

Fourth Sunday of Advent Christmas Eve

Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve

**Stand if you are able*

Prelude

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Chiming of the Beginning of Worship

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Reader 1: When the angel Gabriel visited Mary, announcing God's plan for her to conceive and give birth to the Messiah, "Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'" (Luke 1:34) And yet, only a few months later, Mary sings to Elizabeth, "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name" (Luke 1:46-49).

Reader 2: We, like Mary, hear God's call to be part of making God's dream for our salvation and flourishing a reality, and we question, "How can this be? I am only..." Yet, like Mary, the "onlys" that make us hesitate are gifts God can and will use as God's love transforms us into bearers of good news.

Congregation: We wait as people who have encountered divine Love that disrupts the status quo and ushers us into abundant life marked by mutual love and peace that flows from the flourishing of all people.

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, and the love that transforms us. May Love grow within us, transforming us into bold witnesses of God's salvation with our voices and our lives. Amen.

*Hymn *Angels from the Realms of Glory* UMH 220

Epistle Reading **Romans 16:25-27**

The Word of God for the people of God; Thanks be to God!

Special Music

Jay Althouse

Hodie! (Christ is Born Today!)

Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

Prayer for Illumination

Reflection

Concerns and Praises of the Body of Christ

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer UMH 895

Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

An offering plate is located on the table near the entrance of the sanctuary.

*Doxology and Offertory Prayer

UMH 95

Christmas Eve Readings

*Responsive Reading

Psalm 96

UMH 815

Old Testament

Isaiah 9:2-7

Epistle Reading

Titus 2:11-14

Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:1-20

Reflection

Choral Anthem

Praetorius

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Reader 1: To a people longing for hope and yearning for deliverance, the prophet Isaiah declared, The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined...For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:2, 6)

Reader 2: This day, we come seeking hope, peace, joy, and love, and we find these things in a child. God made flesh as a baby in

a manger. A baby who is both the beginning and the end of our salvation, who dwells with us even now, our Emmanuel, God with us.

Congregation: We live as people in the in-between who celebrate the arrival of the Light that shines in lost and broken places as we wait for the day when we will live in the fullness of God's kin-dom.

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, the love that transforms us, and Jesus Christ, our wondrous Light. May the Light burning in our hearts guide us, comfort us, protect us, and tend us in all seasons and circumstances, reminding us that day and night, in the light and in the darkness, God is with us. Our salvation has come!
Amen.

*Hymn *Silent Night, Holy Night* UMH 239

*Dismissal with Blessing

*Threefold Amen

Prayers and Praises

Shared the week of December 17: *Steve Pauley's family, Sandra Galyean, John Taylor's family, Gary Slate, Keith Roberts, conflict/war around the world, people traveling during the holidays, families to be blessed by our White Christmas food donations, God's presence and leading with Wesley Memorial and Burkhead joining together in the new year*

December 10: *Gloria McGurk's family, Shane Plott, Gail Potter, serving our community through The Salvation Army and SPARK, God's leading for Burkhead's future; Praises: China Moore*

December 3: *Gloria McGurk, Katie Moore, Gloria's Family, Steve Pauley, Wanda Truesdale, Mitch Mende, Ali Gonzalez and Baby Jasper, Charities during the holiday season & the people that serve/volunteer for them, Kim Jackson, China Moore; Praises: Shirley & Johnny Hedrick celebrating 56 years of marriage*



Burkhead United Methodist Church

December 24, 2023

5250 Silas Creek Parkway, Winston-Salem, NC 27106

Office Hours: Tuesday - Thursday, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Phone: 336-765-6590

Website: <https://www.burkheadumc.org>

Rev. Julie O'Neal, Pastor (extn 2), Cell: 336-929-6001

Pastor's email: joneal@wnccumc.net

Darlene Davis, Administrative Secretary (extn 3)

Office email: burkheadumc@gmail.com

Finance Office email: burkheadfinance@gmail.com

Guy Kelpin, Director of Music

CCLI #2257491

Serving in Worship

Today: Ushers–Rick Mende, Beth Dixon, Larry Parks;
Liturgist–Rick Mende; Financial Officer–Durwood
Howell; Trustee–Betty Bewley

Next Sunday: Ushers–Rick Mende, Beth Dixon, Larry
Parks; Liturgist–Becky DuBois; Financial Officer–
Durwood Howell; Trustee–Betty Bewley

This Week at Burkhead United Methodist Church

Our Office will be open December 26, 27, and 28 from
10 am until noon. Please call or email to arrange another
time if necessary. Happy Holidays!

Sunday, December 24

9:15 am **Combined Sunday School Classes**

10:15 am Fellowship Time

10:30 am **Christmas Eve Worship Service**

Monday, December 25

Our Lord and Savior's Birth

Tuesday, December 26

Newsletter information to office

Sunday, December 31

No New Life Sunday School class

9:30 am Seekers Sunday School class?

10:15 am Fellowship Time

10:30 am **Worship Service**

Upcoming Events

Monday, December 25 Our Lord and Savior's Birth

More information is available at www.burkheadumc.org.

Christmas Time

Christmas time is finally here.
It only comes but once a year,
And it's a time to spread good cheer
To those we love and hold so dear.

Christmas time is a time of glee,
A time when peace and love run free,
A time for those like you and me
To sit beneath the Christmas tree.

Christmas time is a time of joy,
A time to sit back and enjoy
The smile on each girl and boy,
As they play with a Christmas toy.

Christmas time is a time to share
The passing of another year.
Birth of Jesus, a joyful prayer,
To show loved ones how much we care.

Christmas time is a time for song,
A time for us to get along,
To make us feel Lord Jesus strong,
Forgive all those who did us wrong.

Christmas time is a time to pray,
Put love and kindness on display,
Show compassion along the way.
Christmas time should be every day.

Ronald Doe, December 20, 2010

[https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/
christmas-time](https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/christmas-time)