

## Welcome to Celebration Presbyterian Church

Welcome, friends, from far and near. Let us worship God who is surely here. Let us pray, sing, share the Word and give; then let us joyfully go into God's world to live. \*Please indicate your desires for visitation, or information about joining Celebration Church on the Ritual of Friendship Pad. \*Prayer cards are provided for sharing your joys and concerns. Please write your prayer requests on a card and the ushers will collect them.

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Righteous God, whose gifts of grace and peace are delivered in strange and unexpected places, let your promise of Emmanuel be a sign to us of salvation near at hand. Restore us to that quality of life and relationship which has been your intention for humanity since the beginning of time, that we may be saints who serve, for the sake of all your hurting children. Amen.

### *Celebrating Sixteen Years of Faithful Living and Giving!*

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Sunday, December 22, 2019 Advent IV  
(\* If able, please stand at these points in the service.)

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### THE CHURCH GATHERS

Prelude Sarah Abushakra

#### Chiming the Hour

Advent 4 – Lighting 4 Candles on the Advent Wreath The Tomlin Family

\*Hymn No. 88 Verse 6 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

#### Greeting

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

Welcome, Ritual of Friendship, Prayer Cards, Announcements and Opening Prayer

#### \*Sharing the Peace of Christ

The Peace of Christ be with You. **And also with you!**  
(Please exchange signs of Christ's peace with your brothers and sisters in Christ near you.)

### TO WORSHIP THE LORD OUR GOD

#### \*Responsive Call to Worship

Liturgist: Carla Baker

We gather - people of faith and no faith, people of hope and no hope, people of peace and no peace. We come seeking the Christ of Christmas. **We gather with the longing to be made whole again if just for this time, here and now, and to be renewed with hope.**

We gather with a prayer, however vague and tenuous, that in spite of the absence of virgins and angels, wise men and shepherds, we might still be a witness to the birth of all love—born for us and born for all.

**We gather as ready as we'll ever be for this story of faith to unfold.**

Let us raise our voices together and sing God's praise.

\*Hymn No. 133 Verses 1-3 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

#### Call to Confession

Liturgist: Carla Baker

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But, if we confess our sins, Jesus is faithful to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us confess our sins collectively and then personally.

#### Unison Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Carla Baker

**O Holy God of Promise, we so often place our trust in the things we can see, and touch, and easily believe. But you did not ask us to believe what is easy, you have asked us to believe what is true! Forgive us, Holy One, when we doubt the ways you work. Forgive us when we find it hard to believe an ancient story. Forgive us when we question how you chose to enter the world, born as one of us. Forgive our lack of faith and belief in ways which seem so impossible to believe. Help us to look in faith, open our belief, and set aside our doubts that you sent your Son, born of Mary – the one who has come to set us all free. We offer these prayers in the name of your Son, Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.**

*Silence for Personal Confession*

#### Assurance of Pardon

Liturgist: Carla Baker

Friends hear the Good News and believe it:  
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God!**

#### Affirmation of Faith *an Affirmation of Faith for the season of Advent* *By The Rev. Stephen M. Fearing*

**We believe that God has come to us; that God brought us into being, that this God gave us breath and purpose, that we have been blessed to be a blessing to others, that we have fallen short of this commandment but that God has nevertheless loved us despite our brokenness.**

**We believe that God is coming to us; that God is not happy to leave us alone, that this God will come to us as a particular human being, that God will be made known to us in flesh and bone like ours, that Mary will soon give birth and Joseph will soon clap his hands in joy, that Jesus Christ will be born and our salvation made complete.**

**We believe that God will come to us; that God will have the final word and that Word will be good, that this God will give us the presence of the Spirit to continue our work, that we are called to be disciples to all the corners of the earth, that the day is coming when tears and pain will be no more, and all will gather at God's Table to sing an endless and perfect "Alleluia!"**

\*Hymn No. 134 Verses 1-4 *Joy to the World, The Lord is Come*

*The children are invited to come to the steps for the Time with Young Disciples*

Time with Young Disciples *Children's Church follows in Room 5*

\*Hymn No. 144 *In the Bleak Midwinter*

### TO WORSHIP THROUGH PRAYER AND SHARED STEWARDSHIP

Prayers of the People – Sharing Our Joys and Concerns  
(Please pass your prayer cards to an usher.)

#### Prayer of Intercession and 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

#### Giving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings as Faithful Stewards

As we join our voices in prayer and praise, so too, we bring together the symbols of our life investment: money we have earned, the hours we have before us, the abilities that are ours alone. Let us give ourselves with joy to the work and worship of God.

#### Offertory

*African Noel*  
Celebration Choir

\*Hymn No. 137

*He Came Down*

#### \*Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

**In thanks for all God's gifts, and in response to the tears of so many of God's children, we now gather all that we have brought to share, praying that these resources will accomplish much good among us and far beyond our individual reach.**

### TO WORSHIP THROUGH WORD AND WITNESS

#### Scripture

Matthew 1:1-25  
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

NRSV

#### Sermon

*Emmanuel - Rooted in the Family of God*  
Tom Dendy

### AND RESPOND IN FAITHFUL SERVICE IN THE WORLD

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Hymn No. 314 Verse 4 *Longing for Light, We Wait in the Darkness*

\*Postlude

Sarah Abushakra

(\*If able, please stand at these points in the service.)

***Accompany us, God, through the waiting. Accompany those displaced waiting to return to the land. Accompany those in refugee camps waiting to go home. Accompany those in conflict zones waiting for normality. Accompany those in violent homes waiting for silence. Accompany those imprisoned waiting for justice. Accompany us God through the waiting until your kingdom comes. Amen.***

**CELEBRATION HAPPENINGS**

**Sun Dec 22** Advent IV – The Tomlin Family - Wreath  
**NO Adult Bible Study** 10:00 am  
 Choir Rehearsal  
 Coffee and Fellowship 10:15 am  
 Worship, Nursery, Children’s Church 11:00 am

**Dec 23-29** Church Offices Closed

**Tue Dec 24** Christmas Eve Worship **5:00 pm**  
 (Cookie and Milk/Coffee will be shared after worship.)  
**The Burrows Family – Wreath Lighting**

**Wed Dec 25** Merry Christmas and Happy Birthday Jesus

**Sun Dec 29** **NO Adult Bible Study**  
 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am  
 Coffee and Fellowship 10:15 am  
 Worship, Nursery, Children’s Church 11:00 am  
 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Offering Received

**Upcoming Opportunities**

**Dec 30-31 – Church Office Open – Final Year-End Gifts Due**  
**Jan 1 – New Year’s Day – Happy 2020 - Church Office Closed**  
**Jan 12 – Adult Bible Study resumes, 9:15 am**

**SAVE THE DATE – FUN FOR ALL AGES**  
**Jan 31 – GAME NIGHT WITH INDOOR S’MORES 6-9PM**

**SERVICE/SERMON NOTES AND REMINDERS:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Serving December 22**

**Visitor Table:** Barbara Barranco      **Nursery:** Vicki Simon  
**Children’s Church:** Trudy Miller  
**Media Shout:** Bernadine Lamar      **Sound Board:** Nancy Resnick  
**Liturgist:** Carla Baker      **Preacher:** Tom Dendy  
**Elder of the Week:** Terry Pettijohn – 843-796-3212  
**Ushers:** Corey Jacobs, Beth Bruton, Terry Baker  
**Chimes:** Janet Rouseff and Cindy Smith

**Serving December 29**

**Visitor Table:** Margaret Reeder      **Nursery:** Donna Woodard  
**Children’s Church:** Trudy Miller  
**Candle lighter:** Jeffrey Waltemeyer  
**Media Shout:** Bernadine Lamar      **Sound Board:** Carol Butler  
**Liturgist:** Anthony Tiani      **Preacher:** Tom Dendy  
**Elder of the Week:** Jeanne Bredbeck – 843-347-5741  
**Ushers:** Corey Jacobs, Beth Bruton, Terry Baker  
**Chimes:** Cindy Smith and Kathy O’Halloran

**JOIN US AT CELEBRATION**

*We are Christ followers who are open,  
 accepting, loving and welcoming to all!*

**Our Purpose**

*To Celebrate God’s Glory by Reaching, Teaching,  
 and Sending People to Love and Serve the Lord.*



2300 Carolina Forest Blvd – Myrtle Beach SC 29579  
**Church Office Hours** Monday – Thursday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm  
 Phone: 843-903-0308 Fax: 843-903-0345 Preschool: 843-903-3211

**Dr. Tom Dendy, Pastor** Pastor’s Email: revtomdendy@gmail.com  
**Office Administrator:** Linda Berry  
**Church Email:** celebrationpresbyterianmb@gmail.com

**Preschool Director:** Susan Spraker Email: cppreschool08@aol.com  
**Church Music Director:** Sarah Abushakra  
 Email: slabushakra@gmail.com  
**Facebook:** Celebration Presbyterian Church  
**Website:** www.celebrationpresbyterianchurch.org



**Advent IV**  
**December 22, 2019**  
**11:00 a.m. Worship**  
*Celebrating Sixteen Years of  
 Faithful Mission and Ministry!*



**OUR MISSION is to Proclaim Jesus as Lord and  
 Savior, Praise and Worship God,  
 Prepare our hearts to share God’s Word,  
 and Provide Love and Service to ALL!**