

**Food for thought from J**

**December 19, 2021**

As we have been discussing from the pulpit over the last couple of weeks, the traditional words of Advent – Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love – are often thrown around so loosely these days that their significance has become watered down and diminished significantly. Consequently, we routinely say things like:

- We hope our favorite football team wins,
- We wish the kids would give us a little peace and quiet,
- We refer to the new baby as a “bundle of joy,”
- We love chocolate ice cream

But within the specific context of Advent and our faith as Christians, in general, is this really all there is to these words? And of course, the answer to this question is “no!” Because, if what we are preparing for during Advent, and what we believe about this season, is that the birth of Christ at Christmas is truly the miraculous incarnation of God, then the hope, peace, joy, and love that accompany this season must be infinitely deeper and even life changing.

So, the fact that God became flesh and dwelt among us - lived, died, and rose victorious over sin and death so that we might be reconciled with God and have eternal life - should fill us with a hope that transcends our petty desires for, and worries over, the things of this world, because we rely on, for our ultimate fulfillment and purpose, the perfect faithfulness of God to God’s divine promises that is revealed at Christmas. Likewise, the peace we will find in this season is greater than a mere cessation of conflict or a lull in the hustle and bustle of daily life, because it is an inner peace with God such that we finally stop running from God and instead, place all our faith and trust in a God whose perfect love is manifest in the incarnation.

As for the joy of Advent; it is so much more than mere happiness. True joy abides even in times of trial, challenge, and suffering because it comes from a total transformation in the way we view the world when we accept, as a result of what the incarnation reveals about God’s love for us, that even in “bad” times, God will work all things together for good in the lives of those who love God. And finally, love will be more than an emotion or something we feel. It will become a driving influence in our lives that manifests in action, as we seek to live as witnesses to the love God demonstrated at Christmas by the way we interact with the world around us.

So as Advent draws to a close and Christmas rapidly approaches, I pray that the words of this season will have the deeper and truly lifechanging significance they should have for each of you, and then, that we will all enjoy an authentically hope, peace, joy, and love filled Advent and Christmas.

God bless you all. Merry Christmas.

J

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**IN MEMORIAM**

Wanda Jones  
December 10, 2021

*“In my Father’s house are many mansions...”*

**LOVE AND SYMPATHY**

To Rick & Deb Mitchell on the death of his mother, Carole Mitchell, on December 13, 2021.

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of **Jeanette Bunch** New Beginnings Class

In memory of **Sarah Crawford** by Lynn Christenson

In memory of **Rob Lee** by Margaret Whitaker

In memory of **Larry White** by Lynn Christenson

## GIFTS OF LOVE

In honor of **Cindy Autry** by Wednesday Bible Study

In honor of **Diana Boensel & the Wynnton Choir** by Faye Mock

In honor of **Susan & Tommy Hudson** by Betty Woodruff

In honor of **Lisa Stephens** by Faye Mock

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Through Old Testament stories and mission projects, our children have been learning who God is, how He loves us and is always with us, and how we are to love God and love others. These lessons have prepared us to meet Jesus during this Advent season. Children in Pre-K through 5th grade are welcome to join us for Children's Sunday School from 9:45 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. on the second floor of the Grimes building.

## Children's Programs

The nursery is available from 9:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. as well as Sunday School for grades K-12 from 9:45-10:50 a.m. The nursery for infants through 3-year olds is on the first floor of the Grimes building. Children's Sunday School for K-5th Grade is on the 2nd floor of the Grimes building, and youth Sunday school is in the basement under the sanctuary. Children's Church will be offered for children through 5th Grade in the Children's Center in the Grimes building during the worship hour.

## JOYFUL NOTES FROM THE CHOIR! 🎵

"Christ is the world's light, Christ and none other, born in our darkness, he became a brother. If we have seen him, we have seen the Father, glory to God on high!"  
Compelling words by Fred Pratt Green, reflect the spirit of the anthems our Wynnton choirs will sing as we celebrate Christmas, followed by Epiphany. Our journey in song will take us to fields where shepherds watch their flocks (*Never Been a Night*), to the wonder of the holy birth (*Do You Hear What I Hear?*), to the heavenly star rising in the east (A Star). The Wynntones will ring a delightful arrangement of *The Little Drummer Boy*, to remind us we all have a gift to share with Christ Jesus. God's Light has come and His Glory will surround us. We, like the Magi, follow the light as the Lord is revealed to us.

As always, I am so very grateful for the dedication and hard work of the Wynnton Choir members and our talented accompanists (dynamic duo), as well as our faithful and supportive Wynnton friends and family.

Isaiah 60:1

*Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.*

May God bless you this holy season,  
Diana B.

## Ty Blackwell

If you would like to follow last week's guest musician on social media or listen to his original music, please click:

<https://my.bio/tyblackwell>

## LOVE OFFERING

Kathy Fields has served Wynnton for the last 41 years in our Preschool. Our Staff Parish Relations Committee would like to present Kathy with a love offering from the church to show our appreciation as she moves on. If you would like to contribute, you may put it in an envelope marked "Love Offering for Kathy Fields."

### BE A WYNNTON WELCOMER

WE NEED YOU! - to sign-up as a Sunday morning welcomer. We are looking for volunteers to fill open slots through the end of February. Check your calendars for a few Sundays you are available to help us greet our members and guests on Sunday morning. Sign-up sheets will be available in the main hallway this Sunday. ...and also, please note that our sign-up sheets for the first quarter of 2022 are available on the sign-up table in the main hallway. Please be thinking of dates for which you can sign up over the next few months.

### Trinity House Needs

We are in need of personal care items such as toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, lotions, etc. If you can help, please leave your donations in the bin in the Fellowship Hall.

### Our Known Prayer Concerns:

Sue Rogers	Lexie McRae
Glenn Killough	Kathy Draughon
Matthew Allen	Debi Meacham Wright
Bobby Porch	Dorothy Robinson
Lillian Cox	Kerry Mess
Lynn Christenson	Jennefer Spell
Beverly Ragsdale	Jim Accordino
Jean McGlamry	Gena Tincher
Lenore Ash	
Gwen Bolin	

### Christian Sympathy for loss of loved one:

Family of Joanne Cole  
Family of Rev. Jim Trice  
Family of Richard Geeslin  
Family of Rubye Screws  
Family of Stella Jambon  
Family of Marjorie Croft  
Family of Sarah Crawford  
Family of Deanna Stevenson  
Family of Wanda Jones  
Family of Rick Mitchell

### CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Our Finance Committee has designated our Christmas offering to go to Wynnton Arts Academy partner in education projects. You may make your gift anytime in December in a worship service or by mailing it to the church office.

### END OF YEAR GIVING

Please be sure to send your end of year contributions before December 31. Submissions postmarked after Dec. 31 cannot be counted for 2021. Also, gifts of stock and online payments must clear by Dec. 31. Thanks for helping us meet our budget needs!

### WEEKLY CALENDAR

#### Sunday, December 19

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School for Adults, Youth & Children  
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary  
Streams Live on Facebook  
11:00 a.m. Children's Church - Grimes Building

#### Wednesday, December 22

Office Closed  
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

#### Thursday, December 23

Office Closed

#### Friday, December 24

3:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service  
5:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service

## READING THROUGH THE BIBLE

- December 19:** Colossians 1:24-2:19, Ezekiel 27-28, Isaiah 54  
**December 20:** Colossians 2:20-3:17, Ezekiel 29-30, Isaiah 55  
**December 21:** Colossians 3:18-4:18, Ezekiel 31-32, Isaiah 56  
**December 22:** Luke 1:1-25, Ezekiel 33, Isaiah 57  
**December 23:** Luke 1:26-56, Ezekiel 34, Isaiah 58  
**December 24:** Luke 1:57-80, Ezekiel 35-36, Isaiah 59  
**December 25:** Luke 2:1-20, Ezekiel 37, Isaiah 60  
**December 26:** Luke 2:21-52, Ezekiel 38-39, Isaiah 61

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 20 Martha Daffin, Randy McCormick  
21 Kathy Green, Dorothy Johnson,  
Mary Beth Mims  
23 Vicky Smith  
24 Ed Annable

## OUR STEWARDSHIP

<b>12-12-21</b>	
General Fund.....	26,648.00
Endowment.....	330.00
Missions.....	89.00
Backpacks of Grace.....	150.00
Christmas Offering.....	270.00
Music.....	50.00

### WYNNTON NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

We are selling holiday cards again this year for \$5.00. If you are interested in buying cards, please see Randy Autry, Vicki Martin or Suzanne Supple.



### Youth Sunday School

Many of us own Bibles with Jesus' words written in red in the New Testament. But did you realize that every book in the Old Testament points to Jesus? Youth Sunday School has started a three-lesson series that will open teenagers' eyes to Jesus' presence throughout the Old Testament and his familiarity with Scripture, allowing them to discover how all of the Bible points them toward Jesus—and a relationship with him.

### PASTOR ON-CALL

For emergencies December 17-19  
Rev. J Grantham 706-681-3258