

This Week!



Great Bridge Presbyterian Church
9:30 am Worship
December 7, 2025
Second Sunday of Advent
Preparing for the Light

December 7 ADVENT II *9:30 am Traditional Worship, *11:00 am Contemporary Worship
FAMILY WORSHIP
*9:30 am & *11:00 am Sunday School
*10:30 am KIDS SING, Room 200
*10:30 am Boomwhackers! Room 230
*11:00 am NO IMPACT Youth Group—Youth will attend Family Worship
*11:00 am Adult Sunday School, Room 240
*12:00 pm Youth Worship Team rehearsal, Sanctuary
*1:00 pm GriefShare, Room 240; DivorceCare, Room 230
2:00 pm Presbyterian Women Christmas Tea
5:30 pm Service of Remembrance, Sanctuary
9 6:15 pm Harmonious Flutes; 7:15 pm Alleluia Ringers
10 5:30 pm Contemporary Worship rehearsal, Sanctuary
6:15 pm Chancel Choir sectional rehearsals
7:00 pm Chancel Choir rehearsal, Sanctuary
12 5:30 pm Family Fun Night! Fellowship Hall
14 ADVENT III *9:30 am Traditional Worship
*11:00 am Contemporary Worship

* Denotes weekly meetings unless otherwise listed.

WELCOME! If you are visiting with us this morning, we are glad you are here! Please scan the QR code to register with our church. After worship stop by our Welcome Desk for a special gift and to learn more about our church.

STEWARDSHIP "GIVING OUR BEST TO GOD": A secure link for electronic giving is available on the church's website at www.gbpres.org. You may give securely by scanning the QR code.

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY FOR PHOTOS FOR THE CHURCH DIRECTORY! Scan the QR code to update your contact information. A station is set up in the narthex today for photos, before, during and after worship. Updated contact information must be done in advance of having a photo taken. Regular attenders at GBPC, please have your picture taken. The directory is not only used for church members.

POINSETTIA ORDERS: We will begin taking orders for Poinsettias, December 7 to adorn the sanctuary for Christmas. Orders may be placed through the QR code, on our church website or by using an envelope from the pew.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE: Please join us today at 5:30 pm for our annual Service of Remembrance, a time to remember and celebrate loved ones no longer with us.

C.A.S.T. (CHESAPEAKE AREA SHELTER TEAM): MANY volunteers are needed to care for our guests staying with us over night with this very important outreach program. SIGN UP TO HELP through the link in the church email, or online on our church website. Good opportunity for Bible study groups, small groups, Presbyterian Women's Circles and FAMILIES and individuals. Dates are December 30—January 7. THANK YOU for serving.

REHEARSAL FOR CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00 SERVICE, DECEMBER 14, 12:00 PM! Everyone participating in the 5:00 pm Family Christmas service, please make plans to attend this important rehearsal.



Check our website for updates: https://www.gbpres.org
Thank you for joining us for worship today. There's a place for you here!
Great Bridge Presbyterian Church, 333 Cedar Road, Chesapeake, VA (757)547-4706
"Sharing Christ's love, equipping God's people" ~ Founded 1964

Prelude - As we gather to worship, the music helps us focus on God.

Welcome - We welcome guests and talk about things that are happening in the church.

Advent Wreath Lighting— We light the candle for Peace reminding us that Jesus came to bring peace to all people.

Carol of Advent - We sing with joy to God, we tell God how much we love Him.

Call to Confession - We are asked to think about what we have done that does not please God.

Silent Prayer - This is a time for you to talk to God, who loves you, and say you are sorry for anything you have done that isn't right.

Prayer of Confession - We ask God to forgive our sins.

Declaration of Forgiveness - After saying we are sorry, we hear the good news that God forgives us for everything!

*Stand as you are able in body or spirit. Congregation responds with the text in bold.

The Gathering

Prelude Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming Mark Hayes

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Dr. Donna DeSarro-Raynal

Lighting the Advent Wreath: The Candle of Peace Debbie Davis

Prayer for Advent

*Carol of Advent No. 87 Comfort, Comfort, Now My People GENEVAN42

*Call to Confession Aria Boyette, Youth Liturgist
We hear the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord and make God's paths straight." Let us prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ as we confess our sin together:

Time for Silent Confession

*Prayer of Confession Aria Boyette, Youth Liturgist

O promised Christ:
We are a world at war. Our peace depends on your coming.
We are a sinful people. Our pardon depends on your coming.
We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises;
our only hope of doing God's will
is that you should come and help us do it.
Lord Christ, Word made flesh,
our world waits for your peace, for your pardon, and for your grace.
Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

*Declaration of Forgiveness Rev. Dr. Donna DeSarro-Raynal
Friends, the father of John the Baptist, Zechariah, proclaimed this hope: "By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, giving light to those in darkness, guiding our feet in the way of peace." Receive God's tender mercy today. Trust that God's peace will prevail for all those who seek forgiveness in Jesus' name.
Rev. Shirley Cochrane, St. Andrews Church, Salmon Arm, BC (permission)

Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

Response - We sing because we are happy that God has forgiven us!

Passing the Peace - We share the peace of God's love with God's family.

Special Music—We hear special songs that helps us worship God.

The Scriptures - God's Word tells us God's story and how much God loves us.

Anthem - We listen as the choir sings a song about God.

The Scriptures - God's Word tells us God's story and how much God loves us.

Sermon - Our pastor talks about what the scripture readings mean and how God wants us to live today.

The Offering - Our gifts of time, talents and money support the work of the church. We give because God gives so much to us.

The Offertory Response - We sing a short song of praise to thank God.

Prayer of Dedication - We thank God for all we have been given and we ask God to bless the offerings that people have given.

Affirmation of Faith - We say what we believe as Christians.

***Response** No. 137 “He Came Down” HE CAME DOWN
He came down that we may have peace; He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace Hallelujah forevermore.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Please share the peace of Christ with one another.

***Passing the Peace**

KIDS SING Thankful Group Publishing

Special Music Joy to the World Boomwhackers

PreK-1st grade will go to Sunday School.

Proclamation of The Word

Scripture Matthew 3:1-12, NT, pgs. 2-3 Aria Boyette, Youth Liturgist

Anthem O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Hal H. Hopson
Elisabeth Writtenberry, flute

Scripture Isaiah 11:1-10, OT, pgs. 640-641 Rev. Dr. Donna DeSarro-Raynal

Sermon “God’s Vision of Peace” Rev. Dr. Donna DeSarro-Raynal

Responding to the Word

The Offertory Ave Maria James Christensen
Harmonious Flutes

***Offertory Response** No. 608 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow Hal H. Hopson

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Affirmation of Faith ~ The Apostles’ Creed Glory to God Hymnal, pg. 35

Holy Communion

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving & The Lord’s Prayer (*using debts and debtors*) Henry Hood
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer After Communion

** See Music Notes for music during communion.*

*The congregation will take the elements together led by the pastor.
Please come forward to receive communion elements. Ushers will serve those who prefer to remain seated. Gluten free options are available.*

Leaving to Serve

***Hymn of Sending Forth** No. 106 Prepare the Way, O Zion
BEREDEN VÄG FOR HERRAN

***Charge and Benediction** Rev. Dr. Donna DeSarro-Raynal

***Benediction Response** No. 113 “Angels We Have Heard on High” (refrain)
GLORIA
Gloria in excelsis Deo! (repeat)

***Postlude** O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright Roger C. Wilson

~~~~~ *Music notes*

Today we continue our Advent journey to Bethlehem, with our theme for the season “**The Light Has Come.**” Our focus today is “**Preparing for the Light.**” Scripture tells us that “A voice in the wilderness cries out: Prepare the way of the Lord! Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill be made low... All people shall see the salvation of God!” Let us lift up our hearts in joyful expectation and praise to the One who is coming into the world once more. You won’t want to miss each week that will be filled with the joyful sounds of the season and worship that glorifies God.

This morning, Rob Nolin will be singing a lovely German carol during Communion, “**Mariä Wiegenlied**” (Mary’s Lullaby) by Max Reger. The gentle melody speaks of Mary rocking Jesus while a bird sings at her feet. “Go to sleep, sweet child, it’s time to go to sleep!” Rob is working toward his Master’s degree at Norfolk State University and serves as one of our Choral Scholars. The composer, Max Reger (1873-1916) was a German composer, pianist, organist, conductor and academic teachers.

Festival of Lessons and Carols, December 21! MARK YOUR CALENDARS for our special Festival of Lessons and Carols on December 21, “*Holy Light.*” We will have one combined service on this special Sunday at 10:00 am when we welcome our friends from the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, the Chancel choir and guests, our Alleluia Ringers, and guest readers.

Communion - This is sometimes called The Lord's Supper because it is linked to the Last Supper Jesus had with his disciples.

Prayers for the People and the Lord's Prayer - We pray for people and then together say the Lord's Prayer.

Hymn - We sing a hymn that reminds us of what we have learned in the sermon.

Benediction - We listen to the benediction, which means “good word.” The “good word” is that God goes with us into the world to do God’s work!

Postlude - Let's go serve the Lord! Alleluia!