

*** Charge and Benediction**

Closing Music

* One asterisk means to stand, as you are able.

The nearest restrooms are in the alcove on the long wall of the Thin Place Gallery.

Citations for references used during worship are available from the ministers, upon request.

The New Revised Standard Version (Updated Edition) of the Bible is used during worship, unless otherwise noted.

Lectionary Year C, First Sunday of Advent, **December 1:**
Jeremiah 33:14-16, Psalm 25:1-10,
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13, Luke 12:25-36.

Lectionary Year C, Second Sunday of Advent,
December 8: *Malachi 3:1-4; Philippians 1:3-11;*
Luke 1:68-19, 3:1-6.



4000 Presbyterian Road
Greensboro, NC 27406
(336)-697-0488
www.alamancechurch.org

We welcome all to the community of Jesus:
to connect, to learn, to worship, to serve.

We are an ecumenical congregation
in a Presbyterian Church, USA form.
We are a **Matthew 25** Church.
We are a Hunger Action Congregation.
We are a Stephen Ministry congregation.

CHURCH OFFICE: (336)-697-0488

info@alamancechurch.org

Dr. Kyle Goodman, Lead Pastor
Rev. Jess Rigel, Discipleship Pastor
Andrew Long, Director, Youth Ministries
Joy Thomas, Director, Children's Ministries
Katie Long, Director of Music
Rebecca Oden Pugh, Pianist
Dana Adams, Finance Coordinator
Lynn Barnes, Secretary



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First Sunday of Advent December 1, 2024 10 a.m.

LARGE PRINT

Welcome and Announcements

Lay Reader today is Larry Kiser.

Opening Music *Longing for Messiah* - arr. Mark Hayes

Lighting the Candle of Hope David & Cathy Wray

***Opening Hymn** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*
Song sheet

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Coming Christ, you may not find us as you hoped.
We've looked away from signs we do not wish to see.
We've stopped listening to distress we do not wish
to hear. We are numb to inconvenient truths.
Keep us alert, O God, to the needs of our neighbors.
Revive our hearts laden with compassion fatigue.
Sharpen our minds clouded by worries. Sober our
lives addicted to privilege. Show us the signs of your
coming, that we may stand before you. Amen.**

A Promise of Forgiveness and Peace

Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

We invite everyone to share Christ's peace with your neighbors, both now and after the service.

* **Sung Response** *Come, Come Emmanuel*

Song sheet

First Scripture Reading *Jeremiah 31:31-34*

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem *A Tiny Child Will Come* - Besig/Price

Children's Message

Children from age 4-5th grade may now go to the Grace Space, at the front of the sanctuary.

Second Scripture Reading *Jeremiah 33:14-16*

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Message *Hope, According to Jeremiah*
Dr. Kyle Goodman

Words for Reflection *Great Is Thy Faithfulness, O God*
— *Are You Listening?*

- Mary Ellen Shores

Morning by morning — my prayers slip out the open window into the pre-dawn sky, winding their way up to

you, as the nocturnal world tucks itself into bed and birds fill the air with their wakening songs.

All I have needed — is rekindled hope, edited thinking; I bring forth my confessions of what has been and considerations for what will be. Adjusting my eyes to the gradually lightening sky, I focus on the right combination of words to speak, again and again, until I can listen to what it is I am asking.

Prayers for a world on the verge of tilting off the axis of human kindness into a dark place, where we have forgotten how to love. Prayers that form a gravitational pull of restoration for body, soul, and spirit to keep us all gathered together carrying each other's burdens; singing songs of healing.

Prayers to help us remember we were created to be in relationship with our Creator. We were never meant to live this life by ourselves. Our frailties overwhelm us. Despite our best efforts, we are dust, made from what was used to create the universe. Uniquely called, but dust nonetheless.

Yet somewhere hope exists: within the heart of an athlete who stretches his legs and heads out for a run, hoping to go a little bit faster this time; within the soul of a musician having a cup of coffee after many hours in a practice room, hoping to play his next set a little more perfectly; with the mind of a Peace Corps volunteer as he walks to the market in his sandals saying, "Bonjour" to his neighbors hoping to effect change, peacefully alongside.

Great is thy faithfulness, O God, have mercy!
Your unchanging presence and compassions that fail not sustain us. With strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, we can carry on.

Blessings all mine — and all of yours, for this day and every day. Amen.

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

King James Version

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowéd be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in 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.

Pray with the words that hold the most meaning for you, even if they differ from your neighbor's.

Call to Offering

Sharing of Offering

We invite you to prayerfully donate to the continued life and work of our congregation.

Offertory *Lo How A Rose* - arr. J.B. Taylor

* **Doxology** *Praise God,* Song sheet
from Whom All Blessings Flow

Prayer of Thanksgiving

* **Sending Hymn** *The First Nowell* Song sheet

Feel free to come forward during the closing song to light a candle, as a public sign of an inward commitment to life in the light of Christ.