

**\*AN ADVENT AFFIRMATION** (stand as you are able & read the bold)

People of God, in whom do you believe?

**We believe in God the Father**

who sent John the Baptist as a voice crying out in the wilderness,  
who calls all persons to repentance and faith,  
who prepares the way for the coming of his Son.

**We believe in Jesus Christ, our Lord**

whose first Advent was foretold by prophets  
and announced by angelic messengers,  
whose birth at Bethlehem occurred among throngs of humble travelers,  
whose second coming will be in power and glory.

**We believe in the Spirit of God**

who preserved the Christ Child from the wrath of King Herod,  
who directed Wise Men from the East to the baby Jesus,  
and who guides each of us in God's One True Way.

**\*HYMN 314 "Longing for Light"** (v. 1 & 2-all sing, v.3-men, v.4-women, v.5-all)

**\*THE BENEDICTION**



*The flowers in the chancel area are given to the Glory of God by  
Lyn Davidson in celebration of Marie Fancher's birthday.*

**ROOM IN THE INN ~ Advent at Wycliffe**

**Dec 4 (10:00am) DECK THE HALLS** Join in decorating the church for the holidays as we  
decorate trees, hang wreaths, and place poinsettias. Fun for the whole family!

**Dec 12 (10:00am) Children's CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** where every child is a star! No  
rehearsals, just come that morning and meet in the Sunday School classrooms to get  
ready to share the story of Jesus' birth.

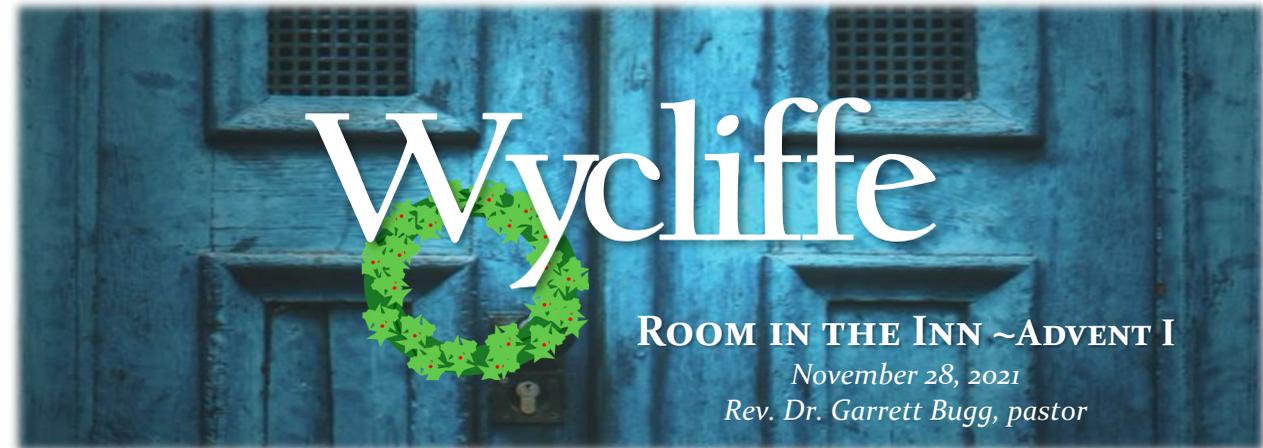
**Dec 12 (4:00pm) The VIRGINIA HANDBELL CONSORT**, under the direction of Alan Reese,  
presents a concert of all-holiday music. Invite friends & neighbors! (donations accepted)

**Dec 19 (10:00am) JOY!** Worship through music, scripture, poetry & reflections led by the  
Chancel Choir and guest instrumentalists.

**Dec 24 (3:00 pm) Children's Christmas Eve (5:00 pm) Candlelight, Carols & Communion**



Rev. Dr. Garrett Bugg, pastor | 757.496.2620  
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**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
Please sign & pass the red Friendship pad

~ OPENING PRAYER ~

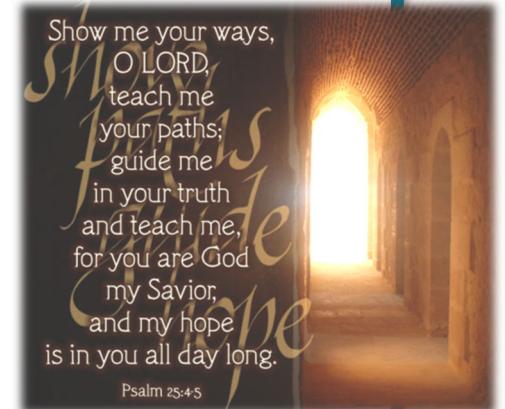
*Children are invited to join the pastor to learn of evergreens  
~ symbols of things that last ~ and to lead the first hymn*

**HYMN** (with claps & finger-snaps) **"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"**  
(view the stanzas on the screen & sing in your heart)

**Children's Time with the Pastor**

**PSALM 25**

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.  
In you, I trust; do not let me be put to shame;  
**do not let my enemies exult over me.**  
Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;  
let those who are treacherous be ashamed.  
Make me to know your ways,  
O Lord; teach me your paths.  
**Lead me in your truth, and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation.**





I will make a righteous Branch  
sprout from David's line;  
he will do what is just  
and right in the land.

Jeremiah 33:15

**Hear these words from the prophet Jeremiah (33:14-16)**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time, I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

In those days, Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

**A TIME OF CONFESSION** (all read the bold)

God of light, in the darkness of this world  
your dawn is rising.  
Yet we rebel against it, frantic to spend  
time and money on useless gifts  
for those without need,  
while ignoring those in desperation.

**Forgive us. Raise our heads in expectation  
that we may live in Light and open our doors to Hope.**

All Sing - **Oh holy Child of Bethlehem, / descend to us, we pray.  
Cast out our sin and enter in, / be born in us today!  
No ear may hear his coming, / but in this world of sin,  
O come to us; abide with us, / our Lord Emmanuel.**



**WE LIGHT THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE**

Today we offer the Light of Hope to illumine the Door of Welcome.  
May this light shine in our hearts, in our lives, and in our church.

May Hope awaken us to possibilities  
that lead us to greater hospitality.

**There IS room in this Inn.**

Proclamation in Song **"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"** C. Wesley/B. Harlan  
Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set our people free;  
from our fears & sins release us; let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength & consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart . . .



**The Word of God is Opened to Us**

Rev. Dr. Garrett Bugg

**The Prayers of the People** concluding with **The Lord's Prayer** (p. 34, hymnal)

All sing v. 1 to begin ~

Make of my heart a sta-ble, a house for the Ho-ly, a warm and stur-dy  
 Make of my life a sta-ble, a house for the Ho-ly, a warm and stur-dy  
 Make of our church a sta-ble, a house for the Ho-ly, a warm and stur-dy

place for hope to live and grow.  
 place for hope to live and grow.  
 place for hope to live and grow.

In this moment, we open the doors of our hearts to honesty before God;  
what we've done and what we've left undone that has created less hope in a hurting world.  
Let us breathe out regret . . . and breathe in the life-giving and for-giving Spirit of God . . .

**(all sing v.2 above)**

In this moment we open the doors of our lives to the call of the Spirit,  
inviting us to become more than we can ask or imagine.  
Let us breathe out fear . . . and breathe in the courage of the Spirit of God

**(all sing v.3 above)**

In this moment, we open the doors of this church, filling it with the compassion of Christ  
for all those who are struggling . . . We pray for those suffering from hardship;  
may abundance be shared. We pray for those finding it difficult to cope;  
may paths open and hope return. We pray for those suffering illness or injury;  
may healing abound. We pray for those suffering grief and loneliness;  
may companionship and solace arrive. We pray for those suffering discrimination  
and violence; may they know respect, respite, and safety.

May the Advent of Compassion be born in us,  
reside within us and move outward from us to meet the needs of the world.