



PEACHTREE ROAD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
THE TWENTY-SECOND DAY *of* DECEMBER, 2024

TEN O'CLOCK

3180 PEACHTREE ROAD, NE . ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30305
WWW.PRUMC.ORG . (404) 266-2373

MORNING WORSHIP

THE MOORE CHAPEL

DECEMBER 22, 2024 . 10:00 AM

THE GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Christmas Pastorale

Arcangelo Corelli
(1653-1713)

Scott Atchison, *organ*
Chamber Orchestra

THE GREETING

We welcome each of you to this service!
We pray that this time together will be a blessing in your life.

THE CHORAL INTROIT

Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland
Savior of the nations, come; Virgin's Son here make thy home! Marvel now,
O heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

AT THE PROCESSION, *

HYMN 240

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
2. Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on-ciled!"
late in time be - hold him come, off-spring of a vir-gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na-tions rise, join the tri-umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'in-car-nate De - i - ty,
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with th'an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth-le-hem!"
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *

Minister: Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Minister and People: Prince of Peace, you have promised to renew our lives, to be with us in a new heaven and new earth—a realm where steadfast love and faithfulness are embraced forever. But we are afraid of your promised coming. We cling to rules we understand: the rules of privilege and power. We are afraid of a world of true justice and peace, afraid that you will change the status quo. As we wait for you to live among us, we confess our unwillingness to see that you have been here all along.

Minister: Hear the good news: God is with us! Open your heart to the one who makes all things new. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God.
Amen.

GLORIA PATRI *

Charles Meineke

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE *

**

† *The people are seated.*

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Veni Emmanuel

Choir: O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Leader: Long ago a group of shepherds were keeping watch over their flocks by night when they encountered a heavenly angel. Their first reaction was one of fear, but the angel challenged them to let go of their fears and believe the news of great joy that was being proclaimed.

People: **There are times when our fears get the best of us. “Lord, give us your peace in the midst of our fears to listen for your voice and to believe your good news. We want to believe. Lord, help our unbelief.”**

Leader: Today we light the candle of love. May its light remind us that while we wait for the Lord, truly the Lord already is here. Hope is here. Love is here. Joy is here. We are home!

†The Lighting of the Candle

Leader: Fill us with your love, Lord.

People (all sing): **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CONGREGATION

PASTORAL PRAYER

AT THE OFFERTORY,

† An offering is collected to support the work of Peachtree Road United Methodist Church sharing God's love with the world. Please register your attendance in the Ritual of Christian Fellowship Folder. Let us know if you are new, would like to become a member or are interested in more information about Peachtree Road.

ANTHEM

For unto us a Child is born, Messiah

G.F. Handel
(1685-1759)

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

Schola Cantorum
Chamber Orchestra

AT THE PRESENTATION *

HYMN 95

Tune: *Old Hundredth*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

THE GOSPEL LESSON * Luke 2:1-20

† following the reading:

Minister: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

Shepherds: I've Got Good News

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

SENDING FORTH

HYMN 238

Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria

1. An-gels we have heard on high sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep-herds, why this ju - bi-lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
3. Come to Beth-le - hem and see Christ whose birth the an - gels sing;
4. See him in a man - ger laid, whom the choirs of an - gels praise;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad-some tid - ings be which in - spire your heaven - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee, Christ the Lord, the new - born King.
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.

Refrain
Glo - - - - - ri - a,

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - - -

ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

COMMISSIONING OF THE GUATEMALA MISSION TEAM

BLESSING *

PEACE *

Minister: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

RESPONSE *

Tune: *Houston*

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus. In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

Choir and Congregation

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Vom Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her
(From Heaven Above to Earth I Come)

Johann Pachelbel
(1653-1706)

* Stand as you are able. ** Ushers will seat all those who are waiting.

Please turn off all mobile and electronic devices while in the Sanctuary.

Preaching: Rev. Bill Britt, *Senior Minister*

Liturgists: Rev. Emily Miles, *Associate Minister and Director of Mental Wellness*

Music: Scott Atchison, *Director of Music and Organist*

Jonathan Easter, *Guest Organist*

Dr. Robin Hensley, *Assistant Organist*

Schola Cantorum

Lighting the Advent Candle Today:

Ashi, Tejal, Caleb, Ria, Trey and Luke Parikh

For information on upcoming worship services please visit www.prumc.org.

WELCOME TO PEACHTREE ROAD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

We are glad you are with us today! **Please check in** to help us keep in touch with our faith community. Sign in using the red pads in your pew, scan the QR codes here, or check in with one click on the PRUMC App.

Thank you! We hope you will join us again in the coming weeks.

Guest Check-in



Member Check-in



DECEMBER 22, 2024

TODAY

The Longest Night Prayer Service

Sunday, **December 22**, 5:30 pm, Moore Chapel

If you find the holidays difficult, or if you would like to experience quiet reflection at this time of year, please join us for *The Longest Night* prayer service later today. Pastoral Counselor Andrea DeWalt will offer a special message of hope, and we will remember that *"the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it."* John 1:5

Advent Homebound Visitation

Share Christmas cheer with our homebound adults. Select a member's card from the altar rail and take a treat, send a note, or make a special visit. Let them know they are not forgotten this time of year.

Sponsor a Dove This Christmas

This will be the only Christmas that the unique gift of a Dove sponsorship will be available at Peachtree Road. Recipients near and far may view the Doves in person, on our worship and music livestreams, and on our website. For those who have sponsored or plan to sponsor a Dove, special acknowledgment cards are available throughout the church. These elegant cards allow you to share with your honoree that a Dove soars in their name. Sponsor your dove at prumc.org/doves and give a once-in-a-lifetime gift this Christmas!

Christmas Cheer at The Dogwood Shop

Sundays, 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

Monday - Friday, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Browse festive table settings, hostess gifts, sparkling holiday decor, and more! We have the perfect gift and festive wrapping. This is the place for last minute stocking stuffers, Christmas morning PJs, or Christmas day games. Best of all, The Dogwood shop proceeds benefit PRUMC Global Missions initiatives.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Tuesday, **December 24**, Sanctuary

Come celebrate this glorious night with us! Our beautiful services offer meaningful messages and magnificent music. Childcare available for ages 3 and under at the 4:00 and 6:00 pm services.

11:00 am Christmas Service of Holy Communion
A celebration of the Eucharist

4:00 pm Family Candlelight & Pageant
Children's choirs and nativity pageant

6:00 pm Family Candlelight & Pageant
Children's choirs and nativity pageant

8:00 pm Festival of Lessons & Carols
With Chancel Choir & Orchestra

10:30 pm Festival Choral Eucharist
Eucharist celebration with Chancel Choir & Orchestra

Water for Kenya Christmas Eve Offering

Each Christmas, our special offering provides clean water filters for an entire region in Kenya. Dirty water steals health and hope from Kenyan families, and each \$50 water filter brings life, opportunity, and lasting change. Thanks to your generosity, past recipients are now leaders, helping others access clean water. Together, we're creating a legacy of transformation, reflecting the living water Jesus promised in John 4:14. *"But whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."* Donate at prumc.org/give.

Christmas Eve Volunteer Choir

Tuesday, **December 24**, 11:00 am, Sanctuary

You are invited to sing with the choir at our first service of Christmas Eve at 11:00 am. We will have one rehearsal in the Music Suite at 10:00 am on the same day. To join, contact Ruth Sommerville at ruths@prumc.org or 404.240.8212.

MUSIC & ARTS

A New Season with PRUMC Youth & Children's Choirs!

Sign up by **January 15** at prumc.org

A wonderful new season of choir fun is waiting for your family! Children's choirs will prepare for the spring musical *Oh, Jonah*; Doxology Youth Choir will gear up for special Centennial activities; and all will sing in worship. Join us! Rehearsals begin January 8 for children's choir and January 12 for youth choir. Register at prumc.org/events.

IF YOU ARE NEW

Joining Day in Worship

Sunday, **January 12**, 11:15 am, Sanctuary

We are excited to welcome new members during the 11:15 worship service. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Brittany Charron at brittanyc@prumc.org.

Tea with the Clergy

Sunday, **January 26**, 12:30 - 2:00 pm, Hospitality Suite

Get to know our church and ministers better at this casual afternoon gathering. Rev. Bill Britt, Rev. Elizabeth Byrd and Rev. Josh Miles will answer questions, share their vision, and help you connect to areas of interest within the church. After conversation wraps up, those who wish to take the next step in membership may join in a brief service. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Brittany Charron at brittanyc@prumc.org.

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

New Year's Kick-off Luncheon

Sunday, **January 12**, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm, Grace Hall

Join us for a delicious meal and warm fellowship with your church family. Enjoy hearty chili, toasty grilled cheese sandwiches, a green salad, and brownies for dessert. This meal is complimentary. We look forward to seeing you!

GLOBAL MISSIONS

PRUMC Global Mission Trips

If you feel a call to expand your heart and horizons, consider joining a PRUMC global mission team. Our impactful journeys open your heart, broaden your perspective, and renew your hope as you witness the incredible ways God is at work around the world. For more information, contact Cristin Kirbo at cristink@prumc.org.

Upcoming open trips include:

- Jan 29 - Feb 2** Women's Mission to Guatemala
- Mar 27 - Apr 6** Adult Mission to Kenya
- May 1 - May 5** Women's Mission to Costa Rica

CENTENNIAL EVENTS

An Evening with Kate Bowler

A Centennial Speaker Presented by One Lamb

Sunday, **January 26, 2025**, 5:00 pm, Sanctuary

Kate Bowler, New York Times best-selling author, Duke Divinity theologian, and host of the popular podcast "Everything Happens," is known for her profound wisdom, humor, and honesty in embracing life's joys and struggles. Having faced a devastating cancer diagnosis, she speaks with unmatched authenticity about finding hope, grace, and meaning in every season of life. Together, we will reflect on what it means to live through the best of days, the worst of days, and all the in-betweens. Brought to PRUMC by the One Lamb Mental Wellness Initiative. \$30 per person. Tickets available at prumc.org/events.

Gospel Night with The Mississippi Mass Choir!

A Centennial Concert

Friday, **February 7, 2025**, 7:00 pm, Sanctuary

The Mississippi Mass Choir has inspired millions with their powerful gospel music, blending resilience, hope, and unwavering faith in Christ. Founded in 1988 by the late Frank Williams, their debut album topped Billboard's gospel charts for 45 weeks—a record in any genre. With 11 albums, 2 Grammy nominations, and a Stellar Gospel Music Lifetime Achievement Award, they continue to uplift audiences worldwide. *"A treasure to the gospel world, their music is both a celebration and a ministry."* Complimentary tickets available at prumc.org/events.

Bishop Will Willimon

A Centennial Speaker

Sunday, **February 16, 2025**, 8:45 & 11:15 am, Sanctuary

Bishop Will Willimon, a renowned Methodist leader, theologian, and author, is celebrated for making profound theology relevant to everyday Christian life. Join us and be inspired to embrace your faith with passion and authenticity.

Women's Fashion Show

Sunday, **March 16**, 5:00 pm, Grace Hall

Join us to experience a century of style - from the elegance of the Roaring Twenties to the bold looks of the 1980s and beyond. Enjoy a lively runway presentation, light refreshments, and a chance to connect with fellow fashion enthusiasts. Don't miss this unique celebration of history, culture, and community spirit.

Centennial Golf Tournament

Monday, **May 5**, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Bear's Best Golf Course, Suwanee, GA

Tee off with us at our Centennial Golf Tournament, a fun-filled event to celebrate 100 years of faith and fellowship! Whether you're a seasoned golfer or just enjoy a friendly game, this tournament promises a day of camaraderie on the green. Join us for a round of golf, followed by a delicious luncheon and prizes. \$100 per person. Details and registration at prumc.org/events.

YEAR END GIVING

Consider a Year-End Gift to Support Our Church's Mission

As the calendar year draws to a close, we invite you to consider making a special one-time financial gift to Peachtree Road United Methodist Church. Your generosity at this pivotal time of year will not only help us finish 2024 on a strong financial footing but will also provide a vital foundation for the opportunities and ministries we plan to pursue in 2025. This has been an extraordinary year for our church family, as we've celebrated our 100th anniversary. Together, we've worshiped, served, and grown, honoring the legacy of those who built this congregation while looking forward to the future. Through your gifts, we've been able to expand our ministries, welcome new members, host inspiring events, and continue offering meaningful programs that reflect Christ's love in our community and beyond.

You can make your gift online at www.prumc.org/give, by mail, or by dropping it off at the church office. Gifts must be received by December 31 to count toward this year's tax deductions. Thank you for being a part of the Peachtree Road family and for all the ways you contribute to the life of our church. Together, we are making an impact today, tomorrow, and for generations to come.

YOUTH

High School Ski Trip

January 17-20, 2025, Breckenridge, CO

Join us for a great weekend of skiing, snowboarding, devotions, and hanging out with your friends. Details and registration at prumc.org/events.

Renovatus Youth Retreat

January 31 - February 2, 2025

On this favorite weekend, we connect with God and each other through worship, games, and awesome activities. We always make great memories on this retreat. Join us! RSVP at prumc.org/events.

MEN

2025 Men's Spiritual Retreat at Camp Glisson

Friday, February 28, 6:00 pm, to Sunday, March 2, 10:00 am

Join Rev. Bill Britt and Rev. Geoff Beakley for PRUMC's first men's spiritual retreat in the North Georgia mountains. Led by Dr. Brent Strawn, the preeminent Old Testament professor from Duke University, this retreat offers a chance to deepen your faith and strengthen bonds with other PRUMC men. Details and registration at prumc.org/events.

PASTORAL CARE

Movers and Shakers Parkinson's Support Group

Wednesdays, Jan 8, Feb 12, Mar 12, 12:00 pm, B158

If you or someone you know has Parkinson's disease, we have a support group at the church for you! Please join us on the second Wednesday of every month for lunch, sharing and support on your journey. Contact Rosemary Josey at rosemary.josey@gmail.com.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

No Cure for Being Human Book Study

Tuesdays, January 7 - 21, 6:30 pm, Zoom

Join Rev. Emily Miles for a 3-week book study on Kate Bowler's best-selling book *No Cure for Being Human: (And Other Truths I Need to Hear)*. This will be a great read for the Kate Bowler speaking event on January 26. Sign up for the event and the book study at prumc.org/events.

NAMI Family-to-Family 8-Week Course

Sundays, starting January 12, 2:00 - 4:30 pm, C106 & Zoom

If you have family or friends with mental health challenges, The National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) provides a course to cope and problem-solve in a non-threatening, anonymous setting, and at no charge. Attendees learn self-care, support resources, crisis management, treatment, and more. For more information, contact Diane Sitton at sittonnami@gmail.com.

Midweek Yoga - New Session!

Wednesdays, January 15 - February 19, 12:45 pm, C208

Join us for this weekly class that will help you increase flexibility and strength. No experience is necessary. Sign up at prumc.org/events. For more information, please contact Rev. Emily Miles at emilym@prumc.org.

Save the Date for 2025 "Let's Talk: Anxiety" Series

Feb 16 Managing Anxiety

Feb 20 Raising Resilience Parenting Workshop

Mar 2 Aging and Social Wellbeing

PASTORAL COUNSELING

The Pastoral Counseling Service (PCS) confidentially offers professional counseling and pastoral care to individuals, couples, and families. Our professional counselors are academically trained and clinically licensed by the State of Georgia. We are experienced in navigating life's challenges and are committed to helping clients do the same. You may make an appointment with Ron Greer or Andrea Dewalt by contacting Heather Hart at 404.240.8219.

To make a secure online gift, scan this QR code with your smartphone camera to be directed to our giving web page. There, you can easily complete your contribution. Thank you!

