relief in higher doses of Parkinson's meds; blood pressure issues seemed to have resolved with meds; On the whole, he is doing better.
- **Brandi Brock:** had gastric sleeve surgery on Nov 9th; hopes she can lose enough weight to be eligible for a kidney transplant.
- **Bob Booth:** trip to Mayo Clinic revealed that he has ALS.

Loved ones battling cancer:

- **Jim Smith:** pancreatic cancer; next scan will be on Dec 15th; please pray for another stable scan; It has been 3 years since his surgery and we care so grateful for God's goodness to us!
- **Andrew Gerrard** (Jo Stanford's Nephew): Desmoplastic small round cell tumor (DSRCT); approved for clinical trial at MSK and 6 week treatment began on Nov 9th; Praise the Lord! Please pray for shrinkage of the tumors and successful management of the concerning fluid build up.
- **Will Glover** (Marsha & Bill Glover's Son): cancer has reappeared on the brain stem; continuing to receive in-home therapy; avastin infusions every 3 weeks at UMMC; next MRI is 12/10 followed by a Dr. appointment; continues to battle nausea, vomiting, fatigue, and muscle pain; received new glasses after UAB Dr. appointment and hopes they will help improve his vision.
- **Gib Vredeveld** (Julie Rogers' Father): esophageal cancer; tumor is growing again; still able to eat with little difficulty; sees the oncologist in January; most days he's doing well.
- **Sarah Parks Martin** (relative of Bob and Carol Booth & PCA pastor's wife): breast cancer.
- **Anna Taylor** (wife of Jim Taylor, Pastor of The Pointe): cancer in her back; back at work; continuing chemo.
- **Andrew McCall** (Son of Rev. & Mrs. Perry McCall): acute leukemia.
- **Steven Bell** (Tiffany Glover's brother): liver/colon cancer; doing well.
- **Robin Marbury Morris** (Jeanne Monsour's Niece): liver & colon cancer; continuing chemo biweekly.
- **Presbyterian pastors in MS fighting cancer:** Alan Stanton, Pinehaven in Clinton (brain tumor); Richard Owens, Westminster Pres, Greenwood (brain tumor); Jerry Long, Batesville Pres (kidney cancer).
- **Terry McGinty** (Kerri Matthews' Uncle): prostate cancer.



- **Service members:** Glenn Stewart (S. Korea; Sam Heath's nephew); Isaac Jay (Army, Fort Polk; Elton & Sonia Jay's grandson); Jesse Thomas Dickey; Matthew Hellier (Japan); S.T. Heath; Joey Brown (Barbara Fowler's nephew)



- **Nursing home residents & shut-ins:** Dr. John Adams, Martha Baker, Joe Berryhill, Ken Bramlett, Evelyn Culpepper, Elsa Davis, Bob & Jody Nelson, Laverne Parks, Laverne Roberts



look/after

Care for Widows and Pastors in Need

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure
and faultless is this: to **look after**..."

James 1:27

Support the Ministerial Relief Fund
pcarbi.org/lookafter

“

Words can never express our
appreciation and gratitude for all you
have done for us. **We would have**
literally been on the streets if it wasn't
for the support you have given to us.

God bless you a hundredfold.

- WIDOW OF RETIRED PASTOR

”

Ways to Donate:



Online
pcarbi.org/give



Your Church Offering:
Participate in your church offering.



Mail:
PCA Ministerial Relief
PO Box 896761
Charlotte, NC 28289-6761

look/after

We see you. We acknowledge the decades you've spent praying
for and serving the church. We want to make sure you are
properly honored and cared for through every season
of ministry.

This season, PCA churches around the country will collect
donations to look after widows, retired ministers, and PCA church
servants in distress. These funds are administered through the
PCA Ministerial Relief Fund to provide financial assistance and
support to our faithful servants, many of whom live near or below
the poverty line. Your gifts help pay for basic needs like groceries,
housing, and medical expenses.

Help us look after those who have faithfully served Christ's
church. Visit pcarbi.org/lookafter and give to this special
offering for PCA Ministerial Relief.