

THE ORDER *of* WORSHIP



"Preaching of John the Baptist" (1508–1519) mixed relief sculpture at Basilique Cathédrale Notre-Dame d'Amiens (Amiens, France)

✠ THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT ✠

December 06, 2020 | 11.00 a.m.

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

Salisbury, North Carolina

ESTABLISHED 1783



THE SECOND SUNDAY *in* ADVENT

THE LORD'S DAY, 06 December, *Anno Domini* 2020

Eleven o'clock in the morning | The Sanctuary

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

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



SILENT PRAYER of PREPARATION for WORSHIP

O God, You call to us from the wild places, You call to us from the inner chambers of our hearts. We come in answer to Your call. We come to prayer, to praise, to learn of Your love for all creation. Reveal Your glory that we may see it together — Inform and inspire us to seek Your kingdom on earth in our time. Amen.

GREETING

Pastor Mark Conforti

INTROIT

Joshua Starnes, *solo*

Veni Emmanuel

*Veni, veni, Adonai, qui populo in Sinai
legem dedisti vertice in maiestate gloriae.
Gaude! Gaude! Emmanuel, nascetur pro te Israel!*

*[O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law, in cloud, and majesty, and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel!]*

*Veni, O lesse virgula, ex hostis tuos ungula,
de spectu tuos tartari educ et antro barathri.
Gaude! Gaude! Emmanuel, nascetur pro te Israel!*

*[O come, Thou Rod of Jesse's stem, from every foe deliver them
that trust Thy mighty power to save, and give them victory o'er the grave
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel!]*

✠ CALL to WORSHIP

based on Isaiah 40.1-11

Listen! The voice of God calls across the ages.
We hear and respond.
We rise up to worship God from the valleys, the mountains, and the plains.
Like a shepherd God leads us:
Comfort, comfort O my people says our God of love.
The grass withers and the flower fades;
But the word of our God will stand forever.

✠ LIGHTING of THE ADVENT WREATH

PREPARE: The Angels' Candle of Peace

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

(The Cantor chants the first stanza in German, then ALL join in singing stanza 2, in English.)

Cantor: **N**un komm, der Heiden Heiland, *[Savior of the nations, come;*
der Jungfrauen Kind erkannt, *Virgin's Son, here make Thy home!*
dass sich wunder alle Welt, *Marvel now, O heaven and earth,*
Gott solch Geburt ihm bestellt. *That the Lord chose such a birth.]*

**ALL: 2. Not by human flesh and blood; By the Spirit of our God
was the Word of God made flesh, woman's offspring, pure and fresh.**

Women: 3. Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child of the Virgin undefiled!
Though by all the world disowned, still to be in heaven enthroned.

**ALL: 4. From the Father forth He came and returneth to the same,
Captive leading death and hell high the song of triumph swell!**

Men: 5. Thou, the Father's only Son, hast over sin the victory won.
Boundless shall Thy Kingdom be; when shall we its glories see?

Organ: 6. *Brightly doth Thy manger shine, glorious is its light divine.*
Let not sin overcloud this light; ever be our faith thus bright.

**ALL: 7. Praise to God the Father sing, Praise to God the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be ever and eternally.**

Words: Martin Luther, 1523; based on "Veni redemptory gentium" by Ambrose IV Century Latin; trans. William Morton Reynolds, 1851.

Music: based on XII Century Latin plainchant.

✠ CALL to CONFESSION

Pastor Stacey Lundy

Prepare the way of the Lord!

Let us humbly make our confession to Almighty God and one another.

(a brief period of silence follows for personal confession)

✠ PRAYER of CONFESSION *(in unison)*

Father God,
We confess that we have not led lives of holiness.
We suffer from impatience, apathy, and greed;
we have not been at peace.
We repent of these offenses and turn to You in love.
Forgive our iniquity and pardon our sins,
that we may walk in righteousness to the glory of Your Name. Amen.

✠ WORDS of ASSURANCE

Brothers and sisters,
by the mercy of Christ, your sins are forgiven;
for salvation is at hand for all who turn to God.
Glory to God!

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*)

Jenna Robinson

Mighty God,
send Your Holy Spirit to speak peace,
that the good things of this age may be proclaimed
through Your Word, which stands forever. *Amen.*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

II Peter 3.8-15a

⁸ But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹ Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³ But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵ and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation...

ALL: **L**o! He comes with clouds descending, once for favored sinners slain;
thousand, thousand saints attendings swell the triumph of His train.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! God appears on earth to reign.

Men: 2. Every eye shall now behold Him, robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold Him, pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see.

Women: 3. Every island, sea, and mountain, heaven and earth, shall flee away;
all who hate Him must, confounded, hear the trump proclaim the Day:
Come to judgement! Come to judgement! Come to judgement, come away!

ALL: **4. Now Redemption, long-expected, see in solemn pomp appear!**
All His saints, by man rejected, now shall meet Him in the air!
Alleluia! Alleluia! See the Day of God appear!

Women: 5. Answer Thine own bride and Spirit, hasten, Lord, the general doom!
The new Heaven and earth inherit, take Thy pining exiles home:
All creation, all creation, all creation, travails! groans! and bids Thee come!

Men: 6. The dear tokens of His passion still His dazzling body bears;
Cause of endless exultation to His ransomed worshippers;
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture, gaze we on those glorious scars!

ALL: **7. Yea, Amen! Let all adore Thee, high on Thy eternal throne;**
Savior, take the power and glory, claim the kingdom for Thine own.
Maranatha! Maranatha! Lord, come quickly! Everlasting God, come down!

Words: Charles Wesley, 1758.

*Music: Traditional English melody, XVIII Century; Martin Madan (1726–1790);
melody: Thomas Augustine Arne (1710–1778); attr. Thomas Olivers (1725–1799).*

¹ The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And 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. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He 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. ⁸ I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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

(You may support the ministries of FUMC by clicking the "Offering" link above to make a donation through our secure Online portal.)

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. 438
Forth in Thy Name, O Lord

DUKE STREET

Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go,
my daily labor to pursue;
thee, only thee, resolved to know
in all I think, or speak, or do.

2. The task thy wisdom hath assigned,
O let me cheerfully fulfill;
in all my works thy presence find,
and prove thy good and perfect will.

3. Thee may I set at my right hand,
whose eyes mine inmost substance see,
and labor on at thy command,
and offer all my works to thee.

4. For thee delightfully employ
whate'er thy bounteous grace hath given;
and run my course with even joy,
and closely walk with thee to heaven. *A – MEN!*

*Words: Charles Wesley, 1749.
Music: John Hatton, 1793.*

✠ 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

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Joshua Starnes, organ

adapt. Michael Praetorius (1571–1621); arr. Jacob B. Weber



THE FLOWERS ADORNING THE CHANCEL ARE LOVING GIVEN TO THE GREATER GLORY OF GOD
IN HONOR OF OUR FAMILY
BY MARY ANN & KEN KOLKEBECK.



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>
MRS. PEGGY & MR. ED LUTZ	<i>Song Leaders</i>
MISS LACY MASTRO	<i>Acolyte</i>
MISS JENNA ROBINSON	<i>Lector</i>
MR. JOSHUA W. STARNES	<i>Director of Music & Organist</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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*The Mission of First United Methodist Church is
To Make and Nurture Christian Disciples Through the Presence and Power of God.*