

THE SERVICE FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Those who are able, please stand.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND NOTICES

GATHERING PRAYER

INTROIT

“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

By Bob McGee

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Family of faith, God is at work!
People: God is healing and creating,
Leader: redeeming and dreaming,
People: calling and sending,
Leader: listening and loving.
People: Yes, indeed, God is at work!
Leader: So may we worship our God who never gives up.
People: May we worship our God who holds onto hope.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Bonnell Family

ADVENT PRAYER (in unison)

God of peace, our days are filled with noise and our hearts churn with anxiety. Yet you speak stillness into our chaos, and your presence calms our restless spirits. This Advent season, still our hearts and minds as we keep watch. Help us share signs of peace with our neighbors, as we wait together for your peaceable kingdom to reign with the coming of the Christ child. Amen.

*HYMN 106

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

On-the-move God, we have every reason to hold onto hope. We have every reason to believe that spring will come, that flowers will bloom, and the sun will rise. Yet, too often hope slips through our fingers. With anxious hearts, we cry out to you, “Will change ever come? Will things ever get better? Will I ever make a difference?” Forgive us, O God, soothe our wandering hearts and show us the places where the sun is shining. Show us the places where you are on the move. With open hearts we pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Family of faith, in our honesty,
People: we are heard.
Leader: In our worries,
People: we are held.
Leader: In our failings,
People: we are graced.
Leader: In our fear,
People: we are not alone.
Leader: When we are running out of hope,
People: God is still at work.

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!
All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

“Make Us One”

By Carol Cymbala

*Make us one, Lord. Make us one. Holy Spirit, make us one.
Let your love flow so the world will know we are one in you.*

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 11:1-11 pew bible p. 11

SERMON

“Angels Among Us”

Rev. Dr. Lori Raible

COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (page 35 hymnal)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE CUP AND LOAF (by intinction)

The sacrament will be shared by the method of intinction. Please come forward by the center aisle, take a piece of Matzeh, dip it in the cup, and then return to your seats by the side aisles. The Matzeh is gluten-free, so all may partake.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND CALL TO OFFERING

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

To give: Text QUAILHOLLOW (no space) to 73256

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Every Valley”

Isaiah 40: 4-5
Music by John Ness Beck

*DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

In a fearful world, may we reach for each other’s hands. May we choose courage whenever we can. And in all things, may we remember that good news is louder than fear. O Holy One, may we use all we have to infiltrate this fearful world with justice, love, and hope. In the name of the One who calls, the One who sends, and the One who journeys with us, Emmanuel, we pray, Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 92

“While We Are Waiting, Come”

WAITING

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Parts of the liturgy adapted from A Sanctified Art LLC/sanctifiedart.org

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Facebook: [quailhollowpresbyterian](#) Instagram: [quailhollowpres](#)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you are a guest today, we're happy you're here!
Please complete a welcome card so we can reach out to you in a more personal way. Scan the QR code for an online welcome card or use the card in the pew. Children are welcome in worship! If you prefer, childcare is available in the room off the Narthex for children 5 and under.



Service of Comfort and Hope Join us Wednesday, December 10, 11:30 am in the Quail campus sanctuary for a service designed for those seeking quiet in the chaos, seeking a moment to focus, and for those experiencing loss or challenges. RSVP to 704- 554-5714 or church@qhpc.org by 9 am December 8 for the fellowship lunch following the service.

2026 STEWARDSHIP Annual stewardship packets have been mailed. **These cards are specific to Quail Hollow for 2026. Pledges made are for use on the Quail Campus and for the Quail Budget planning.** Your estimate of giving for the new year can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office at 8801 Park Road, Charlotte, NC 28210. If preferred, please email the church bookkeeper, Cindy Walker, at Cindy@qhpc.org.

Room In The Inn - The joint Selwyn and Quail Room in the Inn for 2025-2026 is coming up! For this season, Quail will be providing meal support only, twice monthly, starting in December. Meals will be prepared at the Quail campus on Mondays and delivered to Selwyn for the guests for their Monday night stay. We will be providing breakfast plus lunch to go. Needed are 4-6 people to help with food prep for those Mondays listed below, plus food donations, which can be dropped off in the kitchen at Quail on Sundays. We will not be hosting a stay on the Quail campus this year, but we hope to look forward to that in the future. First dates will be 12/8 and 12/22. Text or email Barbara Navarro at 704-351-4454 if you wish to help, and thank you!!!

Montclair Food Packing and Delivery Join us on December 15 at 10 am in the Selwyn Campus Fellowship Hall to pack and deliver pantry items for Montclair Elementary School families.

We've made online giving even more convenient!
Scan the QR code to go straight to the giving page.



Hope Like a Dancer
by Lauren Wright Pittman
Inspired by Matthew 11:1-11
11"x14" Gouache, paint pens, colored pencils, and ink on paper

John the Baptist was thrown in prison after publicly questioning the legality of Herod's marriage (Matthew 14:3-5). He was not afraid to go toe-to-toe with the powerful, and perhaps he expected Jesus' ministry to look more confrontational and politically strategic. In questioning Jesus, I wonder if John sought a particular answer to hang his hope on, that maybe the Messiah would be how he'd imagined him. Maybe Jesus would bust him out of jail and take things straight to Herod, but Jesus offers something else.

In this image, John sits in prison, letting the disciples' testimony settle in. People with hearing, visual, and physical impairments experience new senses and mobility. Those with skin diseases are cleansed. Those with little material comfort are offered irrepressible hope, and the lungs of the dead are filled with the breath of life. I decided to image this good news through the dancing light of a lantern in John's prison cell. I chose dancing figures because dancing feels like a primal response to the radical healing taking place outside the prison walls. As these six dancers illuminate the cell, I imagine John, even if for a moment, breaking into a bit of laughter at the magnitude of Jesus' ministry. Jesus was quite literally doing the unimaginable. He was removing barriers so that the marginalized were no longer reduced to begging and sitting on mats, shoved to the edges of society. He was not only healing physical ailments; perhaps more importantly, he was restoring people to community.

Out of all the miraculous actions mentioned, the news did not include "release of the captives" (Luke 4:18-19). With this message, John would know that he was not going to be freed, and so, the number of dancers would remain one short of seven. As we know all too well, God's work isn't completed in Jesus' time. We are still woefully short of realizing the fullness of God's desire for all of creation, and the work is ours to see through. Until then, let us keep our eyes peeled for the glimmers of hope dancing all around us and work toward a day when all can join in that dance of wholeness.
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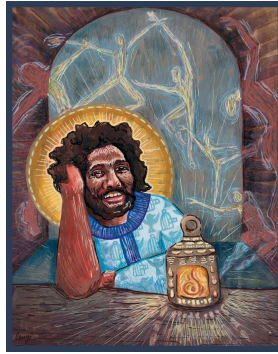


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Christmas at Selwyn Presbyterian

What do you fear? Find Hope this Advent season on the
Quail and Selwyn Avenue campuses!

December 10 - Service of Comfort and Hope

Worship at 11:30 am - Quail Campus
Lunch to follow in Johnston Hall RSVP to Church@qhpc.org

December 11 - Preschool Parent Night Out

It's a Charlie Brown Christmas-themed parent night out.
Email preschool@qhpc.org for details. 5:30pm - 8pm

December 14 - Advent 3 and 2nd Sunday

Worship at 9 am - Quail Campus
Service will feature our preschool and children's choir
Special "Breakfast in Bethlehem" Fellowship In Johnston Hall

Worship at 10:30 am- Selwyn Campus
Children's Christmas Pageant worship, with Music
presented by the Children's Choir
11:30 am Christmas Luncheon

December 17 and 18

Preschool Schoolwide Christmas Programs
11:15 am - Quail Campus

December 21- Advent 4 Christmas Cantata

All Church Worship at 10:30 am- Selwyn Campus
No Worship on the Quail Campus

December 24 - Christmas Eve Services

10:30 am - Quail Campus Family Friendly
3:30 pm - Selwyn Avenue Campus Traditional Candlelight Service
5:30 pm - Selwyn Avenue Campus Traditional Candlelight Service

December 28

All Church Worship at 10:30 am - Selwyn Campus



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