

The Worship of God

Fayetteville First United Methodist Church

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT | 11:00 AM | DECEMBER 17, 2023

A SERVICE OF Lessons and Carols

MUSIC OF PREPARATION

Variations on "O Run Ye Shepherds"
Max Drischner

Mr. Nicholas Bowden
Director of Music & Organist

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin
Senior Minister

* CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

*Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

*Christ, by highest heav'n adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

*Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die.
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Leader and People
Bob and Karen Dunn

When God's people were surrounded by hardship, suffering, and grief, Isaiah proclaimed,
The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to
bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the
captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of
vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to
give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of
praise instead of a faint spirit. Isaiah 61:1-3a

We come today as people who are also surrounded by suffering and grief. And yet, the Spirit hovers among us, tending and anointing, inspiring freedom where there is captivity, declaring blessing in places the world has cursed, and igniting fierce joy where mourning and heartache prevail.

We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God's people.

We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, just peace, and fierce joy. May our lives shine with the fierce, tenacious joy of the Light who lives in our hearts as we wait and work for the coming of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

Amen.

THE BIDDING PRAYER, THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.

A CAROL

E'en So, Lord Jesus Quickly Come
Paul Manz

Chancel Choir

*Peace be to you and grace from Him who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed His blood that we might saved be.
Sing holy, holy to our Lord, The Lord, almighty God,
Who was and is and is to come; sing holy, holy, Lord!
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming, is coming soon, for Christ is coming soon!
E'en so, Lord Jesus quickly come, and night shall be no more;
They need no light, nor lamp, nor sun, for Christ will be their all!*

THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19
Florence Prine

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

A CAROL

Christmas Chimings
Dan Edwards

FFUMC Handbell Choir
Dr. Judy Hames, Director

THE SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18
Kathie Hansen

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air,
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshiped the beloved with a kiss.*

*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part:
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.*

THE THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7
Nick Hansen

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

* CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

Angels from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

*Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

*Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear;
Suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Dr. Martin

THE FOURTH LESSON

Micah 5:2-5a
Christie Burton

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

A CAROL

Christmas Is a Time to Love
Ernie Rettino and Debby Kerner

Seasoned Singers
Deb Cole, Director

*Christmas is a time, Christmas is a time, Christmas is a time to love.
Christmas is a time, Christmas is a time,
Christmas is a time to love.*

*We often start to worry, and people get upset
If things don't all go right on Christmas Day.
What we should remember in all the push and shove is Christmas is a time to love.
Refrain*

Maybe things don't sound right or look the way they should.
Or maybe they're not perfectly in tune.
It really doesn't matter; let's keep our eyes above.
'Cause Christmas is a time to love.
Refrain

***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.**

THE FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-35,38
Barbara Condon

The prophet in exile foresees the coming glory of the Lord.

A CAROL

Every Valley
Victor Johnson

Chancel Choir

*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.*

THE SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7
Tim Scarff

Saint Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

A CAROL

Of the Father's Love Begotten
Divinum Mysterium, arr. Paul S. Jones

Stephen Rotz, tenor

*Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
He is the Alpha and Omega, He the Source, the Ending, He,
Of the things that are, that have been and that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore.*

*O ye heights of heaven, adore Him; angel hosts, His praises sing:
All dominions bow before Him and extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore!*

*Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost to Thee,
Hymn, and chant, and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore.*

THE SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16
Lindy Scarff

The shepherds go to the manger.

A CAROL

Jesus, Jesus Rest Your Head
arr. Cathy Moglebust

FFUMC Handbells

THE EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12
Jay Burton

The Wise Men are led by the star to Jesus.

* CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

We Three Kings

KINGS OF ORIENT

*We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

*Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.
O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

*Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.
O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

THE NINTH LESSON

John 1:1-14
Dr. Martin

Saint John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

* CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

*Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

*Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

*See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

***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**

Two Noel Improvisations
Diane Bish

Mr. Bowden, organ

*When the crucifer, acolytes and ministers have departed the sanctuary,
the congregation is dismissed to serve God and neighbor.*

* Please stand in body or spirit.

Congregational responses are in **bold type**.

SEASON OF THE NATIVITY SCHEDULE

TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

11:00 AM – FFUMC Sanctuary
Message by Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin
Music by Chancel Choir

6:00 PM - FFUMC Sanctuary
Message by Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin
Music by Chancel Choir and Orchestra
Extended music by choir, soloists, orchestra begins at 5:30 PM

11:00 PM - FFUMC Chapel
Message by Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

11:00 AM – FFUMC Sanctuary
Message by Rev. Charles Robinson
One service only

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

We welcome Rev. Kaylen Short as Senior Minister
Regular Schedule Resumes
8:45 AM – FFUMC Chapel
10:00 AM – Churchwide Potluck Breakfast
Welcome for Rev. Kaylen Short and Rev. Drew West
Fellowship Hall
11:00 AM – FFUMC Sanctuary

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
Lynn Springer
December 7, 2023

Our Christian prayers and sympathy are with
the family of Lynn Springer upon her death on December 7.

The flowers in the sanctuary are presented to the glory of God
and in memory of Michael Franklin by the Franklin & Lauter families.

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

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