



Joyfully united to Jesus, Midlothian, and each other.



Sycamore
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Advent is a season of excitement as we remember the First Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in his birth. Advent is also a season of waiting; a time for us to anticipate, yearn, and long for the Second Coming of our Lord.

*Hearing
assistance
devices are
available at the
sound booth.*

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION

"If once the curtain were pulled back... it would expose to our spiritual vision a struggle so intense... that the fiercest battle ever fought on earth would seem... a mere game."

-Abraham Kuyper

"Whether the wreckage of your life is your own doing or someone else's... you who are in Christ have never stepped outside the cascading waterfall of divine love."

-Dane Ortlund, *Deeper*

*We focus our
hearts and
minds as we
prepare to
be served by
the life-giving
Creator God.*

"...if we believe this [the gospel], rubbing it under the devil's nose whenever he tries to plague and terrify us with our sins, the devil will soon be beaten; he will be forced to withdraw and to stop pestering us."

-Martin Luther, *Sermons on the Gospel of John*

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

-Book of Common Prayer

WELCOME

*God Himself,
through the
Bible, calls
us into His
presence to
connect with
Him in worship.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

FROM MICAH 2 & PSALM 27

(Leader) Out of Bethlehem will come One who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.

(All) Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

He will stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God.

(All) Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage. Wait for the Lord, for His greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

SONG OF PRAISE

PAGE 4

The Old Testament Israelites sang throughout their worship of God. The earliest Christians continued this practice in the first century, and we join our modern voices to this ancient practice in our worship of God.

*We respond to
God's gracious
invitation by
asking Him to
empower and
receive our
worship.*

INVOCATION

SONG OF PRAISE

PAGE 5

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

John Mason Neale & Thomas Helmore



1. O come, O come, Em - ma - - nu - el,
2. O come, thou Rod of Jes - - se, free
3. O come, thou Day - spring from on high
4. O come, thou Key of Da - - vid, come



and ran - som cap - tive Is - - ra - el,
thine own from Sa - tan's ty - - ran - ny;
and cheer us by thy dra - - wing nigh;
and o - pen wide our heav'n - - ly home;



that mourns in lone - ly ex - - ile here,
from depths of hell thy peo - - ple save,
dis - perse the gloo - my clouds of night,
make safe the way that leads on high,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
and give them vict' - ry o'er the grave.
and death's dark sha - dows put to flight.
and close the path to mi - - se - ry.



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - ma - u - el



shall come to thee, O Is - - ra - el.

COME BEHOLD THE WONDROUS MYSTERY

Matt Boswell and Matt Papa



1. Come be - hold the won - drous myst' - ry, in the daw - ning of the King.
2. Come be - hold the won - drous myst' - ry, He the per - fect Son of Man.
3. Come be - hold the won - drous myst' - ry, Christ the Lord up - on the tree.
4. Come be - hold the won - drous myst' - ry, slain by death the God of life.



He the theme of hea - ven's prai - ses, robed in frail hu - ma - ni - ty.
In His li - ving in His suff' - ring, ne - ver trace nor stain of sin.
In the stead of ru - ined sin - ners hangs the Lamb in vic - to - ry.
But no grave could e'er re - strain Him. Praise the Lord, He is a - live!



In our long - ing, in our dark - ness, now the light of life has come.
See the true and bet - ter A - dam, come to save the hell - bound man.
See the price of our re - demp - tion, see the Fa - ther's plan un - fold.
What a fore - taste of de - liv' - rance, how un - wa - ve - ring our hope.



Look to Christ, who con - des - cen - ded, took on flesh to ran - som us.
Christ, the great and sure ful - fill - ment of the law, in Him we stand.
Bring - ing ma - ny sons to glo - ry; grace un - mea - sured, love un - told.
Christ in po - wer re - sur - rec - ted, as we will be when He comes.

[repeat]

*The ancient
Israelites
rejoiced
to hear the
story of God,
and the first
Christians
treasured the
communal
reading of
Scripture.
Rooted in this
tradition, we
publicly read a
section of the
Bible during
worship.*

SCRIPTURE READING

1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Luke 1:26-38
CHAIR BIBLE 803

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.

And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

The Word of the Lord.
(All) Thanks be to God.



OFFERING

We worship God by gladly giving back a portion of what he has provided for us. These resources further his mission in our community.

In God's presence, we see ourselves as we are. At His invitation, we confess our sin; trusting in His promised grace.

CORPORATE CONFESSION

Our God of grace, have mercy on us. We have not believed Your promises, nor shown trust in You. Our hearts have not burned within us as we have heard Your Word, and we have lost sight of Your promise to redeem. We have forgotten the joy of Jesus' humble birth and perfect life, and we ignore the things that belong to our peace.

Please silently confess your sin before the Lord.

God declares in the Gospel that all who repent and believe in Jesus Christ are completely forgiven from the guilt and shame of all their sins.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

FROM ISAIAH 35

Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come and save you." And the ransomed of the Lord shall return... and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

COMMUNITY GREETING

1 Cor 16:20, 2 Cor 13:12, and 1 Thes 5:26, indicate that a physical interaction with fellow believers was a standard and important practice in the ancient Church. The Bible teaches that since believers are in union with Jesus, they are also in union with each other, and so part of biblical worship is to express that union. At Sycamore we maintain this ancient rite through our time of community greeting.

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

Charles Wesley, Mark Hunt, & Rowland Hugh Pritchard



1. Come, thou long ex - pec - ted Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;
2. Joy to those who long to see thee, Day - spring from on high ap - pear;
3. Come to earth to taste our sad - ness, he whose glo - ry knew no end;
4. Born Thy peo - ple to de - li - ver Born a child and yet a King



From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
come, thou prom - ised rod of Jes - se, of thy birth we long to hear!
by his life he brings us glad - ness, our Re - deem - er, Shep - herd, Friend.
Born to reign in us for - e - ver Now Thy gra - cious King - dom bring



I - srael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
O'er the hills the an - gels sing - ing news, glad tid - ings of a birth:
Leav - ing rich - es with - out num - ber, born with - in a cat - tle stall;
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit Rule in all our hearts a - lone



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
"Go to him, your prais - es bring - ing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."
this the ev - er - last - ing won - der, Christ was born the Lord of all.
By Thine all suf - fi - cient me - rit Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

*One of our
leaders cries
out to God
on our behalf
for grace
and mercy,
especially for
the hurting,
needy, and
broken.*

SHEPHERDING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

"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.

*There is no kids
worship on 5th
Sundays.*

SERMON SERIES

ADVENT: THE SHEPHERDING GOD

SERMON TEXT

1 PETER 5:1-14

PAGE 10

*God has
ordained
the preaching
of the Bible to
be the chief
means of
proclaiming the
good news of
Jesus Christ.*

SERMON

LET THE TEST BEGIN

SEAN SAWYERS

When the church is tested and hunted, God protects His people with gentle authority, humiliating surrender, and holy stubbornness.

SERMON OUTLINE

I. Singular Submission

II. Double Humility

III. Stubborn Resistance

*We depart with
this final "good
word" reminder
of the grace
given to us in
the Gospel.*

SONG

BENEDICTION

PAGE 13

*If you do not
have a Bible at
home, please
take one from
the chair in
front of you as
our gift.*

SERMON TEXT CHAIR BIBLE 955

1 PETER 5:1-14

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: 2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. 5 Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. 8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. 10 And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. 11 To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

12 By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it. 13 She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son. 14 Greet one another with the kiss of love.

Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

SYCAMORE KIDS' VERSION

1 PETER 5:1-11

- [1] Elders, God starts the testing with you. I, Peter, saw Jesus with my own eyes, and I am an elder too. Trust me on this.
- [2] Take care of God's people. Lead them gently as Jesus would. Enjoy being an elder.
- [3] Don't be bossy to God's family. Be an example to show the way.
- [4] When Jesus, the Great Shepherd, comes back, He will reward His faithful shepherds.
- [5] The rest of you in the church need to follow the elders. Put on humility like a jacket, and look for ways to serve other Christians. God tells us in Proverbs 3:34 that He notices that.
- [6] Be humble under the power of God. He will brag on you at the right time.
- [7] So give all your worries to Him, because He cares about you.
- [8] Be careful, because the devil is like a scary lion looking for someone to chew up.
- [9] In Jesus, your faith is strong. You can stand against the devil. You are not alone. Other believers all around the world are suffering too.
- [10] After you have suffered for a little while, God Himself will make you feel better. He will heal you, protect you, and keep you strong.
- [11] All power belongs to Him forever!

*Children's
Bulletins are
available in
the foyer for
ages 3-6 and
7-12.*

SERMON NOTES

MANGER THRONE

Phil Wickham, Tony Wood, & Jonathan Smith

1. You could have stepped into creation with fire for all to see,
Brought every tribe and nation to their knees,
Arriving with the host of heaven in royal robe and crown,
The rulers of the earth all bowing down.
But You chose meekness over majesty,
Wrapped Your power in humanity.



2. You could have marched in all Your glory into the heart of Rome,
Showed them splendor like they'd never known.
But You wrote a better story in humble Bethlehem,
Creator in the arms of common men.
You will die for our redemption,
And You'll rise so we can live. (chorus)

From heaven to the cradle, from cradle to the cross,
Let heaven and nature sing, "This is our King."
But the grave couldn't hold Him; our God has overcome.
Let heaven and nature sing, "This is our King." (repeat)

All hail the King!
All hail the King!
All hail the King! (chorus)

Sunday School

ADULT - 10:00 AM

- Room 3** - A Study on Isaiah
- Room 4** - Men of the Word
- Room 24** - Raising and Launching: Evangelism & Missions
- Gallery** - Faith & Fellowship

YOUTH - 10:00 AM

Room 2 - Middle School students (grades 6-8) and High School students (grades 9-12) meet to study God’s word and be encouraged to grow in their faith.

CHILDREN - 9:45 AM

Kid’s Sunday School teaches that it is the gospel, not good behavior, that changes everything.

CLASSROOMS

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 6 Weeks - 23 mo. | Nursery Room C |
| Toddlers (2 & 3) | Nursery Room B |
| Pre-K (4 & 5) | Nursery Room A |
| K & 1st | Room 13 |
| 2nd & 3rd | Room 12 |
| 4th & 5th | Room 10 |

Praying Together

For the needs of our mission partners, congregation, denomination and community:

- MISSIONS:** Artem Ostrivnoi, CRU Ukraine
- CONGREGATION:** Barbara Corwin, Knitting His Love
- DENOMINATION:** James River Presbytery
- COMMUNITY:** Home in Him, Eric Wallace

Summary of Finances

November offering goal \$121,050 November offering (through 11/23/25): \$91,176 (75%)

Year to Date 4/1/25-10/31/25

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Budget: | Actual: |
| YTD offering goal: \$820,500 | YTD offering: \$810,251 (under \$10,249) |
| YTD expenses: \$859,433 | YTD expenses: \$794,269 (under \$65,164) |

Care

Spiritual Care - If you'd like to speak to someone about what it means to know Jesus or you have a spiritual need or question, please speak to one of our elders.

Counseling - If you are interested in speaking with a trained counselor, we support Wellspring Christian Counseling (wellspringrva.com or 804-306-0504).

Financial Care - If you, or someone you know, needs financial help with basic needs, such as food, clothing, housing, and utilities— or special needs like school supplies or medical expenses, we have special funds available. Please call the office or fill out the benevolence form by going to: <https://sycamorepres.com/benevolence/>

Hospital Stay - If you would like the pastors to know that you or a loved one is in the hospital, please email hospital@sycamorepres.com

Prayer Request

Can we pray for you? Just fill this out and place it in the offering plate. It is our privilege to pray with you and for you.

Do you want this prayer request shared on our prayer chain?

☐ No, please only share with pastors.

☐ Yes, please share this request on the Sycamore Prayer Chain

Name:

Phone Number:

Prayer Request:

Tear along this line

Are you New Here?

We would love to get to know you better! Just fill this out and place it in the offering plate.

Name:

Email:

Phone Number:

Or fill this out online!



Active Elders & Deacons

Elders

- Tim Corcoran
- Rob Cross
- Chris Gramm
- Brian Kaman
- Glen Kurtz
- Peter Martin
- Dennie Pritchard
- Trevor Roberts
- Phil Rohrer
- Chris Wells
- Gene Whitehead

Deacons

- Doug Castle
- Darryl Glass
- Dennis Kerns
- Bob Maddox
- Keith Miller
- Dale Moore
- Scott Shefferly
- John Vick

- SIGNUPS
- COMMUNITY GROUPS
- CALENDAR
- LIVESTREAM
- DIRECTORY
- CHECK-IN
- more...



 church center

Sycamore Presbyterian Church
510 Coalfield Road | Midlothian VA 23114
sycamorepres.com | 804-794-0238
Office Hours: M-Th 9 am-4 pm

Sycamore Presbyterian Church is a member of Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). Scripture texts are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, ©2001 Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers, Wheaton, IL 60187. CCLI #338551.



Tear along this line