

Second Scripture Reading: Matthew 3:1-12 Rev. Dr. Anita K. Herbert

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 2 “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”
3 This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,
“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’”

4 Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, 6 and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, 9 and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 10 Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

11 “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Sermon: “Repentance Can’t Wait” Rev. Dr. Anita K. Herbert

SENDING

***Closing Hymn:** #110 - “Love Has Come” BRING A TORCH

***Benediction** Rev. Dr. Anita K. Herbert

Postlude: Toccata on “Veni Emmanuel” 13th century plainsong
Jim Moore, Organist

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. Dr. Anita K. Herbert—Pastor

Jennifer Grainger—Director Spiritual Growth and Outreach

Rebecca Mills—Director of Children’s Ministries and MMO

William Bennett—Director of Music

Jim Moore—Organist

Handbell Ensemble

Jewel Tones

Chancel Choir

Liturgists—8:45 am—Hunter Harris 11:00 am—Dave Rademaker

EIC: 8:45 am—Kelli Kemmerer 11:00 am—Oden Semones

Ushers: 8:45 am—Pat Tolbert, Julie McCormick, Katie Ryan, Don Moore

11:00 am—Lionel Lawson, Merrillyn Long, Rose Warrell, Oden Semones

Flowers—The poinsettias are given to the Glory of God.

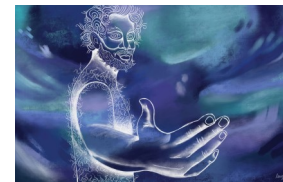
Offerings can also be made through the Giving tab at summervillepres.org, scanning the QR code to the right or through the Abundant Giving app from Google Play or the Apple Store. Set up your account and choose Summerville Presbyterian Church.



Advent Sermon Series: What Can’t Wait?

Advent is a season of waiting, but is idle waiting what God wants of us? In preparation for the coming Messiah, we wonder together—what things can’t wait? What demands our immediate attention? What requires our work and preparation? What is it that God can’t wait for? Is it our praise, reconciliation and proclamation? Is it the end of suffering, isolation and fear? This Advent, we invite you to join us in imagining, prioritizing, and preparing. As we wait, what can’t?

Liturgy by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org



ONE WITH MYSTERY

By Lauren Wright Pittman (Inspired by Matthew 3:1-12; graphic image) A curious, odd, status quo-threatening man emerges in the wilderness of Judea. He shouts in the place of desolation—a dangerous place where God has

repeatedly shown up throughout Israel’s history. John lifts up his voice, entreating people to make an about-face from the things that keep them from God, and move toward the new thing God is doing. He invites people to dip their weary bodies into the river, wade into mystery, and to tell the truth—taking on a posture of confession and surrender.

This eccentric man wears the clothes and eats the food of one living at the mercy of the land. His embodiment is that of an outcast, defined by common elements—camel hair, locusts, and honey. This is the one entrusted with introducing the world to God’s incarnate self. John’s cries bring the powerful to the edges of society where Jesus would spend his life and ministry. John points us to where God is to be found—in the wilderness, at the margins of power, at the periphery of looming, destructive systems, where the waters of Baptism ripple and swirl, where grace is abundant and God draws near. I drew John at one with the wilderness. His shape is hardly distinguished from the powdery textures and deep, cool colors of the waters of the Jordan. He is at one with the wonder and mystery of the coming Messiah. He holds out his hand, inviting the viewer to choose trust and dive fully into the unknown.



SUMMERVILLE Presbyterian Church

Share Christ, Serve Others, Grow Together in Faith



ONE WITH MYSTERY

By Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by Matthew 3:1-12; graphic image
(See artist statement of the back of the bulletin)



2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, December 8, 2024

GATHERING

Please prepare your hearts for worship during the prelude.

Prelude: 8:45 am—“Coventry Carol” Victor Johnson

Jewel Tones

11:00 am—“Still, Still, Still” ed. Eric Timerling

Handbell Ensemble

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Dr. Anita K. Herbert

Minute for Mission Jim Bailey, Stewardship

**Lighting of the Advent Candles: Repentance Can't Wait
(Peace Can't Wait)**

8:45 am—The Hill family

11:00 am—Tony and Claudette Young

Voice A: I will wait for the sky to clear.

Voice B: I will wait for the plot to thicken.

Voice A: I will wait for vacation to arrive.

Voice B: I will wait for snow to fall.

Voice A: I will wait for dinner to be ready.

Voice B: I will wait for you to be confident.

Voice A: I will wait for my child to walk.

Voice B: I will wait for the leaves to change.

Voice A: I will wait for the dust to settle.

Voice B: I will wait for the lab results.

Voice A: I will wait for Christmas to arrive.

Voice B: I will wait for a lot of things, but I will not wait for peace.

Voice A: This world is rampant with division, walls, grudge-holding, and self-doubt.

Voice B: I do not want to be a passive bystander in this division.

Voice A: We do not want to be passive bystanders in this division.

Voice B: So today we light the candle of peace as a reminder that we have a role to play.

Voice A: May the desire to sow peace kindle in us like a light in the darkness. Amen.

Choral Response: "We Wait for Thee"

Victor Johnson

8:45 am—Jewel Tones

11:00 am—William Bennett

***Call to Worship**

One: Prepare the way!

All: Deck the halls and light the candles.

One: Prepare the way!

All: Open the doors and sing a song of hope.

One: Prepare the way!

All: Make space in our hearts for a new kind of love.

One: Christ is coming.

All: Prepare the way!

***Opening Hymn: #119 - "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"**

Mendelssohn

***Confession and Pardon**

In Jesus Christ, God seeks to smooth those places made rough by sin. With humility and hope let us make our confession.

Creator God—

Not a day goes by when you do not invite us to be peacemakers and advocates, listeners and good Samaritans.

Not a day goes by when we are not asked to be a friend to a stranger and a neighbor to those in need.

Not a day goes by when we are not asked to be the people you call us to be, and yet, day after day, we lose sight of your hope for this world.

Forgive us for walking a different path, and grant us the strength to prepare a new way—Your way—here.

Gratefully we pray, Amen.

(Time for silent confession)

Song of Assurance: "Lord Have Mercy"

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

***Song of Praise: #113 - Chorus from "Gloria In excelsis Deo"**

GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

***Affirmation of Faith (Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.19)**

**Out of Israel,
God in due time raised up Jesus.
His faith and obedience were the response
of the perfect child of God.
He was the fulfillment
of God's promise to Israel,
the beginning of the new creation,
and the pioneer of the new humanity.
He gave history its meaning and direction
and called the church to be His servant
for the reconciliation of the world.**

***Passing the Peace**

Please introduce yourself as you pass the peace of Christ.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Church Family Moment

Rebecca Mills

Prayer of Illumination:

God of hope, who never lets us go, draw near to us in these ancient words.

By Your Holy Spirit may we be filled, lifted up, and leveled as You prepare in our hearts the path of your coming. **Amen.**

First Scripture Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

1 A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

2 The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

3 His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,

4 but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

5 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

6 The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.

7 The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

9 They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

10 On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples;
the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Rev. Dr. Anita K. Herbert

Musical Offering: 8:45 am—"Mary Did You Know"

Craig Courtney

Jewel Tones

11:00 am—"Silent Night"

Susan Geschke

Handbell Ensemble

***Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below,
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

Rev. Dr. Anita K. Herbert

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregational Meeting: After the 11:00 am service today there will be a congregational meeting for the purpose of electing elders and deacons. The nominating committee will be presenting the following slate of officers for the class of 2027, unless otherwise indicated:

For Elder: Hunter Harris, Jade Hill, Mike Homola, Robert Pratt, Sharlene Douthit-Schneidmuller, Lauch Blue (class of 2025)

For Deacon: Rachel Altman, Vera Devito, Jim Ferro, Skip Fetters, Rose Warrell, Sue Avenel (class of 2026), Lisa Blue (class of 2025).

Advent Readers: Are you or your family interested in being an Advent Reader one Sunday during the Advent season? Please check the connection card for the remaining dates and times, if interested select one. Julie will be in touch to confirm dates with you.

2nd Annual Hearts for Summerville Christmas Party: This year's event is on December 14 and we would love your help to make it happen. The party will include cookie decorating, a hot cocoa bar, Nativity themed crafts, sharing the love of Jesus and, of course, gifts for the children. Here are some ways we need your help:

**** Volunteer—** Use the link to sign up or reach out to Heather Kemble <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040D4AAEA72FAAF85-52486840-ahearts>

**** Donate—**Toys for children ages 0-18 are most welcomed and will be enjoyed and appreciated by our Hearts kids. Hot items include Legos, Barbies, baby dolls, remote control cars, Hot Wheels or Monster trucks, and more! We have created an Amazon wish list if you need ideas and items can be brought to SPC, Morningstar Storage at 3772 Ladson Rd or reach out to Heather.

****Pray—**The children who will attend this party come from many backgrounds and they all have a special story. Your prayers for guidance, protection and direction are desired by these families.

Looking for a way to stay in the loop of what is going on with our youth program? Use this link remind.com/join/8b3h6 to join our Remind group for youth. You will get text message reminders of events and other important dates.

Calling all of our college age members! Are you interested in spending a weekend in Montreat? Then the College-aged conference is for you! January 2-5, 2025. The cost \$150 and the church will scholarship the other half. This will cover your registration, lodging and meals. Names of participants are due to Jennifer Grainger by December 18th and payment is due by December 30th. Questions??? Reach out to Jennifer or see the Montreat website at <https://montreat.org/events/ccm25>.

Measuring What Matters Stewardship 2025: To pledge online for 2025 use this QR code or pick up a pledge card from the pew racks or church office.



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ANGEL TREE

The Angel Tree is set up in Lanneau Hall and is waiting to be "undecorated" by members of the congregation. The agencies represented this year include: Mackay Mission, Light House (formerly known as Hope's House), Anchor House (formerly known as Home of Hope), Habitat for Humanity, Hands of Christ, Hearts for Summerville and Thornwell Home for

Children. Please don't wrap the gift you bring. Just leave it in the bag, and please be sure to attach the angel from the tree to the bag. Checks for Hands of Christ may be dropped off at the church office or placed in the offering plate. Please notate "HOC" on the memo line of your check. Mail checks for Habitat for Humanity directly to their office. All gifts need to be returned by December 18. If you have any questions, contact the church office or Kelli Kemmerer.



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HAVE EXTRA CHRISTMAS WRAPPING PAPER?

NEED SOMEWHERE TO DONATE IT?

THE MMO WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOUR EXTRA WRAPPING PAPER FOR THEIR FUNDRAISING EVENT ON DECEMBER 20TH. PARTIAL OR FULL ROLLS OF WRAPPING PAPER CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT THE CHURCH OFFICE.

QUESTIONS?

CONTACT REBECCA



White Gifts: Join us in continuing the SPC tradition of bringing to the Christmas Eve services boxed or canned goods wrapped in white paper. During the service, you will be invited to place them around the manger. These items will be donated to a local food pantry.



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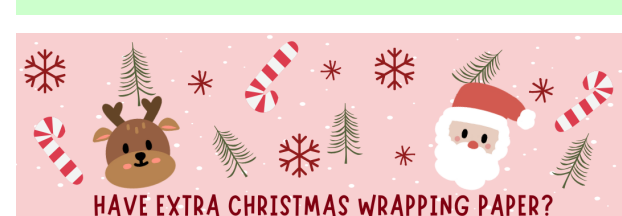
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Christmas Giftwrap Fundraiser

DECEMBER 20TH

4-7PM

BRING YOUR UNWRAPPED GIFTS AND LET THE STAFF AND BOARD OF SUMMERVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH'S MMO DO THE WRAPPING FOR YOU!

Paper, bow and tag provided for each gift

Suggested donation of \$3 per gift, but you may donate as your heart leads you



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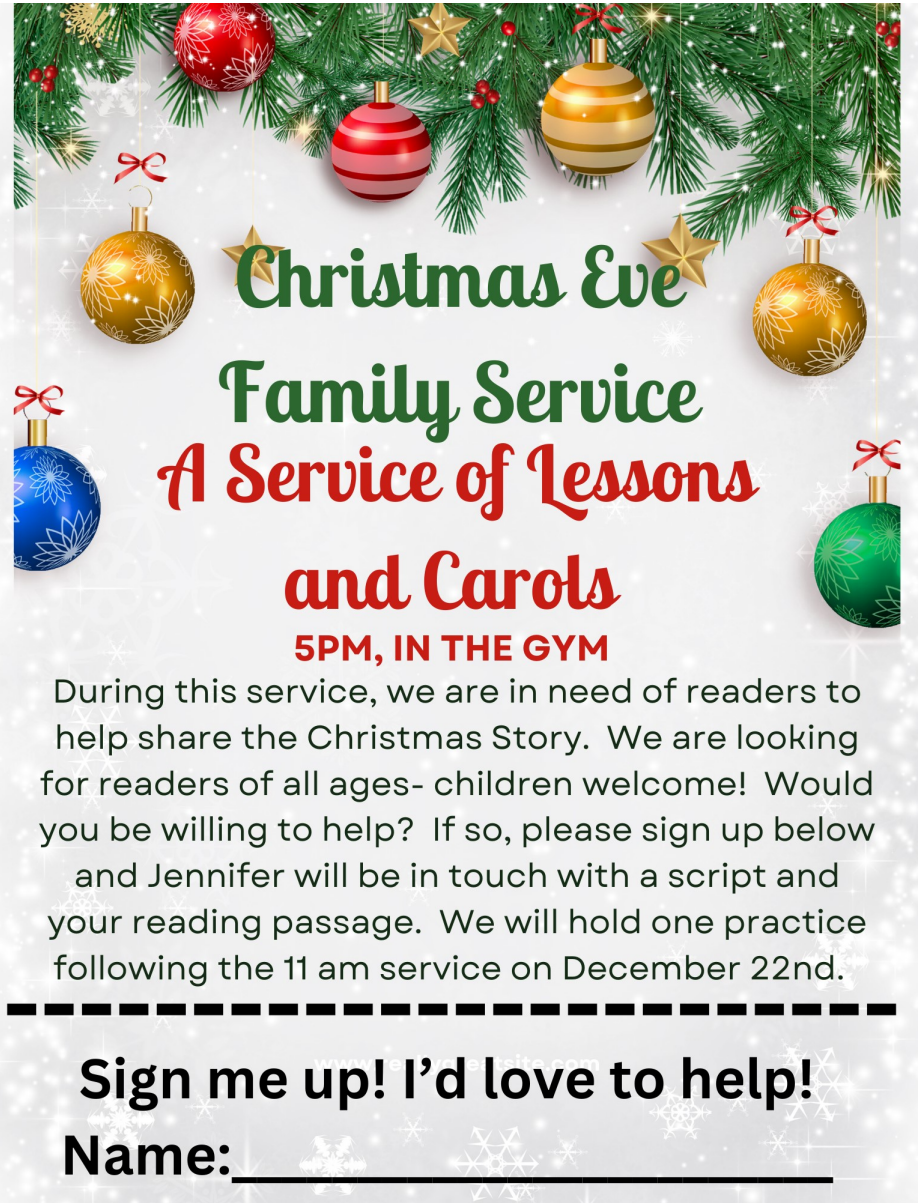
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Christmas Eve
Family Service
A Service of Lessons
and Carols
5PM, IN THE GYM

During this service, we are in need of readers to help share the Christmas Story. We are looking for readers of all ages- children welcome! Would you be willing to help? If so, please sign up below and Jennifer will be in touch with a script and your reading passage. We will hold one practice following the 11 am service on December 22nd.

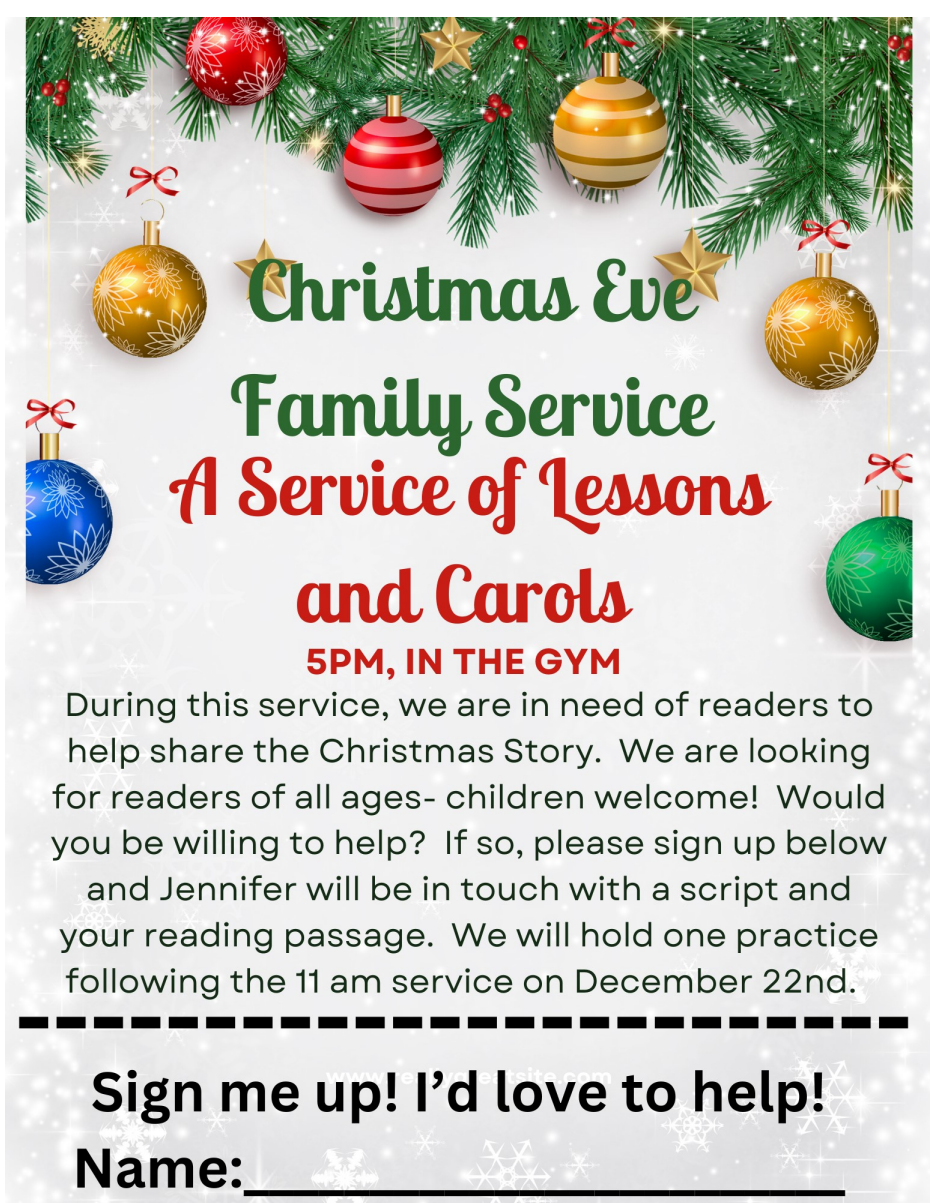
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Join us for Christmas
Ornament Making!
Sunday, December 22
9:45-10:15 in the Education
Building Hallway



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Joy Kids (K4-5th grade) are planning to be involved with the Christmas cantata on the 15th at the 10:00 service, and our Christmas party will be that same afternoon starting at 4:30 pm. Until then we will be taking part in our series "Unwrapped: Revealing What God Is Like."

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**Christmas Eve
Family Service-
Lessons and Carols**
December 24, 5pm in the Gym

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