

**STAUNTON CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**  
**Worshipping Christ with Joy, Living Together in Peace,**  
**and Serving the World with Love**

**11:00 A.M. December 19, 2021**

**Close to Home Week 4:**  
**Seeking Sanctuary**

Gathering Music

Debbie Landes

The Chiming of the Hour - This morning, we will take a moment of silence to prepare our hearts for worship during the chiming of the hour. After which, the light of Christ will be carried in by our Acolytes.

Prelude      **“God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen”**      arr. Larry Shackley

Welcome and Life of the Church

\*Call to Worship

One: We are seeking—

**Many: deeper faith,  
a place to belong,  
the feeling that God is here in this room.**

One: We are seeking—

**Many: joy that overflows,  
the movement of the Spirit,  
a hand to hold, when alone in the dark.**

One: We are seeking—

**Many: the freedom to be,  
the courage to love,  
the conviction to act in the face of injustice.**

One: We are seeking, but here in this space,

**Many: We are found.**

One: Take a deep breath. This is your sanctuary.

**Many: God is here. We are found. Amen.**

Singing      **O come, all ye faithful**      **#212**

Advent Wreath Lighting

Children’s Story

Special Music      **“The First Noel”**      Men’s Quartet

Poem      “Come on home”      by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed  
Read by Delmer Botkin

Scripture Reading      **Luke 1:39-56**

Sermon      *Seeking Sanctuary*

Prayer of Confession

*God of safe spaces, we wish we were more like Mary, who in the face of great change, went and sought help. She did not wait for help to find her; she walked to the shelter she needed. Too often we wait silently for the world to change around us instead of speaking up for the things we need. Forgive us for failing to care for ourselves the way you would care for us. Give us the courage to be more like Mary.*  
*God of safe places, we wish we were more like Elizabeth, who greeted Mary with laughter and contagious joy. How many people have crossed our doorstep and how many times have we failed to see them? Give us the courage of Mary, and the grace of Elizabeth. Gratefully we pray, amen.*

Words of Affirmation

Family of faith, even if we miss the person standing on our doorstep, even if we fail to care for ourselves the way God would care for us, even if we forget and ignore, turn away and shut down, God still loves us. There is nothing we can do to lose God’s love. We are claimed. We are loved. We are forgiven. Amen

Singing      **Good Christian friends, rejoice!**      **#210**

Sharing and Prayer

Invitation to Give

Offertory      **“The Wexford Carol”**      arr. Douglas Wagner

\*Doxology

\*Singing      **Angels we have heard on high**      **#197**

\*Benediction - Please remain standing while the Acolytes carry out the Light of Christ. As a symbol of our commitment to follow Christ, we will follow the Light of Christ out of the building into the world.

\*Postlude      **“Joy to the World”**      arr. Mary McDonald

CONTINUING THE WORK OF JESUS  
PEACEFULLY. SIMPLY. TOGETHER.

.....  
(\* denotes the people standing as they are able)

Ministers: All God's People                      Pastor: Beth Jarrett  
Advent Wreath Lighting: The Sager Family; Mark, Whitney, and Brennen  
Office Manager: Annie Collins  
Youth Communications Coordinator: Amy Farthing  
Christian Education Directors: Brennen Gilbert, Catherine Sanger  
Director of Music: David MacMillan                      Organist: Gaylon Hevener  
Worship Leader: Julie Sanger                      Children's Time: Catherine Sanger  
Ushers: Delmer Botkin, John Jones, Wallace Clark, Mark Sager  
Caregiving Team Members: Sue Botkin, Bruce Bowman, Bryan Quick, Ferral Quick, Gail Gregory, Candy Smith, Debbie Landes, Ernie Landes

**Please Keep in Your Prayers**

Pray for Ferne Rohr (The Legacy), Stanley and Brenda Shackelford, Melba Cline, Frances and Fred Wilkerson Sr., Fred Wilkerson Jr., Judy Zdinak, Vernon and Cleo Simmons, Jay and Rosalie McLear (Shenandoah), Daniel Melton, Emily Edwards' friend Dennis in Nicaragua, Linda Propst, Sue Whisman, Cindy Spitzer, Russell and Sandy Roberts, Phyllis Lunsford, George Sullivan, Annie Collins' brother-in-law Bob Howell, Bob Weiss, Charlotte Kennedy, Dan Packer, Jr. (son of Beth Packer), Kenneth Weaver (Sally Shomo's brother), Tony Reyes, Louise Pilson, Mike Sellers, the Weiss Family, Anthony Wilkerson, Jr., and the family and friends of Ann Clark on her death.

**Continue to pray for the healing and the safety of the Nigerian Brethren, the Chibok girls, and so many others who have had their lives uprooted. Keep praying.**

\*Please contact the church office or the Pastor if you would like to add someone to the prayer list or to remove a name.

**Offerings and Attendance, December 12, 2021**

Sunday School: 51                      Worship: 97

**Needed Each Week: \$6,696.57**

Offering: \$3,215.23

Memorial: \$100.00

**Our Church This Week**

Thu            9:30 a.m. TOPS

Fri            7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Worship