

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

December 3, 2017
11:00 am

First Sunday of Advent ~ HOPE



Sermon:
"Hope in Christ"
Dr. Matthew Tennant

Scripture:
Mark 13:24-37

Anthem:
Personet Hodie — arr. Rutter

Deacons: *Anne Keith, Carolyn & Ed Lowry, Debby Johnson, Donna Marshall, Jennifer Wagoner, Rachel Miller, John & Sarah Buchanan

Nursery Workers: Judy Gough, Diane Woerner, Chandler Proffitt

Children's Church: Jeannette May, Carter Groff

Ushers for December: Ian Pallini, Ed Barker, Melvin & Mildred Spicer, Ron Tweel

Greeters: Charlotte Bailey, Peter Ohlms

The Word

November 28, 2017
UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

Vol. 69, No.
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

Christmas Pageant

Presented by Children and Youth

Sunday, December 3

11:00 am



On Watch

'Tis the season... [fill in the blank]

With Thanksgiving behind us, we are entering into the season of Advent. This is the time when we prepare our hearts for Christmas and remember Jesus' birth. We do not do this because we know the details of the Christmas story. We celebrate Christmas each year because Jesus is the cornerstone of our faith. His birth marks God incarnate entering the world. We can then look to Jesus' life as a model for our lives. His death and resurrection (Lent, Holy Week, and Easter on our Christian calendar) fill in the rest of the story.

There are concurrent celebrations around this time of year. Hanukkah, Kwanza, Chinese New Year, and more are all happen-

ing. There is the secularization of Christmas (Santa, Frosty, etc.). Offices have Christmas (aka Holiday) parties. Friends gather for Christmas soirees or holiday hoedowns. Families travel to see loved ones. Students (and teachers!) get a break from school. With all this celebration, it is easy to get swept up in it all.

Recently I heard a news story about how to avoid overspending during the holiday season. As I listened, I pictured the poor, teenaged, single, and pregnant girl, Mary. Over the centuries, the church venerates her. Hardly a Dutch or Renaissance master missed the opportunity to paint Mary-the-Mother-of-Our-Lord. We have come a long way since those humble days in Bethlehem. Maybe we have lost sight of the humble beginnings.

Advent and Christmas are about Jesus as the foundation of our faith. Mary's story can serve to remind us that our faith is not glitz and glitter. It is not about overspending and bountiful indulgence. Thinking about Mary reminds me about the simplicity of our faith. It is about following Christ and making him first in our lives. It is about listening to the Holy Spirit.

Advent is the season of preparation and expectation. We prepare to travel or we prepare for guests. We prepare for our friends and loved ones with gifts. We look forward to seeing people and hearing beautiful Christmas music. But, in our joy and celebration, have we glossed over Mary and her story? Have we missed the humility of Christ coming into this world?

In the Gospels, we find Jesus participating in celebrations. In fact, in John, Jesus' first public miracle was at the wedding at Cana, when he turned the water into wine. To celebrate, to gather with family and friends, or to give gifts is not wrong. Jesus modeled this behavior, but as we celebrate, let us be mindful of the reason. Caring about another person is a greater treasure than spending money on the latest gadget. We can spread God's love more effectively than any other way by listening to another person. Hearing what that person says and loving that person as Christ does is a profound gift.

Feasts and celebrations do not need to be lavish and extravagant. They can be simple. They can be God's people getting together and living out the words of 1 John 4:16b, "God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them."

Peace,
~ Matt

Service of Remembrance

Wednesday, November 29

6:15 pm in Fellowship Hall



This will be a service to remember our departed loved ones, to support each other in our pain and loss during this holiday season, and to support our community during this time of unusual stress.

Candles will be lit to acknowledge family and friends, our pain and loss, our worries and struggles, and God's faithfulness in our lives.

Everyone is Invited to an

Open House

*At the Home of Matt & Melanie Tennant
(and Dean & Eddy)*

Sunday, December 10, 2:00 to 5:00 pm

*945 Raymond Road
Charlottesville*

Sunday, Dec. 17

Third Sunday of Advent ~ JOY

11:00 am Sanctuary Choir Presents "Lessons & Carols"

Sunday, Dec. 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ PEACE

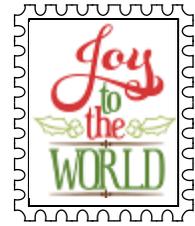
11:00 am Worship Service

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

5:00 pm Featuring the Sanctuary Choir, Reading of the Christmas Story, and Lighting of Candles

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 Web Site www.universitybaptist.org

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED




For a complete schedule of worship and fellowship opportunities during Advent, see the Nov. 21 issue of The Word, or go to the [UBC website](http://www.universitybaptist.org).



CBF Global Missions
 During the month of December, we will be collecting money for the CBF Global Missions Fund. Our goal is \$3,000.



Calendar

Children's Christmas Shop
 We are collecting small gift items that our children can "purchase" for 50¢ each as Christmas gifts for their family members. Bring donations to the Pre-school Department by Monday, December 4.
 ALL proceeds go to the CBF Global Missions Fund.



*This is the day the Lord has made;
 We will rejoice and be glad in it.
 ~Psalm 118:24*

The total number of pledge cards received to date is 87, representing a pledged amount of \$366,166.
 You can still send a pledge card to the church office, put it in the offering plate on Sunday, or call the church office.

WEDNESDAY, November 29
 10:00 PBJ Women's Bible Study
 5:00 Supper (Chicken pot pie)
 6:00 Prayer Time
 6:00 Children's Mission Program
 6:15 Service of Remembrance
 7:10 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, November 30
 9:30 Pre-K Play Group

SUNDAY, December 3
 8:30 Church Council Meeting
 9:00 Fellowship
 9:30 Seekers Bible Study
 9:30 Joyful Servants Bible Study
 9:45 Bible Study, ESOL Classes
 11:00 Worship Service
 6:00 Real Life (Youth)
 6:00 Jubilate Rehearsal



Poinsettias
 If you would like a poinsettia placed in the church in memory or in honor of a loved one, please place your order by submitting a check payable to UBC for **\$8.00 per plant by Monday, December 11.**

A Quiet Place to Study



Volunteers are needed to host students in
**Fellowship Hall
 December 6-14 from
 1:00 pm to 11:00 pm each day**
 as they prepare for exams.
 If you can be there for a **couple of hours** or prepare snacks and goodies for the students, check the sign-up board or contact the Church Office.

MONDAY, December 4
 10:30 Bible Study at Rosewood

TUESDAY, December 5
 9:00 UBC Work Team
 9:00 Painting Group
 10:15 Staff Meeting

WEDNESDAY, December 6
 5:00 Supper (Appetizers)
 6:00 Prayer Time
 6:00 Children's Mission Activities
 6:15 To Be Announced
 7:10 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Global Missions Post Office



This is a way for you to exchange greetings with UBC members and support Global Missions. The Post Office is located in the First Floor Lobby. See the November 28 issue of The Word for details, or go to the [UBC website](http://www.universitybaptist.org).

Christmas Dinner in a Bag



1 box stove-top stuffing mix
 1 box instant potatoes
 1 jar gravy
 1 large can sweet potatoes
 1 large can green beans
 1 can cranberry sauce
 1 box Jiffy pie crust mix
 1 can pie filling

The WMU will add a \$10 Food Lion gift card for turkey or ham.
 Put all items in a paper or reusable fabric grocery bag and place them on the Fellowship Hall stage
by Sunday, December 17.

Wednesday, December 6
5:00 pm Supper: Appetizers, Salad, Garlic bread
6:00 pm Program: To Be Announced

Do You Sign?



We need someone who can sign during the 11:00 am Worship Service on Sunday mornings. Contact the church office if you can help with this need, or you know of someone who might be interested in doing it

It's a **FUNDRAISER**

Mezeh Mediterranean Grill
 2015 Bond St.
 Charlottesville, VA



Join us
 November 28, 2017
 From
 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM



40% of the proceeds will go towards Jubilate and their cause!

Pray for families who will be receiving a "Christmas Dinner in a Bag" through Love INC.