

THE ORDER *of* WORSHIP



“Karlskirche Fresco” (late 17th-early 18th century) by Johann Michael Rottmayr (1654-1730) in the St. Karl Borromäus (Vienna, Austria)

“Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, His praise in the assembly of the faithful.

Let Israel be glad in its Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King.” –Psalm 149.1-2

✠ THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT ✠

December 13, 2020 | 11.00 a.m.

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

Salisbury, North Carolina

ESTABLISHED 1783



THE THIRD SUNDAY *in* ADVENT

THE LORD'S DAY, 13 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

Come, Christ Jesus, be our guest, and may our lives by You be blest. Come, God-with-us, and free us from the false claims of the empires of this world. We are lonely for You and Your peace. Come, Emmanuel, and dwell with us, make us Your people indeed, the people through whom You bring love and justice to the world. Come, Jesus, and reign; claim Your rightful place in our hearts and in the midst of our community. Plant the seeds of hope among us. Establish God's reign on earth. For we pray as You taught us that God's reign might come in fulness on earth. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

GREETING

Pastor Mark Conforti

INTROIT

Joshua Starnes, *solo*

Veni Emmanuel

*Veni, Clavis Davidica, regna reclude caelica, O come, Thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home,
fac iter tutum supernum, et claude vias inferum. make safe the Way that leads on high, that we no more have cause to sigh.
Gaude! Gaude! Emmanuel, nascetur pro te Israel! Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel!*

*Veni, veni O Oriens, solare nos adveniens; O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
noctis depelle nebulas, dirasque mortis tenebras. disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Gaude! Gaude! Emmanuel, nascetur pro te Israel! Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel!*

✠ CALL to WORSHIP

based on Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11

We come to worship Christ
Who proclaims Good News to the poor,
binds up the broken-hearted,
frees the prisoner,
and comforts those who mourn.

We come to worship Christ
Who bestows a crown of beauty instead of ashes,
the oil of joy instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

We come to worship Christ
who rebuilds ancient ruins
and restores broken places.

✠ LIGHTING of THE ADVENT WREATH

REJOICE: *The Shepherd's Candle of Joy*

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

Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.

2. He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in His sight.

3. He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in His path to birth.
Before Him, on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

4. To Him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;
His kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never His covenant remove;
His Name shall stand forever; that Name to us is Love.

Words: James Montgomery, 1821 (Psalm 72).

Music: Gesangbuch der H. W. k. Hofkapelle, 1784, alt.; adapt. And harm. W. H. Monk, 1868.

✠ 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)*

Merciful God, You love justice;
why, then, do we persist in wrongdoing and every form of evil?

You have given us the gift of Your Spirit;
why, then, do we quench the Spirit among us?

You have given us the words of the prophets and the Word Himself;
why, then, do we despise and ignore what we have heard from You?

You have sent the Light into the world;
why, then, have we loved darkness rather than light?

Forgive us. Restore us.

Till and tend us as Your garden
until righteousness and praise spring up,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, in Whose Name we pray. *Amen.*

✦ WORDS of ASSURANCE

In Jesus Christ, the LORD has done great things for us!
Even if we have gone out in tears,
God brings us home shouting for joy.
Thanks be to God: we are forgiven!

✦ 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*)

Alfred Chea

Holy One,
Giver of life and light,
as Your Word is read and proclaimed,
illumine our hearts and minds,
that by the power of the Holy Spirit,
our lives may reflect God's glory. *Amen.*

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11

61 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;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to 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.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations...

⁸For I the LORD love justice,
 I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
 I will faithfully give them their recompense,
 and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
 and their offspring among the peoples;
 all who see them shall acknowledge
 that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
 my whole being shall exult in my God;
 for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
 he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
 as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
 and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
 and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
 so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
 to spring up before all the nations.

✠ GRADUAL HYMN: NO. 213

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
 behold, the King of glory waits;
 the King of kings is drawing near;
 the Savior of the world is here!

2. Fling wide the portals of your heart;
 make it a temple, set apart
 from earthly use for heaven's employ,
 adorned with prayer, and love, and joy.

3. Redeemer, come, with us abide;
 our hearts to Thee we open wide;
 let us Thy inner Presence feel;
 Thy grace and love in us reveal.

4. Thy Holy Spirit lead us on
 until our glorious goal is won;
 eternal praise, eternal fame
 be offered, Savior, to Thy Name!

*Words: Georg Weissel, XVII Century German; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1855 (Psalm 24).
 Music: Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789.*

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light...

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"

as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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. 246
Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as, the curse is found.

(continued overleaf...)

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness,
and wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,
and wonders, wonders of His love!

Words: Isaac Watts, 1719 (Psalm 98.4-9).
Music: arr. from G. F. Handel, 1741; Lowell Mason, 1848.

✠ 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

Joshua Starnes, *organ*



THE FLOWERS ADORNING THE CHANCEL ARE LOVING GIVEN TO THE GREATER GLORY OF GOD
IN MEMORY OF TAMMY DUKE
BY HER CHILDREN, CAROL AND JAY, AND GRANDDAUGHTER, REAGAN.



THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP

(listed alphabetically)

MR. CARL BROWN	<i>Song Leader</i>
MR. ALFRED CHEA	<i>Lector</i>
THE REVEREND DR. MARK CONFORTI	<i>Senior Pastor</i>
MS. JEN FOGT	<i>Video Producer</i>
MASTER EVAN KOONTZ	<i>Acolyte</i>
THE REVEREND STACEY LUNDY	<i>Associate Pastor of Discipleship & Pastoral Care</i>
MASTER LIAM MCGEE	<i>Acolyte</i>
THE REVEREND RICHARD PASCHALL	<i>Song Leader</i>
MR. JOSHUA W. STARNES	<i>Director of Music & Organist</i>



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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.*

