

The Worship of God

Fayetteville First United Methodist Church
Second Sunday of Advent | 11:00 AM | December 10, 2023

MUSIC OF PREPARATION

Savior of the Nations, Come
Dietrich Buxtehude

Mr. Nicholas Bowden
Director of Music & Organ

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin
Senior Minister

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN 211** (Vv. 1-4) *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

*ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Gil and Tammy Cook and **People**

In days when God's people longed for peace, Isaiah declared, "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins" (Isaiah 40:1).

We who gather today also seek comfort and peace, yet we are unsatisfied with ideas of peace that tell us to keep quiet and go with the flow. We long for real peace, true peace, just peace.

We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.

We light these candles as signs of God's shocking hope and just peace. May they be beacons calling us to repent and to live the good news of Jesus Christ as we wait and watch and labor for the day when all people can gather together to worship and glorify God. 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."**

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

Isaiah 40:1-11

Rev. Lawrence

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she

has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

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 206

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

HOUSTON

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Dr. Martin

OFFERTORY

And the Glory of the Lord from Messiah
George-Frederick Handel

Chancel Choir

*And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
And all flesh shall see it together:
For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.*

*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 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.

*SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 1:1-8

Rev. Lawrence

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

May God bless the hearing of this scripture.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Dr. Martin

*HYMN 213

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

*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

Improvisation on Noel Nouvelet
Diane Bish

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
Margaret Whitaker

Paul Wiley

In Memoriam
Julie Watson
December 4, 2023

Our Christian prayers and sympathy are with

The Rev. Joe Watson and family upon the death of his wife, Julie Watson, on December 4.

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

by James Watkins in memory of his twin brother, Jennings, and in honor of his 104th birthday.

QR Code to
CONNECT



QR Code for
WEEKENDER



Online Giving: onrealm.org/FFUMC/give

Scripture quotations from New Revised Standard Version
Hymns: Copyright 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

AA Meetings: Sundays 3 PM; Mondays 7 PM;
Wednesdays through Saturdays 7 PM

NA Meeting: Thursdays and Saturdays 7 PM

QR Code for
GIVING



FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
175 East Lanier Avenue, Fayetteville, GA 30214
770-461-4313 fayettevillefirst.com
