

**SECOND SUNDAY IN
ADVENT**

4 December 2011
11:00 am

Bishop

Mary Virginia Taylor

District Superintendent

Dr. Charles Johnson

Pastor

Rev. Murray A. Snow
murray.snow@gmail.com
Cell: 864-414-8864

Director of Music

William H. Searcy, Jr.

Ushers

Captains:

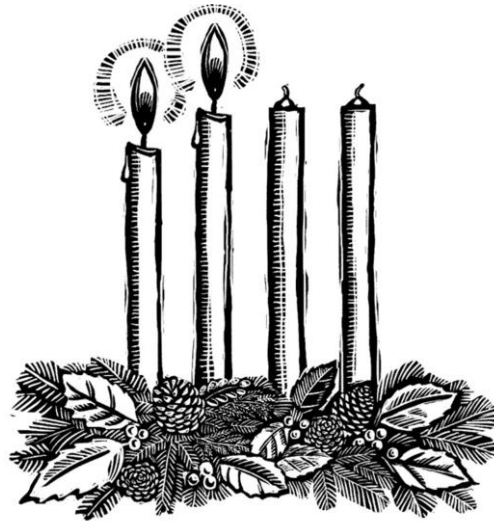
Troy Gamble
Rebecca Roper

Ushers:

Young Adults

Counters:

Calvin Bostic
Troy Gamble



Second Sunday in Advent

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of Saint Paul United Methodist Church is to be the people of God who praise God in worship, celebrating God's love and healing presence in Jesus Christ. We are called to be signs of hope and healing to all people in our community and the world, reaching out in ministries of love, compassion and care as we seek to follow the example of Jesus Christ.

Saint Paul United Methodist Church

In the Historic West End

1107 South Main Street
Greenville, South Carolina 29601

Office: 864.235.3494
saintpaulumc1107@bellsouth.net
www.saintpaulumc.net

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Let us Pray: **Loving God, you powerfully proclaim through your prophet John the need for us to repent of our sins and to prepare the way of the Lord. We place these offerings upon your altar with the knowledge that they will support many ministries that proclaim your good news and lead people on your path. By offering you these generous gifts, we prepare ourselves to be led along your path of grace and love. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**³

OFFERTORY

“In the Bleak Mid-Winter”

...”Holst Carol”

*THE DOXOLOGY, Hymnal 95

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

CHILDREN’S MOMENTS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON (*responsive*)

. . . Let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Make a way for the Lord to come into your life ...

Prepare the way of the Lord.

Strive to please God in all that you say and do ...

We open our hearts to God.

Repent and turn from evil, if we continue to walk in the wilderness of sin,
our dances, our songs, and our words bring shame to the Lord...

Forgive us, O God.

Ask God to shepherd us, to guide us like the river flowing.

Ask for forgiveness. **Forgive us, O God.**

Wait on the Lord. **We wait on the Lord.**

Come unto Christ. **We come.**

Accept God's way of salvation through Christ.

Receive new life through water and The Holy Spirit.

Receive your baptism. **God, we receive your gift.**

Repentance, Forgiveness, Restoration, Grace, Favor and Acceptance,
all of this belongs to us through our baptism.

We receive the blessings of God.

Seek continued guidance and direction to stay on the straight road...

And if you should falter... **Do not be afraid!**

If you humble yourself in the sight of the Lord,

God will lift you up; God's Spirit will instruct and guide you.

Remember your baptism, be all that you were created to be.⁴

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Glory to God. Amen.⁵

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-11

THE ANTHEM “Christmas Communion Song” ... Susan Naylor Callaway

*GOSPEL LESSON Mark 1:1-8

SERMON “The Desert Highway”

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION HYMNAL, Page 15

This is the Lord’s Table. All are invited to partake of the Sacrament. Receive the bread as it is placed in the palm of your hand and hold it until the cup is presented to you. The bread is lightly dipped into the cup and eaten.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*HYMN NO. 220 ”Angels from the Realms of Glory”

*BENEDICTION “Go My Children With My Blessing” Choir and Congregation

“I the Lord will bless and keep you and give you peace.
I the Lord will smile upon you and give you peace.
I the Lord will be Creator, Savior, Comforter, Sustainer
Go, my children, I will keep you, and give you peace.”

*POSTLUDE “Andante Grazioso” ... W. A. Mozart

¹ http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_IIIq3KHs4ic/TPB9h2w6nzi/AAAAAAAAADv8/rEAsiY2s99s/s1600/First+Advent.jpg

² From 2 Peter 3:8-9, 11-12 NRSV & TNIV

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⁴ 21st Century Worship Resources: Do Not Be Afraid Copyright © 2008, 2011 Amelia Tucker-Shaw. All Rights Reserved. Posted with permission on the General Board of Discipleship Worship website.

⁵ The United Methodist Book of Worship. Copyright © 1992 The United Methodist Publishing House. 7-8