

The **Advent Wreath and Chrismon Tree** are the focal points of our Advent worship. The wreath's evergreens and circular shape remind us of the unending love of God which we know in Jesus Christ. The four candles represent the four weeks we spend in anticipation of and preparation for Christmas. The white center candle is the Christ candle which is not lit until Christmas Eve. The candles remind us that Christ is the light of the world and that his light shines in the darkness. The Chrismon tree gets its name from a combination of Christ and monogram. The tree is to focus our attention on Jesus. The decorations on the tree are only white and gold which are the liturgical colors for Jesus. Each of the ornaments is a symbol or monogram for Jesus.

**Please join us for Advent and Christmas Worship**

**Rumple Memorial Presbyterian Church**

December 22 11:00 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship

December 24, 4:00 p.m. Family Friendly Christmas Eve Worship with candlelight, childcare provided  
6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship with Communion and candlelight

**St. Mary of the Hills Episcopal Church**

December 22 8:00 am Eucharist  
10:10 am Eucharist

December 24: 5 pm - Holy Eucharist and Children's Christmas pageant  
9:45 pm - Prelude w/ String Quartet  
10 pm - Solemn Holy Eucharist (w/ incense and choir)

December 25, 11 am - Holy Eucharist

**Faithbridge United Methodist Church**

December 22 11:00 am Worship

December 24 5:45 am Christmas Eve Breakfast and Worship at the Hospitality House  
7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight (nursery provided)  
8:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight and Carols in Blowing Rock Memorial Park

***Yesterday's Pain***

By Ann Weems

from [Kneeling in Bethlehem](#)

Some of us walk into Advent tethered to our unresolved yesterdays  
the pain still stabbing  
the hurt still throbbing.

It's not that we don't know better;  
it's just that we can't stand up anymore by ourselves.  
On the way to Bethlehem, O God,  
will you give us a hand?

# ***Service of Hope and Remembrance***



***December 18, 2019 6:00 p.m.***

***Rumple Memorial Presbyterian Church  
St. Mary of the Hills Episcopal Church  
Faithbridge United Methodist Church***

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

### CALL TO WORSHIP

In the midst of festivities and bright lights,  
we feel the darkness of our souls.

**Come, God of Light, help us.**

**Come, God of Hope, hear our cries.**

In the the midst of gatherings, we feel alone and alienated.

**Come, God of Hope, hear our cries.**

In the midst of celebration, our hearts cry out.

**Come, God of Peace. Come to us and bring us peace this Christmas.**

+CAROL

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (V. 1,4,7)

No. 88

VENI EMMANUEL

## OPENING PRAYER

### AN ALTERNATIVE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

The Candle of Memory Luke 6:20-23

The Candle of Peace Matthew 11:28-29

The Candle of Acceptance Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

The Candle of Hope Luke 2:1-7

## MUSICAL RESPONSE

“Come, Come Emmanuel”

No. 91

COME, COME EMMANUEL

*We sill sing before the first reading and as a response to each reading.*

## A LITANY OF HOPE

From Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills:

From where is my help to come?

**My help comes from the Lord.**

**My help comes from the Lord.**

My help comes from te Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved, and he who watches over Israel will not fall asleep.

**My help comes from the Lord.**

The Lord himself watches over you;

The Lord is your shade at your right hand, so that the sun shall not strike you by day,

nor the moon by night.

**My help comes from the Lord.**

The Lord shall preserve you from all evil;

It is he who shall keep you safe.

The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in,

from this time forth forevermore.

## CANDLE LIGHTING

*After the invitation, everyone is invited to come forward and light a small candle or more than one candle. As you do so, you may wish to speak a name or acknowledge an event that causes you grief, sorrow, or pain this Advent.*

SOLO

“I Wonder As I Wander”

## LITANY OF COMFORT AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

We pray to you, O Lord, **Lord hear our prayer.**

**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.**

+CAROL

“Silent Night”

No. 122

STILLE NACHT

## +CHARGE AND BLESSING

May the power and the mystery of God who is Love and our Light,  
go before us, to show us the way, shine above us to lighten our world,  
lie beneath us to bear us up, walk with us and give us companionship,  
and glow within us to bring us joy

**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not and will not overcome it.**

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*Anyone who would like to meet with a pastor for personal, confidential prayer is invited to move to the front of the sanctuary after the service is over. One of the pastors will be there to welcome you, to hear your prayer requests, and to pray with you individually.*

*Bold font indicates all say or sing in unison +Indicates those who are able may stand.*

## WORSHIP NOTES

### **Worship Leaders for tonight's service:**

Kathy Beach, Pastor Rumble Memorial Presbyterian, Ben Carson, Pastor Faithbridge United Methodist, Stephanie Hankins, Parish Associate Minister, Rumble Memorial Presbyterian, Andrew Hege, Rector St. Mary of the Hill’s Episcopal, Dave McCollum, Director of Music, Rumble Memorial Presbyterian, Eric Luke, Accompanist Rumble Memorial Presbyterian, Caroline Beach-Verhey, Soloist.

In this service of Hope and Remembrance, sometimes called a "Blue Christmas" service or a "longest night" service, we acknowledge, as the Body of Christ, that there are many for whom the holiday season is not a joyful time. Many of us are lonely, mourning, or feeling alienated from family or friends. Some people experience depression and sadness and yet often feel compelled to "put on a happy face" for others, denying our true feelings.

In this service of worship we are all invited to be our true selves and to allow our true feelings to be expressed, trusting that this caring, Christian community is a safe place to feel our hurts and sorrows during this season. This service gives us space to share and time to live with all the feelings we have.

As we gather this evening, we embrace and claim the darkness that is present both in the world and in our own lives. As people who are familiar with the darkness, we also know that we gather to be illumined by the light of the Christ Child this Christmas season. May the Christ Child, born in a lowly stable, himself an out-cast and marginal, bring light, comfort, peace and joy this holiday season.