

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2021

MESSAGE FROM ROBIN+

As we move more deeply into the season of Advent, Practicing Patience together, we hope you will join us on Wednesdays at 5:30 pm for Advent Prayers for the Evening. Create a space at home for some quiet waiting with God where you can read the daily devotional, "Practicing Patience with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind". There is a copy for you available on the hall table near the sanctuary. This morning I read a post from Will Willimon, Methodist Bishop and author, that he shared from his book "God Turned Toward Us: The ABC's of the Christian Faith" and I offer it to you for your patient waiting.

Wait:

"I hope, Lord.

**My whole being hopes,
and I wait for God's promise."**

God is not on demand. Much of the Christian life is spent waiting. God turns toward us, but usually not immediately. Those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength and rise up like eagles. But for now, we chickens roost on some random perch and wait.

Sometimes in church the pastor says, "God is good, all the time," and the congregation piously responds, "All the time, God is good." Trouble is, God is good, but not always on our schedule. A sovereign God is free to come and go. Grace is not a gift if it's predictably at our beck and call. We wait in hope for the cancer to be healed, for the virgin birth of Jesus to make sense, to be given the grace to forgive, for the kids to turn out okay, for God to be God in God's fullness. God's promises have been made, but all promises are in the future tense and rarely are they completely fulfilled as soon as we'd like.

Waiting can be one of the toughest jobs of disciples, particularly for those of us who are at the age when we have more yesterdays than tomorrows on our account. Patience may be a requisite Christian virtue, though a virtue that God has n

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: **37 Pledges totaling \$81,394.00**

PRACTING PATIENCE

This Advent we will practice patience as we wait for the coming of the Christ Child.

An Advent devotional book for each family will be available at church. Each Wednesday of Advent you are invited to come practice patience at Advent Prayers for the Evening at 5:30 pm. We will gather to reflect on scripture, for prayers with candles, and quiet music.

CHRISTMAS JOY

Christmas is coming! **This Sunday, December 5**, is the last day to take home tags and return gifts by December 12. Together we will bring Christmas Joy to many at Walnut Hill Elementary School and Battlefield Park Healthcare Center. Together we will bring Christmas Joy to many!

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 Melba Felty, Carol Ferrell, Michael Fowler, Heydon Lewis, Clyde Mosley, Bill Owen, Shelley Richardson, Mark Sheffield, and Mary Villeponteaux.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DEDICATIONS

A special arrangement will adorn the altar and red poinsettias will beautify the sanctuary on Christmas Eve and on Sunday, December 26 for our Lessons and Carols service. Please help the sanctuary come to life for Christmas! Dedication forms are available in the church office as well as enclosed with these announcements. Completed forms should be returned by Sunday, Dec. 19 for inclusion in our Christmas Eve bulletin.

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
Nancy Holden 804-712-7492

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 for beautifying the altar to the glory of God.

THE COLLECT

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"