

# From the Pastor's Desk



**Saturday, November 7, 2020**

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## **A Prayer for Today**

God of all peoples, Sovereign of all nations,  
this day finds many feeling celebratory,  
many with great trepidation,  
and all of us poised and waiting  
to see how the coming days and weeks will unfold.

This week also finds us remembering with grateful awe  
those who have risked and given their lives  
for the highest, noblest ideals of our country.  
We remember them today as, taught by our Savior,  
we seek to embody the same commitment  
to what is just, right, and good:  
that which is worth living for and dying for.

That we may truthfully exhibit our faith  
and graciously embody your love for the world,  
bless us, we pray, with the strength, courage and hope  
with which you have equipped your covenant people--  
your disciples, your Church--since the beginning of time.

Help us tap into the generosity of spirit you have placed in us.  
Animate our will to unleash our kindness;  
activate our capacity to listen to and learn from each other;  
and give us, if you will, the spiritual room and fortitude  
to walk shoulder to shoulder, arm in arm, hand in hand,  
into the future to which you call all people.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Church Chat

**SUNDAY, NOV. 8**

**9:30-10:15 A.M.**

Click [here](#) to join with friends on Sunday morning!

Drop in and leave as you feel comfortable.

A greeter will simply make sure that everyone who wants to check in and catch up can do so.

Feel free to join

even if you think you want to be a silent participant.

Everyone is welcome!

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## Sunday Worship

**This Sunday, November 8,  
the Sunday morning worship service  
of Montreat Presbyterian Church  
will be distributed via Constant Contact  
and made available on Facebook  
by 10:00 A.M.**

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### Advent/Christmas/Epiphany Preparations

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**Advent** is the season of preparation for the coming of Christ--not simply getting ready for Christmas or setting the mood for the holidays, but preparing spiritually and in every other way for our ultimate encounter with Christ. Advent is observed beginning four Sundays before Christmas (which in 2020 is Nov. 29).

Please see below for **some of the ways our church is inviting you to join in these observances:**

- to contribute a daily devotion for use in Advent
- to send a photo from your household with a lit candle for use on Christmas Eve
- to send a photo from your household showing what Christmastime means to you

Also: **If you volunteered to participate in the Christmas Tapestry *and have not yet heard back from Vivian by this Monday*, please call or text her at 828-767-3921.**

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Please note: **You don't have to do everything that's being offered**--though you can if you wish! **We hope you will pick and choose an Advent/Christmas/Epiphany schedule that helps you** to prepare for Christ's coming in whatever way works best for you and your household.

***Adequate rest is a spiritual discipline, too!***

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## **Advent Devotionals**

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**The Pastor is inviting any and all interested members of the extended MPC family to participate in providing an original daily devotional during Advent 2020.**

First, please let me (Keith) know if you are interested in writing a short devotional reflection for our congregation by just sending me a brief note to tell me so at [pastor@montreatchurch.org](mailto:pastor@montreatchurch.org). **Please let me know by November 10. Instructions will follow, toward the end of this coming week.**

Each brief daily Advent devotional offering will be based on an individual lectionary passage for that day which will be suggested to each participant. The reflections used will be 1-2 paragraphs/1-8 sentences/1-150 words in length. Writers may choose for themselves whether to follow this optional theme for Advent: "The Sovereignty of God: God Rules, Redeems and Restores the World with Love."

Please let me know if you are interested in participating at [pastor@montreatchurch.org](mailto:pastor@montreatchurch.org). Devotional reflections will be provided to the congregation for each day of the 2020 Advent season. Thank you!

K.G.

## "Make an Advent Wreath at Home"

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The Worship & Music Committee invites you to join us in preparing an Advent wreath for home use. You can click [here](#) to open, print, or download a short item called "Making an Advent Wreath at Home."

**ALSO: With grateful thanks for the gracious generosity of an anonymous financial contributor, the church has acquired a new Advent wreath stand**, selected by the Worship & Music Committee! The new stand, with Advent wreath and candles, will be featured in our online Advent and Christmas services this year, and will be seen in person for years to come when we meet again for worship together in our sanctuary.

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## Request for Two Pictures

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In preparation for Advent and Christmas, we would like photos of as many members of our church family as we can get, in both of these formats:

1. We would welcome photos of individuals or households **holding a lit candle with a somewhat dark background**, if you would be willing to have your photo be part of a montage for Christmas Eve. Picture quality may vary in such circumstances; we are entirely unconcerned about that: if it has you in it, it's already high quality.

If you would like to participate, please do the following:

- take it as a **horizontal** photo
- email it with the subject line "**Candle Picture**"
- send it to Vivian at [music@montreatchurch.org](mailto:music@montreatchurch.org)

AND...

2. Similarly, we would love to have **photos of members of our church community showing whatever Christmastime means to you**--expressions of faith; family; your home; a dinner table; the way your home is decorated; etc. These are for more general montages throughout the season. If

you would like to participate, please do the following:

- take it as a **horizontal** photo
- email it with the subject line "**Candle Picture**"
- send it to Vivian at [music@montreatchurch.org](mailto:music@montreatchurch.org)

**THANK YOU!**

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## Advent Calendar

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ALL ARE WELCOME to all of our worship services, no matter what season or time of year! **All services listed here will be distributed via Constant Contact unless otherwise indicated.**

- Sun., Nov. 29    10:00 A.M.**    **Service for the Lord's Day - First Sunday of Advent**  
*The beginning of Advent, the season of expectant waiting for the coming of Christ. The service will include a reflection on nativity scenes, or creches. If you have one of your own, you may wish to have it near you during the service (or have the device on which you view the service near your nativity scene). We will invite people to photograph their nativity set after the service to share with the congregation later in Advent.*
- Sun., Dec. 6    10:00 A.M.**    **Service of Hope & Remembrance**  
*A communion service for everyone which acknowledges that Christmastime can bring complicated and sometimes difficult emotions.*
- Wed., Dec. 9    5:00 P.M.**    **Hymns of Christmas - A Montreat Wednesday Presentation of the Christian Education Committee**  
*John Rogers and Vivian Hare lead an online program that's part hymn sing, part Advent reflection and part Christmas party. Learn the history and reflect on the meaning of some of our most sacred Christmas music.*
- Sun., Dec. 13    10:00 A.M.**    **Service for the Lord's Day - Third Sunday of Advent**  
*Traditionally "Gaudete" Sunday, the*

<b>Sun., Dec. 16</b>	<b>Time TBA</b>	<p>Sunday of Advent reflecting joy--the day the pink candle is lit in the Advent wreath!</p>
		<p><b>"A Christmas Tapestry"</b>  <i>Scenes of the scripture readings woven together to tell the story of the nativity, presented by members of the Montreat Presbyterian Church family.</i></p>
<b>Sun., Dec. 20</b>	<b>10:00 A.M.</b>	
		<p><b>Service of Lessons &amp; Carols</b>  <i>Humanity's need for a savior, the promise of the Messiah, and the coming of Christ in the nativity are told in scripture readings interspersed with carols, hymns, anthems, and meditations.</i></p>
<b>Thu., Dec. 24</b>	<b>5:00 P.M.</b>	
		<p><b>Christmas Eve Service</b>  <i>The online traditional Christmas Eve service will include communion, the singing of "Silent Night" and an appropriate version of the ceremony of candlelight.</i></p>
<b>Thu., Dec. 24</b>	<b>10:00 P.M.</b>	
		<p><b>Christmas Eve Late Compline Service</b>  <i>In monastic and other worshipping communities, compline is the service for the "completion" of the liturgical day. Our late Christmas Eve service, online, will be quiet, meditative, and mainly musical, allowing any who attend a moment to rest in the beauty of the coming of Christ.</i></p>
<b>Sun., Dec. 27</b>	<b>10:00 A.M.</b>	
		<p><b>The Service for the Lord's Day - First Sunday of Christmas</b>  <i>We are not finished with Christmas yet! In fact, we're just getting started. The 12-day season that begins on December 25 continues the joyful observance of Christ's nativity and the holy mystery of his humanity and divinity.</i></p>
<b>Sun., Jan. 3</b>	<b>10:00 A.M.</b>	
		<p><b>The Service for the Lord's Day - Second Sunday of Christmas</b>  <i>On the Tenth Day of Christmas, we will celebrate holy communion, install our new session members, and observe one last Sunday of Christmas until December 2021!</i></p>
<b>Wed., Jan. 6</b>	<b>Time TBA</b>	
		<p><b>Epiphany</b>  <i>"Star Words" revisited. Details to be</i></p>

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## Contact Information

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Rev. Keith Grogg, Pastor

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Vivian Hare, Director of Music

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Rev. Margaret Peery,  
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**MontreatChurch.org**

**P.O. Box 577, Montreat, North Carolina, 28757**

**Church Office hours: Weekdays 9:00 A.M. - Noon**

(Office closed during the pandemic until further notice;  
staff are still available.)

**304 Lookout Road, Montreat**

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