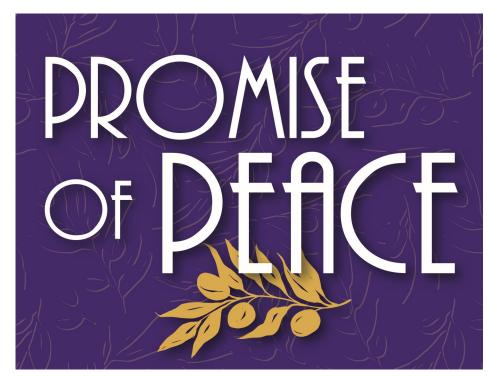


# December 14, 2025



The 2025 Promise of Peace presentation is made possible through your generous contributions to the Music Ministry and the Music Endowment Fund.

#### 2025 Session of Brownson

Alex Bowness | Andrew Benbow | Anne Friesen | Art Edgerton | Betsy Robinson | Bill Berger
Chris Hunt | B. Christian Freberg | David Malan | David Wood | Gena Smith | Jane Howard | Kara Vonderkall
Kamron Monroe | Kathy McPherson | Keith Walvoord | Lee Pittman | Lisa Hughes | Mandy Berg
Mollie Calhoun | Morgan Strickland | Pat Henry | Roy Cameron | Ryan Morrison | Luke Markotich (Y) | Janie Monroe (Y)

**Rev. John Hage**—senior pastor

Rev. Elizabeth H. Doolin—associate pastor for congregational care and connection
Rev. Austin Vernon—associate pastor of discipleship and missions
Kelli Garbett—director of children and their families
Erin Pollock—director of youth and their families
Amy Shortt—director of music ministries and organist

330 South May Street, Southern Pines, North Carolina 28387 www.brownsonchurch.org — 910.692.6252 Sunday Worship | 9 & 11:10 AM Livestream | 11:10 AM



**Third Sunday of Advent December 14, 2025** 

### Gatherina

Please pass the Friendship Pad down each pew and back again after signing. If you are visiting, please provide your email address or phone number as we would love to connect with you. Please print legibly.

**Prelude** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel arr. McDonald and Nelson

Amy Shortt, piano | Chris Ellis, violin

**Ritual of Friendship** 

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

News of the Church Alive **Introduction of New Members** 

Rev. Elizabeth H. Doolin, Assoc. Pastor of Congregational Care and Connection

### The Praise of God

**Lighting of the Advent Candle** (9:00) The Moran Family (11:10) The De Blasio Family

**Advent Carol 88** 

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**Advent Prayer** 

O come, O come, Emmanuel. Into our fear, bring your comfort. Into our worry, bring your strength. Into our waiting, bring your holy peace. Do not be afraid—Christ is coming. Amen.

+Processional Carol

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES arr. Willcocks



### The Proclamation of the Word

### Welcome and Introduction to Promise of Peace

Rev. John Hage, Senior Pastor

Scripture Reading John 14:27

Peace, I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your heart be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

Carol Anthem I Wonder as I Wander

The Chancel Choir

John Jacob Niles arr. Kyle Pederson

I wonder as I wander out under the sky How Jesus the Savior had come for to die; For poor orn'ry people like you and like I; I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

How I, a mere mortal, may look up in awe As Bethlehem's star beckons me through the dawn; It shines on the manger, the Prince of all Peace And bids me to wonder, "Is this gift for me?"

Emmanuel. Emmanuel.

The gift in the manger is given for all, The strong and heroic, the lost and the small. Christ bids to our stone hearts, "come soften and give," And offers his own heart, so others may live.

Emmanuel. Emmanuel.

I wonder as I wander out under the sky, How the light of the heavens is born in this child. The universe dances with glory and grace And I gaze in the manger and see love's face.

And see love's face. Emmanuel. Emmanuel. I wonder as I wander out under the sky, I wonder under the sky.

### **Reading** Christal Cole

### Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem

By Dr. Maya Angelou

Thunder rumbles in the mountain passes
And lightning rattles the eaves of our houses.
Flood waters await us in our avenues.

Snow falls upon snow, falls upon snow to avalanche
Over unprotected villages.
The sky slips low and grey and threatening.

We question ourselves.
What have we done to so affront nature?
We worry God.

Are you there? Are you there really?
Does the covenant you made with us still hold?
Into this climate of fear and apprehension, Christmas enters,
Streaming lights of joy, ringing bells of hope
And singing carols of forgiveness high up in the bright air.
The world is encouraged to come away from rancor,
Come the way of friendship.

It is the Glad Season.
Thunder ebbs to silence and lightning sleeps quietly in the corner.
Flood waters recede into memory.
Snow becomes a yielding cushion to aid us
As we make our way to higher ground.

Hope is born again in the faces of children
It rides on the shoulders of our aged as they walk into their sunsets.
Hope spreads around the earth. Brightening all things,
Even hate which crouches breeding in dark corridors.

In our joy, we think we hear a whisper.
At first it is too soft. Then only half heard.
We listen carefully as it gathers strength.
We hear a sweetness.
The word is Peace.
It is loud now. It is louder.
Louder than the explosion of bombs.

We tremble at the sound. We are thrilled by its presence.

It is what we have hungered for.

Not just the absence of war. But, true Peace.

A harmony of spirit, a comfort of courtesies.

Security for our beloveds and their beloveds.

We clap hands and welcome the Peace of Christmas.
We beckon this good season to wait a while with us.
We, Baptist and Buddhist, Methodist and Muslim, say come.
Peace.

Come and fill us and our world with your majesty.

We, the Jew and the Jainist, the Catholic and the Confucian,
Implore you, to stay a while with us.

So we may learn by your shimmering light
How to look beyond complexion and see community

It is Christmas time, a halting of hate time.

On this platform of peace, we can create a language To translate ourselves to ourselves and to each other.

At this Holy Instant, we celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ Into the great religions of the world.

We jubilate the precious advent of trust.

We shout with glorious tongues at the coming of hope.

All the earth's tribes loosen their voices

To celebrate the promise of Peace.

We, Angels and Mortals, Believers and Non-Believers, Look heavenward and speak the word aloud. Peace. We look at our world and speak the word aloud. Peace. We look at each other, then into ourselves And we say without shyness or apology or hesitation.

> Peace, My Brother. Peace, My Sister. Peace, My Soul.

**Carol Anthem** 

Come, Messiah, Come
The Brownson Children's Choir | Kelly Bolam Shea, flute

Bailey and Mayo

O Promised One, O Prince of Peace, Emmanuel, Messiah, come. Lord, reveal your mercy, Guide us Lord, we pray. May we see your light and walk your way. Alleluia, alleluia, Lord, we pray. Sitting on the Hillsides (from Kneeling in Bethlehem, Ann Weems) Most of us who gather in Bethlehem on this night Are not the star seekers.

We've not traveled our dreams month after month and year after year,
Poring over predictions and promises.

Most of us sit on our hillsides tending our sheep,

Business as usual.

Oh, we've heard rumors of stars,
But we don't really give ourselves to seeking.

After all, there's more than enough to do in the daily tending.

We're simply not on the lookout for stars,
Nor expecting any light in our darkness.

I suppose the important thing is,
In the light of the glory of the Lord,
To recognize the voice of an angel and to get up,
And in spite of our sheep

To go even unto Bethlehem
To see this thing that has happened.

**Carol Anthem** 

O Little Town of Bethlehem
The Chancel Choir | Chris Ellis, violin

arr. Bill Snedden

O little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie. Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth. And praises sing to God the King and Peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray.
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell.
O come to us, abide with us, O Lord, our Lord, Emmanuel.

# The Decree (from Kneeling in Bethlehem, Ann Weems)

And in these days a decree goes out to all the world, For these are taxing times. We are called again to go to Bethlehem, No matter the state of our health or our world. We come, obedient and faithful, For we have heard the message, We have dreamed the dream That God will come to dwell among us. We come, expectant with joy, pregnant with anticipation, For God has done great things for us. We Come searching for a sign; Bearing our gifts we come. We come, called from the silent hillsides of our hearts, Startled and frightened by the magnitude of light, We huddle together toward Bethlehem. We come, one by one, and yet, as one, Dancing in to the Promise.

**Carol Anthem** 

Where Riches Is Everlastingly
The Chancel Choir | Wayne Osborne, percussion

arr. Bob Chilcott

Into this world this day did come Jesus Christ both God and Man,
Lord and servant in one person, Born of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

I pray you be merry and sing with me in worship of Christ's nativity.

He that was rich without a need appeared in this world in right poor weed
To make us that were poor indeed, rich without any need truly.

I pray you be merry and sing with me in worship of Christ's nativity.

A stable was his Chamber, a crib was his bed,
He had not a pillow under his head;
With maiden's milk that babe was fed,
In poor clothes was wrapped the Lord Almighty.

I pray you be merry and sing with me in worship of Christ's nativity.

A noble lesson here is taught, to set all worldly riches at naught,
But pray that we may be thither brought where riches is everlastingly.

I pray you be merry and sing with me in worship of Christ's nativity.

#### Reading

# View the Present Through the Promise (By Thomas H. Troeger)

View the present through the promise, Christ will come again.

Trust despite the deepening darkness, Christ will come again.

Lift the world above its grieving through your watching and believing In the hope past hope's conceiving: Christ will come again.

Probe the present with the promise, Christ will come again.

Let your daily actions witness, Christ will come again.

Let your loving and your giving and your justice and forgiving Be a sign to all the living: Christ will come again.

Match the present to the promise, Christ will come again.

Make this your hope your guiding premise, Christ will come again.

Pattern all your calculating and the world you are creating

To the advent you are waiting: Christ will come again.

#### **Carol Anthem**

Who at My Door is Standing
The Brownson Youth Choir

K. Lee Scott

Who at my door is standing, there patiently drawing near, Who entrance is he calling? Whose is the voice I hear?

Sweetly the tones are falling: "Now open the door for me!" If thou wilt heed my calling, I will abide with thee."

Within my heart uncertain are rooms of doubt and fear. What can I offer to him? Will Christ now enter in?

Yet the tones are falling: "Now open the door for me! If thou wilt heed my calling, I will abide with thee."

Door of my heart, I hasten! Thee will I open wide. Though he knows I am imperfect, he shall with me abide.

Sweetly the tones are falling; "Now open the door for me!" Lord God, I hear thee calling, Come now abide with me.

Dear Lord, abide with me!

God So Loved the World (from Kneeling in Bethlehem, Ann Weems) The story of Jesus Christ is this:

The people of this earth waited for a Messiah ...a Savior...

And only God would send a little baby king.

The child grew and began to question things as they were, And the man moved through his days and through this world, Questioning the system of kings and priests and marketplace.

He was called

The New Creation

The New Covenant

The Son of God who brought to all

Who listened

Who saw

Who understood

Change and new life.

But kings and corporations and churches of this world Work very hard to keep things as they are out into forever Amen.

And so they killed him:

He who said, Love one another,

He who said, Feed my sheep,

For they didn't want to share their bread and their wine.

Now the story should have ended there

Except that the story has always been

That our God is the God of the covenant.

The Good News is that in spite of our faithlessness

God is faithful

And Jesus Christ was resurrected,

For God so loved the world

That he gave his only begotten Son

That whoever believed might have everlasting Life.

Listen, you who have ears to hear.

Listen, and sit down to bread and wine with strangers.

Feed his sheep...Love one another,

And claim new life in his name.

# Responding

Prayers of the People The Lord's Prayer Rev. Austin Vernon, Assoc. Pastor of Discipleship and Missions

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory The Wexford Carol
The Chancel Choir

arr. Elaine Hagenburg

Good people all, this Christmas time, consider well and bear in mind,

What our good God for us has done, in sending his beloved Son.

With Mary holy, we should pray to God with love this Christmas day;

In Bethlehem upon that morn, there was a blessed Messiah born.

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep their flocks of lambs, and feeding sheep;

To whom God's angels did appear, which put the shepherds in great fear.

"Prepare and go, " the angels said, "To Bethlehem. Be not afraid.

For there you'll find this happy morn a princely babe sweet Jesus born."

With thankful heart and joyful mind, the shepherds went the babe to find,

And as God's angels had foretold, they did our Savior Christ behold.

Within a manger he was laid, And by his side the virgin maid

Attending on the Lord of Life, came to earth to end all strife.

With Mary holy, we should pray to God with love this Christmas day;

In Bethlehem upon that morn, there was a blessed Messiah born.

Peace on Earth (from Kneeling in Bethlehem, Ann Weems)

"Peace on earth, good will to all"
The song came out like one loud hosanna
Hurled through the earth's darkness,
Lighting the Bethlehem sky.
Sometimes I hear it now,
But it means a baby in a manger;
It means a time of year,
A cozy feeling,
A few coins in the Salvation Army bucket.
It doesn't mean muchAnd then it's gone,
Lost in the tinsel.

Where did the angels' song go?
Who hushed the alleluias?
Was it death and war and disease and poverty?
Was it darkness and chaos and famine and plague?
Who brought violence and took away the sweet plucking of heavenly harps?
Who brought despair and took away hope?
Who brought barrenness and crushed the flowers?
Who stole the music and brought the silence?
What Herods lurk within our world seeking
To kill our children?

Are there still those
Who listen for the brush of angel wings
And look for stars above some godforsaken little stable?
Are there still those
Who long to hear an angel's song
And touch a star?

To kneel beside some other shepherd
In the hope of catching a glimpse of eternity
In a baby's smile?
Are there still those who sing
"Peace on earth, good will to all"?
If there are – then, O Lord,
Keep ablaze their flickering candle
In the darkness of this world!

**Carol Anthem** Peace on Earth

Words and Music by Karen Marrolli

The Chancel Choir | Chris Ellis, violin | Kelly Bolam Shea, flute | Wayne Osborn, percussion

"Dedicated in memory of beloved, husband, brother, son, choir member, teacher, friend and forever Tarheel, Bob Henderson whose life reflected love, joy, hope, and peace."

Peace on earth, peace on earth,
We shall know peace,
Peace on earth, peace on earth,
We shall know peace,
When Christ comes to reign within us,
When Christ is born in us.
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!
(Glory to God in the highest)
Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis!
(And on earth peace goodwill to all!)

+Benediction

Rev. John Hage, Senior Pastor

+Closing Carol

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN arr. Willcocks



A moment of silence followed by three chimes, signifying the Trinity, concludes Worship.

**Postlude** 

Adeste Fidelis
Timothy Belk, organ

Eric Thiman

# **Chancel Choir**

Soprano	Alto	Tenor	Bass	
Lisa Beck	Heide Hotchkiss	Matt Franks	John Bullard	
Martha Butler	Mary Margaret McNeill	Jared Garbett	Christian Freberg	
Sue Cataline	Carol Haney	Larry McNeill	Ravon Sheppard	
Liz Cox	Eliza Hage	Roland Stout	Jeff Ward	
Mary Virginia McNeill	Erin Sheppard			
Kelli Garbett	Jill Shires			
Pat Groseth	Mary Jo Williamson	Childre	en Choir	
Robbie North	Kay Bullard	Charlotte Nazario	Eve Carter	

Angela Zumult

Cora Pilewski

Kristin Ward

Pam Zell

Catherine Nazario **Everly Coning** Lily Moran **Andrew Eddins Thomas Prestwood Emma Eddins** Arie Pomplun Will Franks Mary Smith **Keaton Garbett** Mary Grace Tramazzo Charli Ginos **Hadley Pribble** Landon Harris Lera Dayne Holmes Lilly Ann Harris

Frankie Wilson

# Youth Choir

Soprano	Alto	Baritone/Bass		
Cate Benbow	Caroline Depenbrock	Jack Hage		
Liddy Carter	Lainey Harris	Luke Markotich		
Emerson Freberg	Hardin Freberg	John De Blasio		
Pearl Hage	Janie Monroe			
Tessa Hage				
Addisyn Herring				
Jocelyn Telles		Instrumentalist		
Carmie Hunter	Violin I—C	Chris Ellis	Trumpet—Chris Dunn	
Rebekah Herring	Violin I—Ka	iren Lewis	Percussionist—Wayne Osborne	
Allison Polkow	Violin II– En	nily Braun	Flute– Kelly Bolam Shea	
Lucy Zalzneck	Viola—Den	nis Malloy	Oboe- Ronnal Ford	

Cello—Hanna Fishastion

Amy Shortt, Director of Music Ministries and Organist Timothy Belk, Guest Organist

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS | AUGUST—DECEMBER 2025

B Be

Bell, Bob & Debbie



Н

Harrell, Joseph & Donna



c

Carter, Cooper



Jaimes, Andy & Molly



Carter, Elizabeth

No Picture Available

Lineberger, Lynn



G

Gaylord, Barbara



ς

Smith, Alex & Katie



Greer, John



Т

Tramazzo, John & Mary





# Christmas Eve at Brownson Church

December 24
4 PM | Service for Families
6 PM | Service with Communion,
Carols and Candlelight

330 South May Street, Southern Pines

With grateful hearts, we offer our sincere thanks to all who helped bring today's presentation of *Promise of Peace* to life. To our Chancel Choir, Children's Choir, Youth Choir, Readers, and our guest musicians – thank you for sharing your talent and devotion. We are equally thankful for the many individuals behind the scenes: our worship team, technical staff, administrative staff, and volunteers whose faithful work made this day possible.

We also extend heartfelt appreciation to our congregation for your constant encouragement, support, prayers, and generous financial gifts, including the provision of new choir robes for our children and youth. Every contribution – seen and unseenhas helped us offer this musical celebration to the glory of God.

Thank you for being a church family that serves, gives, and worships together with joy.

### **Announcements**

90 Years of Grace: God's Faithfulness, Our Story

If you haven't yet turned in your pledge for 2025, please find pledge cards in the Narthex or you can submit your pledge online: brownsonchurch.org/give.

**The Presbyterian Women** The Presbyterian Women will hold their Christmas Gathering on Monday, December 15, in Fellowship Hall. Come at 9:30 for goodies and fellowship. At 10, enjoy a special Christmas concert by the Pinecrest High School Choir. All women of the church are warmly invited!

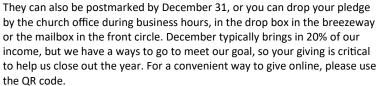
**Coalition Christmas** – Thank you to everyone who adopted a family this year. Due to your generosity, all families have been assigned to a member of the congregation! Contributions are still being accepted for food gift cards, which are provided for each family. Your generous donations enable us to offer food assistance to families in need each year!

Winter Bible Study – Join us as we resume our in-depth Bible study on the Book of Matthew on January 7 from 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM in the Cornerstone Conference Room. If you have questions or need information, please contact Alice Herrington (aherrington7@gmail.com) or Bill Berger (bill.ctr.berger1@gmail.com).

**Holiday Flowers** – All are welcome to dedicate Poinsettias for Christmas by using the Special Offering envelopes in the pews. When a dedication is received, you will be sent an email to confirm your dedication. If Holiday Flowers are dedicated, but confirmation is not received, please call Lia at the church office at 910-692-6252. Deadline to submit dedications is December 15.

Congregational Meeting: Sunday, December 21 at 12:15 PM immediately following the 11:10 AM service. The purpose of this meeting is to dissolve the pastoral relationship with the Rev. Austin Vernon.

**Year-End Giving:** We are so thankful for your continued generosity to Brownson Church. Please know that for your 2025 pledge to be credited this year, all gifts must be received in our office by December 31, 2025, at 12 noon.



## **Serving Today**

Thank you to our Greeters serving today:

**(9 AM)** Head Usher: Jim Webb, Linda Webb, Burt Ozment, Bob and Peggy Flygar, Hope Dugenske, Hardin Freberg

(11:10 AM) Head Usher: Frank Dean, Bill Berger, Sara James Reinemann, Ryan Ciccone, John Cates.

### **Kids & Youth Connect**

#### KIDS CONNECT

Brownson Little friends (ages 3-5 and siblings) are invited to join us next week for our annual Christmas Ornaments and Cocoa event. We will be meet in Fellowship hall at 10:15!

Brownson Kids Christmas Party is this evening at 5 PM. We hope you'll join us for a night of fun games and fellowship, plus wrapping gifts for our Coalition Christmas family! If you have any questions about kids programs, please reach out to Kelli at children@brownsonchurch.org.

#### YOUTH CONNECT

Tonight is the youth group Christmas party 5-7 PM in the Youth Suite. Wear your best Christmas costume/outfit and bring a gift for the white elephant (\$10 max). We are also collecting and wrapping all items for Coalition Christmas tonight.

High school Bible study is Thursday morning 7:30-8:20 AM at PineScone Southern Pines. If you have any questions about youth ministry, please contact Erin Pollock at <a href="mailto:youth@brownsonchurch.org">youth@brownsonchurch.org</a>.

### **Advent Calendar**



Sunday, December 28—One Service 11:10 AM—Hymn Sing Worship Service

### **Sunday Morning**

Kids, pre-K though grade 5, are invited after Moment with the Children at both services to join Kids Worship. Parents, if your child is participating, please fill out a Brownson Kids sticker for each child, place it on them before they come to the front. Stickers are in the pews.

The Living Word Today—10 AM, Conference Room A
The Ligon Class—10 AM, Conference Room B
Donuts and Devotionals—10:15 AM, Conference Room C

# **Prayers and Praise**

Today's **Chancel Flowers** are dedicated to the Glory of God and in honor of the 50th wedding Anniversary of Maria and Bob Milligan, given by Bullard, Roofe, Tucker, Spear and Long families.

**Celebrations:** The rose on the podium in the Narthex, given by the Coleman baby Rose fund, is in celebration of the birth of Tucker John Marshall, grandson of Linda and Jim Webb, born on November 30, 2025.

Hospital/Rehab: Brenda Hiscott (Hospital in VA)

# Local Missions | Ways to Serve

#### SANDHILLS COALITION

DONATION PRIORITIES: Peanut Butter, Jelly, Rice and Mac & Cheese. DROP OFF LOCATION: Baskets in the Narthex Questions? Contact Caryl Schunk, cschunk@guilford.edu.