

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022

11:00 a.m.



Picture provided by John Gerstmyer

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension

205 W. Cherokee Avenue
Cartersville, Georgia 30120
770-382-2626
www.ascensioncartersville.org

*Welcome to The Episcopal Church of the Ascension.
Here “we challenge ourselves and the world to love
like Jesus as we worship joyfully,
serve compassionately and grow spiritually.”*

Our shared purpose in the Diocese of Atlanta,
as agreed upon at Annual Council 2015

Please remember to silence your cell phones.

The people may make the sign of the cross (optional) when this sign † appears throughout the order of the service.

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

The Word of God

The Prelude

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Please stand, as you are able, at the ringing of the bell.

The Hymn in Procession

Hymn 65

Bereden väg för Herran



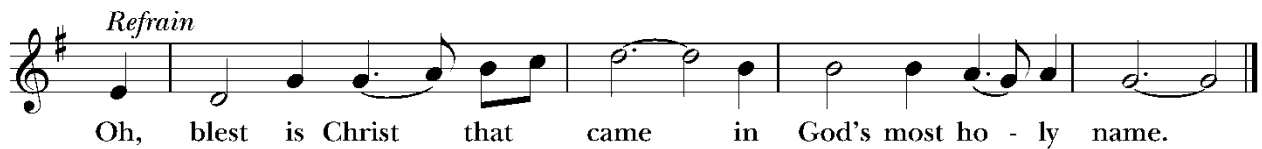
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999). Copyright © 1982, Charles P. Price. Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; harm. *Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt.

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant †Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

The Confession of Sin

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Celebrant and People

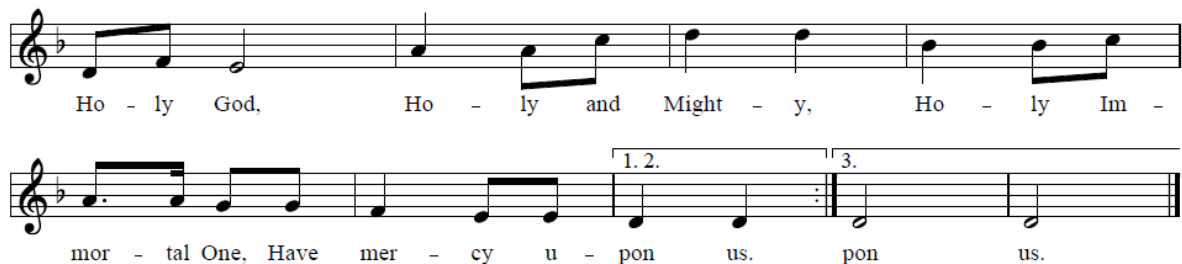
Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Trisagion

During Advent the following is used and repeated three times:



Setting: Barry McLeod, from *Eucharistic Settings for Advent* © Barry McLeod

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
 and it shall be called the Holy Way;
 the unclean shall not travel on it,
 but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
 No lion shall be there,
 nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
 they shall not be found there,
 but the redeemed shall walk there.
 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
 and come to Zion with singing;
 everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
 they shall obtain joy and gladness,
 and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

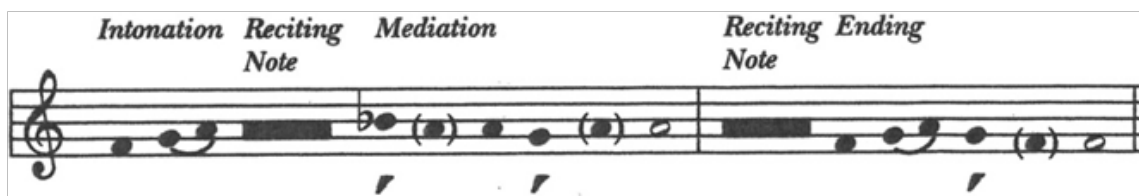
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response

Psalm 146:4-9

Lauda, anima mea

Chanted by the congregation and choir



- 4 Hap-pÿ are they who have the God of / Jacob / for their help! *
 whose hope is in / the Lörd / their God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all / that is / in them; *
 who keeps his / promise / for ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to / those who / are oppressed, *
 and food / to thöse / who hunger.
- 7 The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the / eyes of / the blind; *
 the Lord lifts up those / who äre / bowed down;
- 8 The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord / cares for / the stranger; *
 he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the / way öf / the wicked.
- 9 The Lord shall / reign for / ever, *
 your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. / Hal- lë / lujah!

The Second Lesson

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Sequence

Hymn 76

Winchester New

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
 2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
 3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
 5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt. Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

The Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
 who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Homily

The Rev. Richard H. Winters

The Nicene Creed

Celebrant and People

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. †We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Form II, BCP

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Presiding Bishop, Michael, and our Bishop, Robert; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.
Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.
Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.
Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.
Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed.
Pray for those who have died.

Silence

Members of the congregation may ask the prayers or the thanksgivings of those present

I ask your prayers for _____.

I ask your thanksgiving for _____.

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.
Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Parish Notices

The Offertory

Ave, Maria

Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

The Presentation

Hymn 56

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

(Verses 1 & 7)



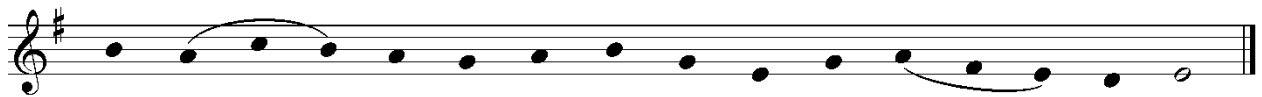
(Dec. 23) 1	O	come,	O	come,	Em - man	-	u - el,	and	ran - som
(Dec. 17) 2	O	come,	thou	Wis - dom	from	-	on high,	who	or - derest
(Dec. 18) 3	O	come,	O	come,	thou Lord	-	of might,	who	to thy
(Dec. 19) 4	O	come,	thou	Branch	of Jes	-	se's tree,	free	them from
(Dec. 20) 5	O	come,	thou	Key	of Da	-	vid, come,	and	o - pen
(Dec. 21) 6	O	come,	thou	Day - spring	from	-	on high,	and	cheer us
(Dec. 22) 7	O	come,	De - sire	of na	-	tions,	bind	in	one the
(Dec. 23) 8	O	come,	O	come,	Em - man	-	u - el,	and	ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - - est. _____

Setting: Barry McLeod, from *Eucharistic Settings for Advent* © Barry McLeod

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. †Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Celebrant and People

The Breaking of the Bread

Our Fa-ther in heav-en, hal-lowed be your Name, your king-dom come, your
will be done, on earth as in heav-en. Give us to-day our dai-ly

bread. For - give us our sins as we for-give those who sin a - gainst us.
 Save us from the time of trial, and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the
 pow - er, and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

Setting: Barry McLeod, from *Eucharistic Settings for Advent* © Barry McLeod

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast.

Celebrant and People

Cantor
 God of prom - ise, you have pre-pared a ban - quet for us.
All
 Hap - py are those who are called to the Sup - per of the Lamb.

Words: *Enriching Our Worship 1*, ©1998.

Setting: Barry McLeod, from *Eucharistic Settings for Advent* © 2011 Barry McLeod

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Hymns during Communion

Hymn 640

Aberystwyth

1 Watch-man, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom - ise
 2 Watch-man, tell us of the night; high - er yet that star a -
 3 Watch-man, tell us of the night, for the morn - ing seems to

are. Trav - eler, o'er yon moun-tain's height, see that glo - ry -
 scends. Trav - eler, bless - ed - ness and light, peace and truth its
 dawn. Trav - eler, dark - ness takes its flight, doubt and ter - ror

beam - ing star. Watch-man, does its beau - teous ray
 course por - tends. Watch-man, will its beams a - lone
 are with - drawn. Watch-man, let thy wan - derings cease;

aught of joy or hope fore - tell? Trav-eler, yes; it
 gild the spot that gave them birth? Trav-eler, a - ges
 hie thee to thy qui - et home. Trav-eler, lo! the

brings the day, prom - ised day of Is - ra - el.
 are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.
 Prince of Peace, lo! the Son of God is come!

Two groups may sing antiphonally, alternating by sentences.

Words: John Bowring (1792-1872). Music: *Aberystwyth*, Joseph Parry (1841-1903).

1 E - ter - nal light, shine in my heart; e - ter - nal
 2 E - ter - nal life, raise me from death; e - ter - nal
 3 un - til by your most cost - ly grace, in - vit - ed

hope, lift up my eyes; e - ter - nal power, be
 bright - ness, help me see; e - ter - nal Spi - rit,
 by your ho - ly word, at last I come be -

my sup - port; e - ter - nal wis - dom, make me wise.
 give me breath; e - ter - nal Sa - vior come to me:
 fore your face to know you, my e - ter - nal God.

Words: Christopher Idle (b. 1938), from a prayer of Alcuin (735?-804). Copyright © 1982 by Jubilate Hymns (admin. by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL. 60188). All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Jacob*, Jane Manton Marshall (b. 1924). Copyright © 1984 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

If you are worshiping with us virtually, please pray the Prayer for Spiritual Communion.

In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, and remembering particularly my own parish and those worshiping at home, †I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory. And particularly for the blessings given me... I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. †I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate

me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

The Celebrant blesses the people.

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

The Hymn in Procession

Hymn 72

Richmond

1 Hark, the glad sound! the Savior comes,
the Savior promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.

3 He comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure;
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.

2 He comes, the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with thy beloved Name.

The Dismissal

The Closing Voluntary

Allegro maestoso e vivace from Sonata II

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

The order of service is from the Book of Common Prayer, 1979
according to the use of the Episcopal Church.

The Advent Blessings are adapted from
“The Book of Occasional Services 2018”
(The Episcopal Church).

You are called to ministry!

There is a place for you in one of the following ministries. Please contact the ministry leaders listed for more information about where your gifts may fit to strengthen our efforts to bring God's mission for the Church of the Ascension to full measure. If not sure where to start call the church office, 770-382-2626.

Outreach	Liaisons – Linda Hamilton linda@bbaribault.com John Adams jcahha@bellsouth.net	Chairs – Emma Wilhoite mmacpaige@gmail.com Meghann Humphreys meghann.humphreys@gmail.com
Building & Grounds	Liaison – John Adams jcahha@bellsouth.net	Chair – Jamie Hamilton JHamil2081@bellsouth.net
Christian Formation	Liaison – Keith Limardo klimardo@yahoo.com	Chair – Volunteer Needed
Evangelism & Communications	Liaison – Brenda Worley brendaworley69@gmail.com	Chair – Kelley Dial kelleydial@gmail.com
Fellowship	Liaison – Linda Brunt lbwbrunt@gmail.com	Chair – Neal Brunt brunt@mindspring.com
Finance	Liaison – TBD	Chair – Drew Tonsmeire dtonsmeire@georgiasbdc.org
Technology	Liaison – Jeffrey Tindall jeff@jefftindall.com	Chair – Riley Barrington riley2barrington@gmail.com
Pastoral Care	Liaison – Sandi Behrens sbehrens@bellsouth.net	Chairs – Annette Cook annette.cook@comcast.net Kerry Suggs kerrydan14@gmail.com
Stewardship	Liaison – Jimmy Hyde hydejimmy@bellsouth.net	Chair – Corinne Scott acscott333@comcast.net
Liturgy & Worship	Liaison – Linda Hamilton linda@bbaribault.com	Chairs – Todd Harper tharper@kennesaw.edu Rick McKee rmckee54@comcast.net