



Come, Thou

Long-Expected Jesus

The season of Advent is a season of great joy and great tension.

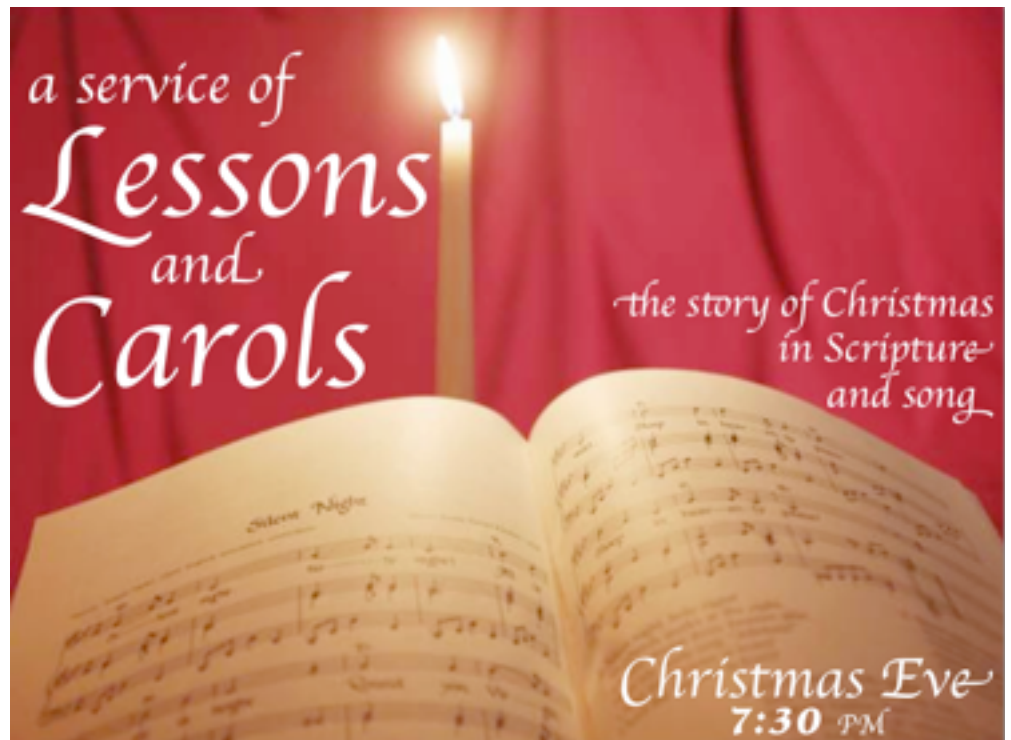
In Advent we hear the promise of the one to come, the Messiah. The promise is first given in Genesis 3 and repeated over and over again through the Old Testament. It is the promise of the one who would save his people from their sin; the promise of redemption and restoration for all creation; the promise of God's own Son, the very Word of God made flesh, of Immanuel, God with us.

In Advent we hear these promises of the one to come and celebrate his coming in the birth of Jesus Christ. Advent is not a season of nostalgia, of warm thoughts about a perfect baby, but about God breaking into our world of sin and misery in the person of Jesus Christ and destroying the power of sin and death in his own death and resurrection. The significance of the incarnation can only be understood in light of the crucifixion.

Here is the tension of the season: we hear this promise of the one to come as those who celebrate his having come—and yet also as those who still await his coming. In Advent we do not just look back to a time 2000 years ago, but also forward to a time to come when he will return and we will see the fulfillment of the promise in all its glorious reality. This is Advent!

Because of this tension we sing the carol "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" as a celebration of his coming, that he came and was born to set us free from our fear and sin. And because of this we also sing it as our prayer, asking him to come again, longing for his return when the wolf will lie down with the lamb, death will be swallowed up, every tear will be wiped away, and we will see our God with our own eyes.

This is the story told in our service of Lessons and Carols (7:30 PM, Christmas Eve) as we hear those promises made in Scripture and then their fulfillment in the coming of Jesus Christ. It is these promises that we are focusing on in our sermons during this Advent as we consider together those Old Testament passages of promise used in the Lessons and Carols and look at what they teach us of the long-expected Jesus.



Christmas Offering

During the month of December we are participating in the PCA's Christmas offering supporting the Ministerial Relief Fund as a way of sharing the comfort of Christ's coming with those in need. To give,

simply place your gift in the envelope available in the sanctuary in the baskets during the offering.



Wednesdays, 7:00 PM
Taking the sermon deeper together.

MEN'S NIGHT

December 18, 8:00 PM

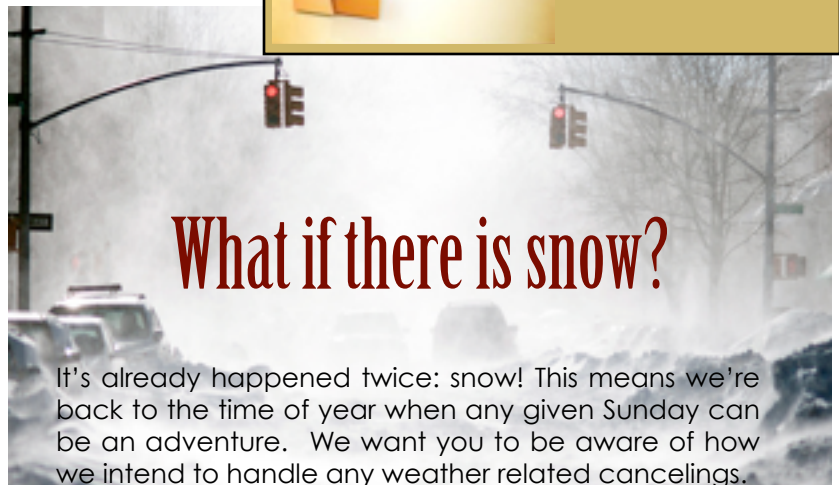


FREE GRACE FAMILY PRAYER

December 4
6:00 PM



2nd & 4th Sundays
November 13 & 27



What if there is snow?

It's already happened twice: snow! This means we're back to the time of year when any given Sunday can be an adventure. We want you to be aware of how we intend to handle any weather related cancelings.

- The office will be closed whenever Lewiston schools are closed.
- We will not be quick to cancel services.
- Church will be cancelled when weather severely impacts safe travel (e.g., roads are not plowed) or other logistical aspects of gathering for worship (e.g., the building is without power, the parking lot is not plowed, etc.).
- If the worship service is cancelled, the decision will be announced on the church's web site, the church voice mail message, and channel 6.

For 38 years, the **PCA Ministerial Relief Fund** has provided assistance to our retired church servants in times of severe financial need through churches and individuals who give to the annual

Christmas Offering

A PASTOR FORCED INTO RETIREMENT BY A DISABILITY---

"When ministers and congregations are considering this question of the pastor's retirement, they don't put a lot of thought into the possibility of bad health. I know we didn't and I should have. That was a big factor for me because I had planned to work until I was about 70 or 75. If I could have made it to 75, I know I'd have been all right."



A PASTOR'S WIDOW WITH THREE DEPENDENT CHILDREN---

"I was 36 when the unexpected happened. My biggest challenge as a widow was how to support my family in the midst of grieving, while caring for young children. I don't know why I hadn't connected that this Offering was for this. It made me want to stand at the back door with the plate and say, When you give, you're serving our family. Your gifts to this ministry help real people like me and my family. It is about real people, real families."



A PASTOR'S WIDOW---

"When we first got into the church, there was no retirement situation. When we left the last church we had a small IRA of \$12,000. Other than that, we had no retirement fund. We absolutely went on faith and continued to live day by day faith."



1700 N Brown Rd. Ste 106 - Lawrenceville Ga. 30043
www.pcarbf.org - 1.800.789.8765

Glorifying God by helping our ministry partners achieve financial security

Gifts to the PCA Ministerial Relief Fund are tax deductible for federal income tax purposes. The Presbyterian Church in America (and its member committees and agencies including PCA Retirement & Benefits, Inc.) is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization.



Please make checks payable to: PCA Ministerial Relief Fund

Free Grace Christmas List

Christmas is a season of lists: Santa is making his and checking it twice, girls and boys everywhere are making theirs and sending them to Santa (or grandparents as the case may be). Free Grace always has a list of some of the items we would love to have to help us do all that we have been called to do. We share it with you at this time. If you have any of these things that you are willing to donate, please let us know.

- tables to pull out for meals, etc.
- bookshelves
- utility shelves
- music stands
- wireless lapel mike
- large plastic storage tubs
- microwave
- small cupboards for the bathrooms

Questions ? Commentaires ?
Contactez-nous !

160 Canal St
Lewiston, ME 04240

207.513.1355

How to Give

Checks may be made out to **Free Grace** and sent to the church.
Or you can give online. Instructions can be found at: <http://www.freegrace.us/give>