

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2021

SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 9 P.M. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE 10 A.M. SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

(Church office closed December 27 – 31.)

REMINDER:

Contributions received by Sunday, December 26 will be included on your 2021 Contribution Statement. If you have questions regarding amount owed on a pledge, please contact the church office

O COME LET US ADORE HIM

Christmas is almost here and we have hoped since last Christmas that by now the pandemic would be behind us. Sadly, that is not the case. According to the CDC, COVID case numbers are again increasing rapidly everywhere, including the Petersburg area. You can find the latest numbers at the link: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>

As we have enjoyed holiday gatherings with family and friends, we have all increased our risk of exposure. We will hold our Christmas Eve service on December 24th at 9 pm as well as our Service of Lessons and Carols on December 26th at 10 am as planned.

Due to increased risks we strongly encourage you to wear a mask.

If you think you are unwell or may have been exposed to someone who is unwell, please worship with us via our livestream.

For those who will worship in person, we ask that you practice safe distancing and spread out in the worship space. Please respect the needs of others who would like additional space as they worship. Choose a pew that is unoccupied and do not sit directly in front of or behind someone else.

In this way we can practice love of neighbor and guard the health of everyone.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Pledge packets were distributed to 114 Christ and Grace Parishioners over the past couple of weeks. If yours did not reach you or has been misplaced, please pick one up at the church office or call 804-733-7202 to be mailed another. Your pledge enables us to plan for 2022. Please return your pledge card as soon as possible. Thank you for your support.

Pledges received: **50 Pledges totaling \$126,264.00**

HOPE CENTER LUNCHESES

Mark your calendar for the 2022 Hope Center Lunches. Find additional information in the upcoming weekly eNews. The dates are: Jan 12th, Feb 9th, Apr 13th, June 29th, Aug 10th, and Oct 12th.

SOME EXTRA WARMTH SERVED WITH LUNCH

Our next Hope Center lunch will be in January. We would love to give a scarf or a hat with each meal, as these items are a much-appreciated gift in cold weather.

If you are a knitter who would like to knit a few items, a yarn gatherer who could donate yarn for our knitters, or if you have gently used scarves and hats for men and women that you can donate, please contact Elayne Pagano or Nancy Holden, or drop items off at church. There will be a collection box on the stage in Lackey Hall.

For any questions please contact: Elayne Pagano 804-586-2951 or Nancy Holden 804-712-7492

PRAYER LIST

We beg you to feed the hungry, protect the refugee, embrace the distressed, house the homeless, nurse the sick, and comfort the dying. Especially we pray for Susan Amos, Vaughan D., Melba Felty, Carol Ferrell, Michael Fowler, Robin Jane, Heydon Lewis, Clyde Mosley, Bill Owen, Shelley Richardson, Mark Sheffield, Mary Villeponteaux and Blake White.

2022 SIGNUPS ARE NOW OPEN!

New for 2022:

- We will be using an online form rather than our hall flower calendar to sign up for altar flower dedications. If you are unable to access the online form, contact Lee to sign up for your dedication - shakubuku42@gmail.com or the church office for assistance.
- We are no longer able to honor requests for specific flowers or colors.
- The cost is \$55. Please make your check to 'Christ and Grace' with 'altar flowers and date' on the memo line.

Please be aware that either greens or a special arrangement will be used during Lent and Advent. Dedications are still welcomed on these Sundays. **Thank you for your support.**

THE COLLECT

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Luke 2:1-14(15-20)

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

[When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]