

The Worship of God

Fayetteville First United Methodist Church
First Sunday of Advent | 11:00 AM | DECEMBER 4, 2022

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin
Senior Minister

MUSIC OF PREPARATION

Carol of the Bells
arr. Mark Hayes

Mr. Justin Maxey
Director of Music & Organist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 72:1-4

The Rev. Allyson Lawrence and **People**
Associate Minister

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.
May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.
May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.
**May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.**

*HYMN 718

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

HELMSLEY

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Dr. Martin and **People**

Offer one another signs of reconciliation and love:
"The peace of Christ be with you." **"And also with you."**

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Jack and Mitzi Gary and **People**

Come and See!

"They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious." Isaiah 11:9-10 NRSV

We are the followers of that root of Jesse Isaiah spoke of. We are the ones who are now called to stand as a signal to the world, to all of creation, that peace is the will of the one who created us. Peace is the knowledge of the Lord that we proclaim from sea to shining sea.

"In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea proclaiming. "Repent for the kingdom of heaven has come near." And "bear fruit worthy of repentance." Matthew 3:1,2, 8 NRSV

We light these candles, the candle of joyful hope and the candle of proclaimed peace, in part to remind ourselves that we are a people rising toward God's promise. But we also light them as a sign



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to the world, an announcement there are some who hold on to hope and there are some who work the ways of peace. We affirm that Emmanuel, God with us, is still our fervent prayer.

Choral Congregational Response:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Rev. Lawrence and **People**

**Lord, open our hearts and minds
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that, as the Scriptures are read
and your Word proclaimed,
we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

FIRST READING

Romans 15:4-13

Rev. Lawrence

⁴For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.

⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; ¹⁰and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; ¹¹and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; ¹²and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope."

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

May God bless the hearing of this scripture.

Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES, PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Lawrence

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***HYMN 221**

In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Dr. Martin

OFFERTORY

Creation Will Be At Peace

Chancel Choir

Anna Laura Page

*In the holy mountain of the Lord all war and strife will cease;
In the holy mountain of the Lord creation will be at peace.*

*In the holy mountain of the Lord all war and strife will cease;
In the holy mountain of the Lord creation will be at peace.*

*The wolf will lie down with the lamb, the cow and bear will feed,
Their young will play together; a little child will lead, a little child will lead.*

*In the holy mountain of the Lord all war and strife will cease;
In the holy mountain of the Lord creation will be at peace.*

*The leopard and goat will graze, the lion will feed on straw.
They will war no more, they will war no more; a child will lead them all,
Will lead them all.*

*In the holy mountain of the Lord all war and strife will cease;
In the holy mountain of the Lord creation will be at peace,
Creation will be at peace.*

*DOXOLOGY

GREENSLEEVES

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above,
ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Dr. Martin

Children ages 4 years through 2nd grade are invited to attend Wonders of Worship in Room B225.

Children 3rd grade and older are encouraged to stay in the sanctuary for the service.

The nursery is available for infants through 3 years.

*GOSPEL READING

Matthew 3:1-12

Rev. Lawrence

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” ⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand,

and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

May God bless the hearing of this scripture.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Come and See: Peace

Dr. Martin

***HYMN 230**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

***BENEDICTION**

Dr. Martin

*May the peace of Christ go with you wherever He may send you.
May He guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.
May He bring you home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown you.
May He bring you home rejoicing once again into our arms.*

***POSTLUDE**

A Christmas Celebration
arr. Don Phillips

Mr. Maxey, organ

*Please stand in body or spirit.

Congregational responses are in **bold type**.

Please remember in your prayers:

Van Askew	Don Harp	Doris Kerlin	Helen Voyles
Nancy Byers	Tangie Hubbard	Claudia Rhodes	Mabel Wilbanks
Richard Clayton	Cindy Jennings	Tom Starling	
Martha Hale	Sara Johnston	Brenda Tierman	

Our Christian prayers and sympathy are with

Gil and Tammy Cook upon the death of Tammy's mother, Carol Rainey, on November 26.

The flowers in the sanctuary today are presented to the glory of God

and in memory of Jennings Watkins and in honor of James Watkins' 103rd birthday by James' family.



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Scripture quotations from New Revised Standard Version

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NA Meeting: Thursdays and Saturdays 7 PM

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