



Weekly News at Paw Creek

December 3, 2020

Paw Creek Presbyterian Church

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Paw Creek Presbyterian
Church is on:
Facebook and YouTube

Sermon By Phone:
704-312-1343
Available 11am Monday

From the Pastor...

Dear Paw Creek,

I've just glanced over the calendar to check up on upcoming events during the normally busy month of December. The calendar is empty. What an odd feeling!

Our news at the beginning of Advent is quiet, and that thankfully mirrors the news of the world around us, at least here in Mecklenburg County. Although the virus rages in so many parts of the country, our numbers are relatively light. Let us pray that we and those around us understand that this is the time to be especially cautious, to use and respect God's gifts of science and medicine, and to remain vigilant. We pray also with and for those friends, neighbors and relatives who are indeed infected and ill. And we offer prayers of grateful thanks for the medical miracle of a highly effective vaccine on the horizon.

The dominant theme of Advent is hope - a very special and specific kind of hope. Paul's prayer in his letter to the Romans puts it nicely: "may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." This is not a weak, wishful hope, but a hope that is grounded in something far more powerful than itself, and therefore a hope that is robust and encouraging. Our hope is grounded in God, who is himself the "God of hope," and it is therefore so powerful that in it we can "abound" - we can live vigorously in the knowledge that our future is secure. With this Advent hope, both in these weeks and in the months yet to come, we can face the struggles of loneliness, disappointment and loss as we see our way to the end of this time of trial.

Our formal activities in these weeks are minimal, but even now we are called to an active life of anticipation as we move towards the future that God has prepared. May that be the basis for the way that we spend our days of Advent this year. My wish for you and for us all is for our days to be filled with faithful anticipation.

With blessings - and hope,

Elliott

Service for the Lord's Day
Paw Creek Presbyterian Church • December 6, 2020
Second Sunday of Advent



Preparatory Music

Immanuel

Michael Card

Welcome and Lighting of two Candles on the Advent Wreath

*Grace be unto you, and peace, from the one who is and who was and who is to come,
and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness. "I am the Alpha and the Omega", says the Lord God.
Hallelujah!*

Prelude

In the Bleak Midwinter/O Sanctissima

arr. Liz Story

Call to Worship

from Isaiah 40

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion,
get thee up into the high mountain.
O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem,
lift up thy voice with strength;
lift it up, be not afraid;
Say unto the cities of Judah, behold your God!

Hymn 82

"Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus"

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.*

*Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.*

Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Psalm 85

You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.
You have withdrawn all your fury and turned yourself from your wrathful indignation.

Restore us then, O God our Savior; let your anger depart from us.
Will you be displeased with us forever? will you prolong your anger from age to age?
Will you not give us life again, that your people may rejoice in you?
Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

I will listen, O Lord God, to what you are saying,
for you are speaking peace to your faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to you.
Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.
Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
Truth shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
O Lord, you will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness shall go before you, and peace shall be a pathway for your feet.

Hymn 373

"O Day of Peace"

*O day of peace that dimly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
guide us to justice, truth, and love, delivered from our selfish schemes.
May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from envy find release,
till by God's grace our warring world shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.
Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the fierce devour the small;
as beasts and cattle calmly graze, a child shall lead them all.
Then enemies shall learn to love, all creatures find their true accord;
the hope of peace shall be fulfilled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.*

Sermon

Mercy and truth, righteousness and peace

Offertory Solo

Not That Far from Bethlehem

Borders, Borders & Alexander

Offerings for God's work through Paw Creek Church are gratefully received
in the baskets by the entrance and exits to the sanctuary, or by mail to the church office.

Announcements and Prayer Concerns

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Including the *Lord's Prayer*, the Words of the Institution, and the sharing of the elements

Hymn 104

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.*

*King of kings yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture, in the body and the blood,
he will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.*

*Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish as the shadows clear away.*

*At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim, with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord most high!"*

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Sy Miller and Jill Jackson

*Elliott Hipp, Pastor • Mark Burlison, Pianist • Patrick McCarthy, Director of Music/Soloist
Clint Shaw, Video and Streaming • Members of the Task Force for In-person Worship, Arrangements*

Paw Creek Presbyterian Church

P.O. Box 64, Paw Creek, NC 28130-0064 7400 Mount Holly Road, Charlotte, Nc 28214-1701

To: Congregation of Paw Creek Presbyterian Church

Subject: Year 2021 Budget

Fellow Members,

As we prepare to conclude 2020, we look forward to the upcoming Christmas season. The difficulties we have all faced this year make us appreciate more than ever the freedoms we take for granted. Let us look ahead to the future and pray that better times are close at hand.

Paw Creek Presbyterian Church, founded in 1809, has been truly blessed for over 200 years. We hope that 2021 will be a year of coming together and a return to some normality in our church and personal lives. Follow the Lord and He will lead the way.

Financially our church has been able to travel through the year in a respectable manner. Income and expenses are relatively close to one another. With a good finish, we are hopeful of a break-even situation. Please review pledge commitments for 2020. Please give thoughtful and prayerful consideration to your pledge for 2021. Place your faith in the Lord.

Please return your pledge form either at the worship service or via mail. You can also contact the church office via phone with that information. Please target your response by December 13 or no later than year end.

Again, many thanks for your prayers, support, and consideration. I wish you a good Holiday season and look forward to better times in the coming year. Please feel free to call anyone on the Finance Committee at any time. Thank you for your friendship.

Faith in Christ,

Danny W. McClure
Church Treasurer

Finance Committee
Donna Hall
Mary Ellen Edwards
Jim Pinkston
Danny McClure

**PAW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
YEAR 2021 PLEDGE COMMITMENT**

NAME: _____

AFTER PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION, I PLEDGE TO GIVE THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS TO PAW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH DURING 2021.

GENERAL FUND

\$ _____ WEEKLY

OR

\$ _____ MONTHLY

FOR AN ANNUAL TOTAL OF:

\$ _____

BUILDING FUND

\$ _____ WEEKLY

OR

\$ _____ MONTHLY

FOR AN ANNUAL TOTAL OF:

\$ _____

AND

PLEASE RETURN YOUR PLEDGE FORM EITHER AT WORSHIP SERVICE OR VIA MAIL. YOU MAY ALSO CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE VIA PHONE WITH THAT INFORMATION. PLEASE TARGET YOUR RESPONSE BY DECEMBER 13 OR NO LATER THAN YEAR END.

Paw Creek Presbyterian Church

P.O. BOX 64
Paw Creek, NC 28130-0064

Seek..... Matthew 6:33
Serve..... 1 Samuel 12:24
Praise..... Psalm 111:1
Love Christ!..... 1 John 4:12

Lord, we thank you for...

Have a Prayer Request? To put someone on our prayer chain, obtain permission from the person or family involved, then call:

Judy Smith (704) 392-2892

-or-

Ann Cashion (704) 301-0126

Know someone Who Needs a Visit? Please contact the Church Office or Rev. Elliott Hipp (704) 392-0329

Online Giving

Paw Creek has now implemented Online Giving for the convenience of church members and our friends who worship with us. Please go to our website at www.pawcreekpc.org and follow the link on the home page.



Once you click on this link, you will be directed to set up an account. You may make this gift as a one time transaction, or you can set up recurring payments. You may use your bank account information to create this payment, or you may use your debit or credit card. (If you use your debit or credit card, you will also be given the option to add the transaction fee to your payment if you choose to do so)



For those who like to use mobile apps, you can download the app: Give+ and search for Paw Creek Presbyterian Church. Once you have created an account, it will save Paw Creek as your default Church.

Upcoming Sermon Titles

Sunday, December 6
2nd Sunday of Advent

Psalm 85

“Mercy & Truth, Righteousness & Peace”

Sunday, December 20
4th Sunday of Advent

Luke 1: 26-38

“The Son of God Comes Near”

Sunday, December 13
3rd Sunday of Advent

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

“Crying in the Wilderness”

Thursday, December 24
Christmas Eve, 7:30pm

Candlelight Service & Communion

Outdoor Carols