

# Hillside Presbyterian Church

First Sunday In Advent  
December 1, 2019

**Pastor:** Rev. Sylvia Wilson

**Liturgist:** Willie Anthony

**Music Director:** Ms. Bernice Hall

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## LET US APPROACH GOD

(\* Indicates those who are able will stand; ##### Indicates Ushers will seat persons arriving late)

The word advent means “arrival, appearing, coming into place.” The Advent season begins four Sundays before Christmas and marks the start of a new Christian year. Christians have spoken of the three comings of Christ: in the flesh in Bethlehem, in our hearts daily, and in glory at the end of time.” It is a season of remembering, re-enacting, reflecting and rejoicing.

PRELUDE

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

Organist

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

LIGHTING THE CANDLES AND PROCESSIONAL

INTROIT

*Welcome Into This Place*

Chancel Choir

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Please stand.*)

Willie Anthony

Keep awake.

**Christ is coming.**

Wait for the Lord.

**Love is coming.**

Prepare the way.

**Hope is coming.**

Worship the Lord.

**Christ is coming soon.**

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\*MORNING HYMN

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

(No. 8, PH)

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Rev. Robert Howell & Drew Eikner

RESPONSE

*O, Come, O Come, Emanuel (vs. 1 & 2 only)*

(No. 188, AAHH)

INVITATION TO CONFESSION *(Please stand.)*

L: We confess as a people because we all fall short of God's plan of perfect love. We do not confess to avoid punishment. We confess to free our own hearts and minds, so we may remove the barriers we build between ourselves, our God, and our brothers and sisters.

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We go about our lives as if Christmas is an event to be celebrated, but not lived. We hear the good news, but do not heed it. We hear the cry of the expectant mother, desperate for care and a place to lie down, but listen instead to the carols. We see the lowly children, born in manglers among the filth of the world, but we look instead to the decorations. We hear the call of the Angels to come and worship the newborn King, but we bow down to the idols of our culture.**

**Forgive us, we pray. Remove the barriers that we construct, and empower us to be a people doing the real, nitty gritty, grace-filled, holy, loving work of Christmas every day. In the name of the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.**

*(A time for quiet, personal confession)*

**\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

L: Out of the wilderness a voice calls out. Prepare ye the way of the Lord. Prepare ye the way of love. Prepare ye the way of forgiveness. The waiting is over. Christ may be born today in your heart. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are all forgiven.

**All: Joy to the World. Amen.**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**                      *Glory to God...*                      Choir/Congregation

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.*

*As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *(Signing Attendance Register)*

Willie Anthony

RECOGNIZING DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Rev. Wilson

***“Happy birthday to you. (2X) Happy Birthday, God bless you. Happy birthday to you.”***

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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## LET US LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Sarah Vaughn

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

L: Guiding God, without the presence of your Holy Spirit, we are hopelessly lost on this Advent journey. Open our hearts to receive your Word and our minds to understand it.

**Amen.**

*"Prayer Written by Rev. Stephen M. Fearing - www.stephenmfearing.com"*

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 2:1-5 (pg. 594)

SONG OF INSPIRATION

*His Name Is Wonderful*

Chancel Choir

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NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 24:36-44 (pg. 26)

Rev. Wilson

SERMON

Are You Expecting?

\*UNISON AFFIRMATION OF FAITH      Apostle's Creed (Traditional) (pg. 14, PH)

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## LET US RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

*(Please come forward if you would like to receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior, become a member of Hillside, or rededicate your life to Christ. You can also speak to the pastor or an Elder after the service.)*

\*INVITATIONAL HYMN

*While We Are Waiting, Come*

(No. 190, AAHH)

GIVING OUR TITHES, OFFERINGS AND PLEDGES

OFFERTORY

*In Times Like These*

Chancel Choir

\*DOXOLOGY *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow (No. 593, PH)* Choir/Congregation

## \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

### *The Celebration of Holy Communion*

*Communion is by Intinction. Ushers will guide rows forward.  
Take bread - dip it in wine or juice – and eat it before returning to your seat.  
Those with limited mobility may be served at their seats.*

## INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God! They will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God.... This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites those who trust him to share the feast which he has prepared.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Now let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: How good it is to give thanks and praise.**

One: It is good to give our thanks and praise...from the dust of stars.

**All: Blessed are you, O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth.**

**A voice is crying out: "Clear the Lord's way in the desert! Make a level highway in the wilderness for our God!"**

One: You promised the coming of an anointed one, who would lead the people to peace and righteousness... You promised the coming of your Kingdom, when "swords would be beaten into plows, and spears into pruning hooks."

**All: "Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever flowing stream."**

One: John the Baptist came, telling the people to "Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!" ... We deck our halls with joy, but it is our hearts that truly matter.

**All: Prepare the way of the Lord in our world. Prepare the way of the Lord in our communities. Prepare the way of the Lord in our churches. Prepare the way of the Lord in our hearts.**

One: And so, in hopeful expectation, we give thanks to you, God of Creation, God of hope and deliverance, God of John, God of our Ancestors, and God of us all. We join in praise and come together to sing unending hymn of the saints of glory.

*[ALL SING] Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelu, hallelujah! Jah!*

One: Holy are you, and holy is your Son Jesus Christ, who is the Word made flesh.

**All: Holy are you, and Holy is your Son Jesus Christ.**

One: Who is the one to whom John pointed in the wilderness.

**All: Holy are you, and Holy is your Son Jesus Christ.**

One: Who was born to us in a manger, for there was no room in the inn.

**All: Holy are you, and Holy is your Son Jesus Christ.**

One: Who came to show us the way to your love. He proclaimed good news to the poor. He restored the sight to the blind. He called the children to his side, taught the women, ate with sinners, and called out the religious leaders blinded by the letter of the Law.

**All: Holy are you, and Holy is your Son Jesus Christ.**

One: Who was betrayed by those who loved him. Who was persecuted by those who feared him. Who was crucified by those who thought that his death would be the end of him.

**All: Holy are you, and Holy is your Son Jesus Christ.**

One: Who, on the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

**All: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.”**

One: And when the supper was over, took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples and said:

**All: “Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, and  
as often as you drink it, do it in remembrance of me.”**

One: And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

*[ALL SING] Christ has died...Christ is risen...Christ will come again.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

*Elders serving Communion may approach the Table:*

Justin Killings, Cleve Bushey, Willie Hinton, & Sonja McMullen



## **CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

The Christmas Luncheon is Sunday, December 8. Reservations are closed but we will be in the Narthex today if you wish to support someone. Cost: \$20 for persons over 12. \$10 for 6-12. No cost for children 5 and under.

## *Stewardship*

*is heart work*



## **STEWARDSHIP**

It's not too late. Extra Time and Talent Forms are in the Narthex. As of 11/26, we received thirty-five (41) pledges totaling \$171,844.00 or 57.3% of the 2020 Stewardship goal of \$300,000.00. We also received 29 Time and Talent sheets! Please make your commitment the next two Sundays. Thank you and Amen! ~ *Hillside 2020 Stewardship Committee*

## **ITEM DONATIONS**

Presbyterian Women (PW) of Hillside is collecting Adult diapers (large and extra large); tee shirts (L and XL); towels, wash clothes, warm socks, and collapsible hampers (Dollar Tree). We request that all items are new! PW will be available to collect these donations Sunday, December 8. Thank you for your support, especially during this busy, and costly, season.

## **CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS** Ages 15 – 105

You're not getting off that easy as there is work still to be done to finish remodeling the office area. Please let Dorothy Hill or Robert Rounsaville know if you'd like to help.

## **AA MEETINGS: Monday – Friday, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., in room 4**

Hillside Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Pastor: Rev. S. J. Wilson

1879 Columbia Drive | Suite A | Decatur, Georgia 30032

Phone: 404.289.3092 • Fax: 404.289.2833

E-mail: [hillspc@bellsouth.net](mailto:hillspc@bellsouth.net)

Web Site: [www.hillsidepresbyterian.org](http://www.hillsidepresbyterian.org)

Facebook: Hillside Presbyterian Church USA