

THE FIRST NOEL THE ANGEL DID SAY,

*Was to certain poor shepherds in fields*

AS THEY LAY; IN FIELDS WHERE THEY

*lay keeping their sheep, On a cold*

WINTER'S NIGHT THAT WAS SO DEEP



HOPE

# Fletcher's Chapel United Methodist Church

8330 Fletcher's Chapel Road, King George, VA 22485

Church: (540) 775-7247

Parsonage: (540) 625-2834

**First Sunday of Advent**

**November 29, 2015**

**The Prelude**

**\*Chiming of the Hour**

**\*The Call to Worship**

The Lord said, "The time is coming when I will fulfil the promise that I made to the people of Israel and Judah. At that time I will choose as King a righteous descendent of David who will do what is right and just throughout the land."

**Alleluia! Come Lord Jesus!**

**Come and be born in us today.**

**The Welcome and Announcements**

**Advent Wreath Meditation & Lighting (see insert)**

**\*Hymn**

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

UMH 196

**The Opening Prayer**

O God who is willing to use all means for our salvation: Help us to be alert to all around us and to listen for your word that speaks to us through all situations; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

**Time of Sharing and Prayer**

Celebrations of God's Grace and Prayer Concerns

The Pastoral Prayer/The Lord's Prayer (UMH 895)

**The Children's Message**

**\*Hymn**

"My Hope Is Built"

UMH 368

**Prayer for Illumination:** Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit. As the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed,

may we hear with joy what you say to us today; through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**The Old Testament Reading** – Jeremiah 33:14-16 p. 1200

**The Gospel Reading** – Luke 21:25-36 p. 1585

This is the Word of God, written for the People of God.

**Thanks be to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

**The Message** “Socks and Underwear -- Unexpected Gifts”

Our God is a God of the Unexpected

**The Receiving of God’s Tithes and Our Offerings**

**The Response:** “In the Lord. I’ll Be Ever Thankful” (2x)

In the Lord, I’ll be ever thankful, in the Lord I will rejoice!

Look to God, do not be afraid. Lift up your voices, the Lord is near,

Lift up your voices: the Lord is near.

**\*The Doxology**

**\*The Prayer of Dedication:** God our Savior, we stand before you as those who are ready to be led by you in your way. Use what we have to clear the way for the coming of your goodness in full measure; through Mary’s son, Jesus, and in the Spirit of the Christ. **Amen.**

**\*Hymn** “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” UMH 213

**\* The Blessing and Dismissal:**

The day is at hand; the Savior draws near! Let us watch, and let our eyes be clear, lest the star appear and not be followed, lest the child be born and not be found. And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you now and remain in you always. **Amen.**

**\* The Postlude** “Bless the Lord” (2X)

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God’s Holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

*\*Please stand as you are able.*



**Our Advent and Christmas Sermon Series** begins today. Christmas time comes and most of us get excited about receiving gifts that we've been anticipating all year. Typically, though, we aren't as thrilled to get gifts we need like socks and underwear. In this series, we'll explore why we should ask for what we need instead of what we want. And usually what we need the most turns out to be the Best Gift Ever.

**All are Welcome** to our service of worship this morning. We are glad you are here. Please take a moment to fill out a welcome card and place it into the offering plate during the collection.

**Our Thanks to Those Assisting with Worship Today:**

**Scripture Readers:** Tina Lauber (8:30)  
**Greeters:** Stephenie Newton (11:00)  
**Advent Wreath:** Fred & Sue Salo (8:30)  
The Radolinski Family (11:00)

**Assisting with Worship December 6:**

**Scripture Readers:** Pam Hunter (8:30)  
**Greeters:** Kenny Newton (11:00)  
**Advent Wreath:** Volunteers Needed for both services

<b>Minsters:</b>	All Members
<b>Bishop:</b>	Young Jin Cho
<b>District Superintendent</b>	Theodore Smith
<b>Pastor:</b>	Michael B. Reaves
<b>Lay Leader:</b>	Marie Williams
<b>Musician:</b>	Elizabeth Pruett



**November 29 – December 6, 2015**

<b>TODAY</b>	<b><u>Last Sunday to Return Apple Tree Gifts</u></b>	
	<b>8:30am</b>	Worship
	<b>9:45am</b>	Sunday School Opening (Sanctuary)
	<b>10:00am</b>	Sunday School
	<b>11:00am</b>	Worship
<b>Tues</b>	<b>11:00am</b>	Advent Study Week 2, Daytime Class
	<b>7:00pm</b>	Advent Study Week 2, Nighttime Class
<b>Wed</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Heritage Hall Nursing Home Ministry
<b>Sat</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	Decorate Sanctuary for Advent
<b>Sun</b>	<b><u>Communion Sunday/Canned Food Collection</u></b>	
	<b>8:30am</b>	Worship
	<b>9:45am</b>	Sunday School Opening (Sanctuary)
	<b>10:00am</b>	Sunday School
	<b>11:00am</b>	Worship

**Upcoming:**

<b>Thurs, 12/10</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	Finance Meeting
	<b>7:30pm</b>	Administrative Council Meeting
<b>Sun, 12/13</b>	<b><u>Loose Change Collection</u></b>	
	<b>9:30</b>	Coffee Fellowship
<b>Sat, 12/19</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	UMW Meeting
<b>Thurs, 12/24</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	Christmas Eve Service
<b>Wed, 12/30</b>	<b>4:00pm</b>	Serving Dinner at Thurman Brisben

**Birthdays This Week**

11/29 Turner Minx    12/2 Debbie Rogers

**Called to Remember... Called to Give Thanks... Called to Give:**  
Thank You for your generous response to our Stewardship Emphasis. You can still submit your Estimate of Giving for 2016. Extra cards are available in the sanctuary entrance or the church office. Please see Pastor Mike if you have any questions.

**All Apple Tree Gifts** should be returned to the church today. Please see Pastor Mike if you need to make other arrangements.

**The Finance Committee and Administrative Council** will meet on Thursday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. respectively.

## Advent Devotionals Are Here

*Advent: A Calendar of Devotions 2015* is a booklet of daily devotions for Advent that helps people step back from the bustle and stress of the season and prepare heart and mind to rejoice in God's loving gift, Jesus Christ. Each daily devotion includes a recommended Scripture reading, a Bible verse, an inspiring message, and an uplifting prayer.

Advent begins today. Pick up your copy of *Advent: A Calendar of Devotions 2015* today. You can find them on the table below the literature rack in the entrance to the sanctuary and also in the hallway near the Pastor's Office.

## Prayer Concerns

**Prayers for our Community and the World:** The congregation and guests of Fletcher's Chapel and our community; the residents and staff of the Thurman Brisben Center; Our Bishop and his cabinet.

**Prayers for Our Church Family:** Colleen Bowie, Jeanne Bullock, Arlene Coates, Delores Coates, Faye Coates, Audrey Davenport, Louise Henderson, Gwen Henderson, Grace Humberger, Karis Humberger, Pam Hunter, Evelyn Jackson, Lolita James, McKennah Lauber, Sherri Minx, Audrey Schindel, Clifton Seay, Annette Stahler, Pete Sullivan

**Prayers for our Families and Friends:** Krystalene Balao, Mikie Barker, Wesley Berry, Thomas Bowen, The Cameron Family, Barbara Canaday, Felecia Cook, Darrell Critzer, Warren Fletcher, The Frazier Family, Gage Ford and Family, Wayne Gallahan, Jake Gallelo, Jeff Gilley, Theresa Guarracino, Barbara Hatchell, Adalynn Hawkins, Sylvia Kennedy, Elva Kilby, Becky Lafferty, Ceili Leahy, David Lee, Ronald Marshall, Bryan McGhee, Mike Nave, Adolfo Pangilinan, Lina Perry, David Pitts, Elaine Cooley Pitts, Brad Pruett, Robert Pruitt, Hubert Roberson, Patrick Robinson, Sam Robinson, Brent Rowand, Barbara Rowe, Joey Rowe, Joseph Sirrels, Ron Seward, Claude Stevens, Mary Stewart, Joan Wehner

*Prayer Request Cards are available in the pew racks.*

## THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: HOPE

Today is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent means "coming" and in this season we prepare for the coming of Christ. One of the ways we prepare for his coming is by making an Advent wreath and lighting its candles to remind us of the gifts Christ brings to the world.

The Advent wreath includes many symbols to help us think about Christ and his gifts. The wreath itself is in the shape of a circle. A circle has no beginning and no end. This reminds us that there is no beginning and no end to God and that God's love and caring are forever. The light from the candles - which grows stronger each Sunday in Advent, reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world.

Today we light the candle of hope. The people of Israel hoped in God's promises and were not disappointed. Again and again God delivered Israel from its enemies. We too have the same experience of salvation. That is why we believe in God's promise to send Jesus to us once again to judge the world and establish his kingdom forever upon the earth. *(The first Advent candle is lit)*

Hope is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle we celebrate the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

Let us pray: **Thank you God for the hope you give us. We ask that as we wait for all your promises to come true, and for Christ to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today, and every day to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your hope with each other. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.**

### *Sung Response:*

A Candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,  
a candle of hope in December's dark night  
While angels sing blessing from heaven's starry sky,  
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

(Sung to the tune of "Away in a Manger")

**Advent/Christmas Worship -- Socks and Underwear**  
**Not What You Want... But What You Need**



**first sunday  
of advent**

**November 29: Unexpected  
Gift**  
(8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.)

**December 6:  
Gift Return**  
(8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.)



**second sunday  
of advent**

**third sunday  
of advent**



**December 13:  
Gift Received**  
(8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.)

**December 20:  
The Best Gift Ever**  
(8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.)



**fourth sunday  
of advent**



**Christmas Eve  
Communion**

**Christmas Eve, Thurs, December 24**  
A Service of Carols,  
Communion, and Candlelight  
(7:00 p.m.)

**Sunday, December 27:  
The Day After**  
(8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.)

