

The Worship of God

Fayetteville First United Methodist Church
First Sunday of Advent | 11:00 AM | DECEMBER 3, 2023

MUSIC OF PREPARATION

Adagio from **Concerto in d**
Johann Sebastian Bach

Mr. Nicholas Bowden
Director of Music & Organist

INTROIT

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
Kathleen Thomerson

Chancel Choir

*I want to walk as a child of the light, I want to follow Jesus.
God sent the stars to give life to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.
In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin
Senior Minister

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 203

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

ELLACOMBE

*ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Bill and Carol Webb and **People**

In the days of exile and uncertainty, the prophet Isaiah cried out:

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence. As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before

you. (Isaiah 64:1-3)

In the midst of our own encounters with uncertainty and upheaval and our longing for deliverance, Jesus calls to us, "Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come." (Mark 13:35)

We wait as people surprised again and again by God who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the kin-dom all around us.

We light this candle as a sign of our shocking hope. May we stay awake to God's activity in the world as we wait in expectation that even now God is with us, working to restore us to the fullness of life with God and one another. Amen.

*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."

OFFERTORY

Every Valley
Victor Johnson

Chancel Choir
Rick Massengale, piano

*Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low;
the crooked made straight and the rough places plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.
Then the wolf dwell with the lamb; and the leopard will lie down with the goat.
The calf and the lion will live together; and a child, a little child will lead them;
and this child will be peace.
Every valley shall be exalted.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together.*

*DOXOLOGY

OLD 100th

**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 are invited to return to seats after Children's Moment.
No Wonders of Worship today as we celebrate Communion together.*

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.**

*SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 13:24-37

Rev. Lawrence

²⁴"But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,
²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
²⁶Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send
out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
²⁸"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves,
you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is
near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have
taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
³²"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only
the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going
on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands
the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of
the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you
asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

May God bless the hearing of this scripture.
Thanks be to God.

***INVITATION, CONFESSION, & PARDON**

Dr. Martin and People

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another.

Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Let us pray together:

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have failed to be an obedient church.

**We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy.**

Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All pray in silence.

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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

...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

...And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves
in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

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.

HOLY COMMUNION

Gluten-free elements are available upon request at the chancel.

You are invited to contribute to the Benevolence Fund by leaving an offering on the chancel rail. These funds are used to assist those in need.

*HYMN 196

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

*BENEDICTION

Dr. Martin

*POSTLUDE

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Son of the Father
from *Orgelbuchlein* by Johann Sebastian Bach

Mr. Bowden

*Please stand in body or spirit.

Congregational responses are in **bold type**.

Please remember in your prayers:

Van Askew
Nancy Byers
Richard Clayton
Karen Davis
Robbie Gray

Martha Hale
Don Harp
Tangie Hubbard
Cindy Jennings
Doris Kerlin

Jerry Light
Ingrid Shields
Brenda Tierman
Helen Voyles
Julie Watson

Margaret Whitaker
Paul Wiley

Our Christian prayers and sympathy are with

Jay and Julia Travis and family upon the death of Jay's mother, Mary LaVerne Travis, on November 20.

QR Code to
CONNECT



QR Code for
WEEKENDER



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AA Meetings: Sundays 3 PM; Mondays 7 PM;
Wednesdays through Saturdays 7 PM
NA Meeting: Thursdays and Saturdays 7 PM

QR Code for
GIVING



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