

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

October 29, 2023

10:55 am

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

Traditional Worship Service

Church Family News

Victoria Smathers

Stewardship Moment

Wes O'Brien

Prelude

Keith Maxey, organist

Chiming of the Trinity

\* Call to Worship Victoria Smathers

God has been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, before the earth and sky were formed, God was from everlasting to everlasting.

We come to worship this day, that God may gather us in.

We will be close to God's heart, and we will dwell in God's grace.

We will love God fully, and we will love one another well.

\* Processional Hymn No. 110 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG

\* Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance

Victoria Smathers

God of Mercy, we hear your command to love one another. These words are easy to say, yet so difficult to do. If only loving could be as natural as breathing, but it takes work and dedication. Even when we think we are following you, God, it is easy to get distracted, overwhelmed, turned around, even lost. We turn to the loud praise of the world, rather than the quiet whisper of your blessing. We do the simple, the least-resistant, and leave the difficult behind. Turn us around, God. Turn us back to you when we have wandered, when we have suffered, or when we bring suffering on others. Show us once more what love looks like and send us into the world to try again. All pray in silence.

When we lose our way; when we are confused and confounded, God waits with compassion, to turn us back to love, to grace, to God's own face. Even before we ask for mercy, God has already forgiven us. God sweeps away our mistakes and misdeeds and calls us home. Amen.

\* Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

Victoria Smathers

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church\*, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. \*universal

\* Sung Response

Maker, in Whom We Live, vs. 4

DIADEMATA

Eternal, Triune God, let all the hosts above, let all on earth below record and dwell upon thy love. When heaven and earth are fled before thy glorious face, sing all the saints thy love hath made thine everlasting praise.

\* Sharing the Peace

Victoria Smathers

Blessing of the Prayer Shawls

Mike Gehring

May God's grace be upon this shawl . . . warming, comforting, enfolding and embracing. May this mantle be a safe haven . . . a sacred place of security and well-being . . . sustaining and embracing in good times as well as difficult ones. May the one(s) who receive this shawl be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace, and wrapped in love. Blessed Be! Amen.

Joys/Concerns/Prayer

Phil Kuntz

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Kids' Time

Jesus Loves the Little Children

Victoria Smathers

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world; every color, shape, and size, They are precious in his eyes. Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Children ages 3 years to 1st grade are dismissed to *Kids Connect-Worship*. Parents may pick up their children in the Children's Education Building after the worship service.

Scripture

Matthew 22: 1-14 Pew Bible, NT page 24 Jim Barrett

Pew Bible, NT page 2

Anthem Sanctuary

Thompson & Scruggs/arr. Larson

Chancel Choir; Keith Maxey, pianist; Nancy Blakemore, director

Sermon "Are You Ready?"

Mike Gehring

\* Hymn No. 340

Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

RESTORATION

(You are invited to bring your 2024 Financial Commitment Cards to the Communion Rail during this hymn)

Offering Invitation

Phil Kuntz

Offertory

\*Doxology No. 94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up lifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Phil Kuntz

Commissioning of Stephen Visitors

Phil Kuntz and Mike Gehring

\* Hymn No. 398

Jesus Calls Us

GALILEE

\* Benediction

Mike Gehring

\* Chiming of the Trinity

Postlude

<sup>\*</sup> please stand as you are able

## Welcome to worship at Main Street United Methodist Church!

When Christians worship, we step into an alternative world. Liturgy and ritual, hymns and prayers invite us into another landscape. Jesus' words and the experience of his presence peel back the rhetoric that pummels our eardrums so that we are able to hear him say to us, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." (John 14:27, NRSV)

### Thank you for worshiping with us today at Main Street UMC!

If you are a visitor, please sign the attendance pad in the pew so that we can contact you at a later date in order to discuss the ministries of Main Street UMC.

Restrooms are located in the back left corner of the Narthex.

**Should you need to step out during worship**, you can go to the Parlor and still view and hear the worship service. Please see an usher if you need assistance.

Main Street UMC's Sanctuary is an area where photography, video and audio recording may occur. Camera angles may capture your image as you worship. Our weekly services are routinely shared with others via livestream and DVD. If you would like a DVD of today's 10:55 service, please contact Kathryn at 993-3411 in the church office.

**Confidential prayer requests** can be made by calling the church office at 336-993-3411 or by clicking the "contact" tab on mainstreetumc.org .

Children's Ministry: We are so happy to share God's love with our children! Main Street is a Safe Sanctuary Congregation.

- *Nursery* (8:30-noon) is available for infants-3 year olds in the Education Building. The nursery is staffed with experienced caregivers and lay volunteers.
- Kids Connect is our Sunday School (9:45-10:45am) program for children ages 3 years old to 5th grade in the Education building. Kids Connect offers a large group Bible lesson, worship, and small group activities.
- Kids Connect-Worship is offered during the 10:55am service for wiggly kids ages 3 years to 1st grade who can't quite
  remain in worship the entire time. Kids of all ages are invited to the front for Moments with Children before the younger
  children are dismissed to the Education Building for Kids Connect-Worship activities.

# Let's Worship Together!

#### **Sundays**

8:30am less-formal Traditional service in the Sanctuary 8:45am Jubilee Contemporary service in the Chapel 10:55am Traditional Worship service in the Sanctuary Wednesdays (September-May)

5:30pm Oasis Mid-week Service in the Sanctuary

### **Thursdays**

7:00pm NOW: Night of Worship contemporary service in the Chapel (1st & 3rd Thursdays)

### Main Street UMC Staff

Mike Gehring, Senior Pastor Phil Kuntz, Associate Pastor Al Ward, Minister of Visitation

Wayne Purdy, Pastor of Youth Ministries Victoria Smathers, Director of Children's Ministries

Nancy Blakemore, Director of Music Ministries

Keith Maxey, Organist

Clay Howard, Jubilee Music Director

Jenny Lail, Alpha & Omega Youth Choir Director

Tina Crew, Business Manager Betsy Tang, Administrative Assistant Kathryn Jenkins, Administrative Assistant

Anthony Simmonds, Custodian

Willie Craven, Custodian Theo Dunlap, Custodian

Kellie Vinay, Preschool Director Cynthia Barron, Kitchen Hostess

Katherine Goad, Nursery Supervisor

Main Street United Methodist Church

306 S. Main Street, Kernersville, NC 27284

336-993-3411

www.mainstreetumc.org

# Announcements

# Lyrics

## A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

- 1. A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing; our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing. For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe; his craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.
- 2. Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing, were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he; Lord Sabaoth, his name, from age to age the same, and he must win the battle.
- 3. And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us. The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him; his rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure; one little word shall fell him.
- 4. That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth; the Spirit and the gifts are ours, thru him who with us sideth. Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; the body they may kill; God's truth abideth still; his kingdom is forever.

# COME, YE SINNERS, POOR AND NEEDY

- 1. Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore; Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love, and power. I will arise and go to Jesus; he will embrace me with his arms; in the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.
- 2. Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome, God's free bounty glorify; true belief and true repentance, every grace that brings you nigh. I will arise and go to Jesus; he will embrace me with his arms; in the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.
- 3. Come ye weary, heavy laden, lost and ruined by the fall; if you tarry till you're better, you will never come at all. I will arise and go to Jesus; he will embrace me with his arms; in the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.
- 4. Let not conscience make you linger, nor of fitness fondly dream; all the fitness he requireth is to feel your need of him. I will arise and go to Jesus; he will embrace me with his arms; in the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.

## JESUS CALLS US

- 1. Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea; day by day his sweet voice soundeth, saying, "Christian, follow me!"
- 2. As of old the apostles heard it by the Galilean lake, turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for Jesus' sake.
- 3. Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store, from each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more!"
- 4. In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these!"
- 5. Jesus calls us! By thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thine obedience, serve and love thee best of all.