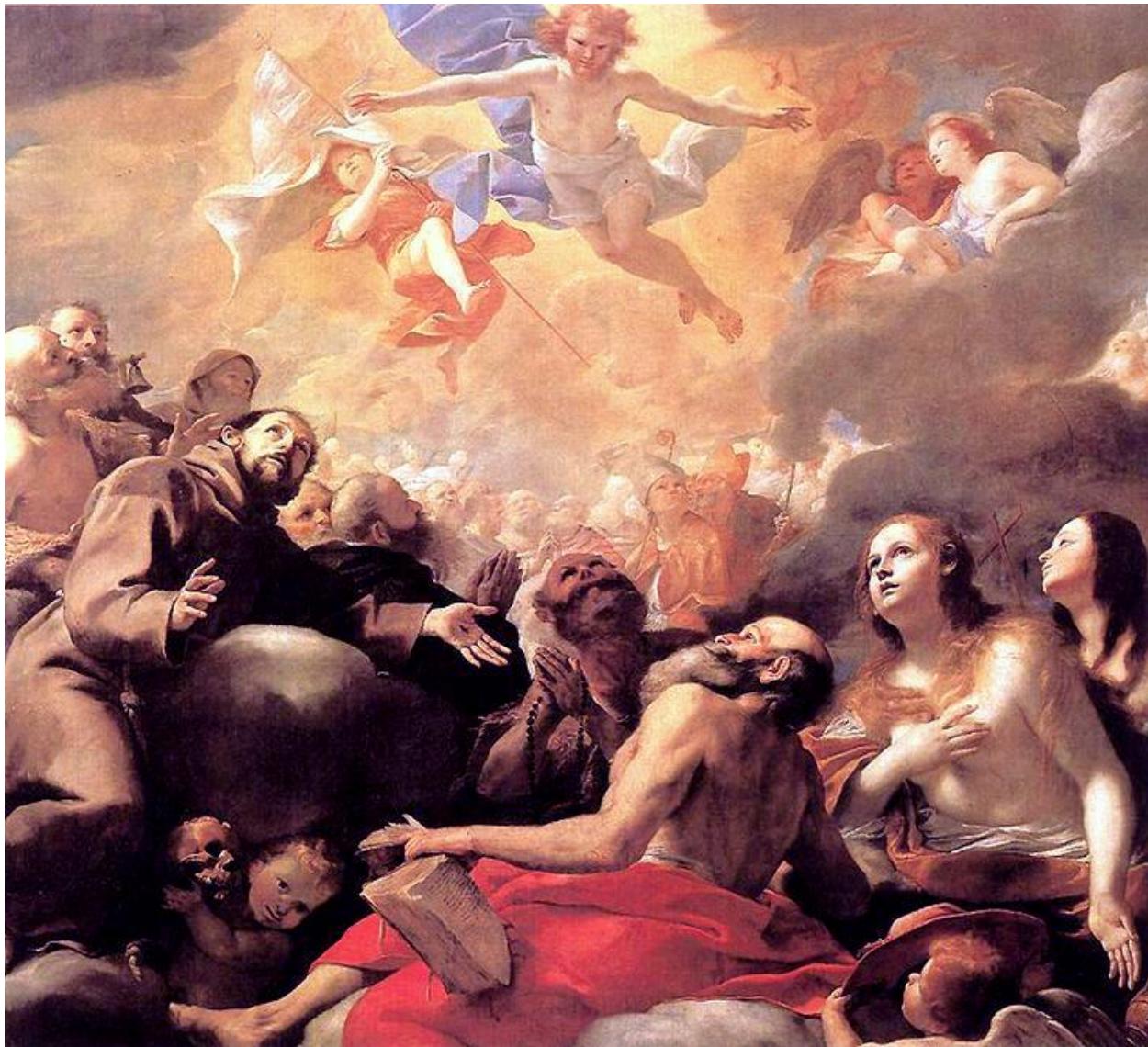


THE ORDER *of* WORSHIP



"Christ in Glory" (ca. 1660), oil on canvas by Mattia Preti (1613–1699) on display in Prado Museum (Madrid, Spain)

❖ THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT ❖

November 29, 2020 | 11.00 a.m.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA



THE FIRST SUNDAY in ADVENT

THE LORD'S DAY, 29 November, *Anno Domini* 2020

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH | SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA

Eleven o'clock in the morning | The Sanctuary

ESTABLISHED 1783

♦ denotes the People standing, in body or spirit, as able.

The People's responses are printed in **bold**.



SILENT PRAYER of PREPARATION for WORSHIP

Father God, we thank You that You have promised to be with us no matter what difficult circumstances invade our lives and we lift up our many brothers and sisters in Christ who are facing increasingly hard times. We are watching and waiting for the soon return of our Lord Jesus Christ and join with the Spirit in praying: "Come, Lord Jesus!" In these increasingly difficult times, we ask for Your strength and courage to face whatever lies ahead, knowing that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us...and that nothing can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus. AMEN.

GREETING

Pastor Mark Conforti

INTROIT

Veni, Veni, Emmanuel

Joshua Starnes, solo

*Veni, veni, Emmanuel captivum solve Israel,
qui gemit in exsilio, privatus Dei Filio.
Gaudet! Gaudet! Emmanuel, nascetur pro te Israel!*

*O come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel!*

*Veni, O Sapientia, quae hic dispones omnia,
veni, viam prudentiae ut doceas et gloriae.
Gaudet! Gaudet! Emmanuel, nascetur pro te Israel!*

*O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel*

♦ CALL to WORSHIP (responsively)

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Rip open the sky,
make planes divert their flight paths,
tell the mountains to duck,
and rush into this sanctuary.

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Come and silence the violence,
stop stray bullets that kill the innocent,
expose dealers who peddle addiction,
make your enemies know you and tremble in your presence.

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

We may fail to notice your presence
in everyday living,
in casual conversations,
or in blessings disguised as "coincidences."
Still, we cry...

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

— based on *Isaiah 64.1-9*

♦ LIGHTING of THE ADVENT WREATH

(you are invited to light a candle in your home)

WATCH: The Prophets' Candle of Hope

♦ GATHERING CAROL: NO. 202

People, Look East

Hymn Prelude by Steven Wente

BESANÇON

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

2. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.

Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.

3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.

4. Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth.

Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Words: Eleanor Farjeon, 1928; © David Higham Assoc. Ltd.

Music: Traditional French carol; harm. Martin Shaw, 1928; harm. © Oxford University Press.

♦ CALL to CONFESSiON

Pastor Stacey Lundy

The cares of this life weigh us down, and we seek escape more than insight,
avoidance rather than confrontation with God's truth.

God comes to us even when we are hiding from the best we know.

God waits to hear our story and to restore us to life as it is meant to be.

Let us come to God in prayer.

(a brief period of silence follows for personal confession)

♦ PRAYER of CONFESSiON (in unison)

God-with-us,
even in Advent,
we confess that you can seem far away.
You are hidden when we need you near.
In our hurt, doubt, and fear,
we do not try to draw close to you:
instead, we lash out –
against you, our neighbor, even those we love.
Forgive us, we pray, and come to save us!
Let your face shine until our tears are dried,
our sins are faded, and our hope is restored.
After all, we belong to you,
and in your hands, we can be made new.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

¶ WORDS of ASSURANCE

The grace of God, given to us in Christ Jesus,
strengthens us to the end
so that we may be blameless when Christ comes again.

**Thanks be to God, who is faithful
and has called us into the fellowship
of Jesus Christ our Lord!**

¶ DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

VENI EMMANUEL

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

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

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

*Words: Thomas Ken, 1674, alt.; Refrain IX Century Latin.
Music: XV Century French; arr. And harm. Thomas Helmore, 1854.*

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION (*in unison*)

Tracy Walser

Gracious God,
heaven and earth will pass away,
but your words will not pass away:
Your Word stands forever.

May our generation be attentive
so that, by the power of your Holy Spirit,
we remember your ways
and gladly do right,
meeting you wherever and whenever you appear.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

I Corinthians 1.3-9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— ⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— ⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thanks be to God!

To the leader: on Lilies, a Covenant. Of Asaph. A Psalm.

The Cantor introduces the refrain (**R**) first, then All repeat:



Show the light of your coun-ten- ance, O God, and we shall be saved.

¹Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!*

**You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.**

Stir up your might,*
and come to save us!

³Restore us, O God;*
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

⁴O LORD God of hosts,*
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

⁵You have fed them with them with the bread of tears,*
and given them tears to drink in full measure.

⁶You make us the scorn of our neighbors;*
our enemies laugh among themselves.

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;*
let your face shine, that we may be saved. R

¹⁷But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,*
the one whom you made strong for yourself.

¹⁸Then we will never turn back from you;*
give us life, and we will call on your name.

¹⁹Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;*
let your face shine, that we may be saved. R

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.”

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

AFFIRMATION of FAITH (*in unison*)

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father [and the Son],
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. *Amen.*

[*universal]

OFFERING

PASTORAL PRAYER of INTERCESSION and THANKSGIVING

concluding with THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

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.*

♦ SENDING CAROL: NO. 551

Awake, O Sleeper

AZMON

Awake, O sleeper, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
Also learn his love, its length and breadth, its fullness, depth, and height.

2. To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear release,
to give the Spirit's unity, the very bond of peace.
3. There is one body and one hope, one Spirit and one call,
one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one Father of us all.
4. Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
with kind and gentle hearts forgive as God in Christ forgave.
5. For us Christ lived, for us he died, and conquered in the strife.
Awake, arise, go forth in faith____, and Christ shall give you life.

Words: F. Bland Tucker, 1980; ©1980 Augsburg Publishing House.

Music: Carl G. Gläzer; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839.

❖ COMMISSION and DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in peace and in the Name of Christ,
to make and nurture Christian disciples
through the presence and power of God.
Thanks be to God!

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

When Morning Gilds the Skies

Jude Smeltzer, piano
arr. Randall Hartsell

❖ DEPARTURE into THE MISSION FIELD



THE FLOWERS ADORNING THE CHANCEL ARE LOVING GIVEN TO THE GREATER GLORY OF GOD BY:

PATTY & HARRY COOKE AND CAREN HENDREN

IN MEMORY OF OUR WONDERFUL SON AND BROTHER, THOMAS MCWHORTER COOKE.



THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP

(listed alphabetically)

THE REVEREND DR. MARK CONFORTI	<i>Senior Pastor</i>
Ms. JEN FOGT	<i>Video Producer</i>
THE REVEREND STACEY LUNDY	<i>Associate Pastor of Discipleship & Pastoral Care</i>
MR. JUDE SMELTZER	<i>Pianist</i>
MR. JOSHUA STARNES	<i>Director of Music & Organist</i>
MRS. TRACY WALSER	<i>Lector</i>
MISS SUTTON WEBB	<i>Acolyte</i>



Our ADVENT banner depicts a highway which extends from the dark wilderness to the opened gates of Jerusalem. The road is white which suggests purity and light emanating from Jesus. The manger is a Christogram created by interlocking the Greek letters, Chi (X) and Rho (P). They are the first two letters of Christ, coming from the Greek word, "Christos," meaning "the Anointed One." The four trumpets symbolically represent archangels and are a foreshadowing of the Second Coming of Christ. Set against a background of purple interspersed with pink and descending into Mary's blue, they herald the coming of the King.



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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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*The Mission of First United Methodist Church is
To Make and Nurture Christian Disciples Through the Presence and Power of God.*