



December 3, 2023
10:55am Worship Service
Main Street United Methodist Church

Church Family News (10:55am)

Wayne Purdy

Prelude

People, Look East
Keith Maxey, organist

Wood, ©1995 The Sacred Music Press

Introit

O Come All Ye Faithful (His Name Shall Be)

arr. Wall

Alpha and Omega Youth Choir and NOW Singers
Stella Turner, soloist; Chuck Foster, guitar; Wes O'Brien, piano; Jenny Lail, director

Chiming of the Trinity

* Call to Worship

Victoria Smathers

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **And also with you.** The risen Christ is with us. **Praise the Lord!**

* Processional Hymn No. 213

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

German/TRURO

* Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Phil Kuntz

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *All pray in silence.*

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.**

* Sharing the Peace

Phil Kuntz

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Parsons Family

Congregational Response No. 211 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (refrain)

VENI EMMANUEL

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

Joys & Concerns and Pastoral Prayer

Mike Gehring

Kids' Time

O Come, Little Children

Victoria Smathers

O come, little children, come one, and come all; O come to the manger in Bethlehem's stall. And see what our Father in heaven above has sent to us all on this earth with his love.

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

Mark 13: 24-37
Pew Bible, NT page 50

Anne Cochran

Special Music

Ding Dong! Merrily on High
Main Street Handbell Choir; Nancy Blakemore, director

French/arr. Dobrinski

Sermon

"Wake Up"

Al Ward

Offering Invitation

Wayne Purdy

Offertory Anthem

People, Look East

French/arr. Helvey

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

*Doxology

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

Wayne Purdy

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Mike Gehring and Phil Kuntz

(Phil) The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.** It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

(Mike) On the night in which he gave himself up for us he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith. **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Phil Kuntz

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.

Sharing the Meal

Music for Meditation, Keith Maxey

In the United Methodist Church, the Lord's Table is open to everyone who seeks the grace of God in Christ. Because of our conviction that God's grace is extended to people of all ages, children are welcome at the communion table. You will stand to receive the elements and then kneel to pray at the communion rail if you choose. As a sign of your openness to receive the sacrament, stretch out your hands to receive the bread. The pastors will place a piece of bread in your hand and you will be offered the cup. By faith, this will be for you a sharing in the Body and Blood of Christ. The ushers will guide your coming to and going from the Lord's Table. If you are unable to come to the front to receive communion, just let one of the ushers know and the pastors will serve you in your seat. You are welcome to leave an offering to the poor on the communion rail. Pre-packaged Communion elements are available upon request from the basket at the communion rail.

Prayer after Communion

Phil Kuntz

* Hymn No. 196

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

English/HYFRYDOL

* Benediction and Blessing of the Shoeboxes

Mike Gehring

* Chiming of the Trinity and Postlude

Postlude on Truro

Bedford, ©2015 Oxford University Press

* please stand as you are able

Serving Communion Today:

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 worshipping 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

INVITE SOMEONE TO CHURCH! Pick up a pre-stamped MSUMC postcard in the Narthex, Chapel, and at the Welcome Desk in the Commons so you can mail it to friend and invite them to church. In addition to our regular worship services, there are several special services during this Advent season—invite someone to the Cantata, or the Service of Hope & Healing, or the Children's program, or to one of our three special Christmas Eve services!

OASIS WORSHIP SERVICE: Come to the Sanctuary at 5:30pm on Wednesdays for an intimate 30-minute service with Holy Communion and prayer led by one of our pastors, with music by Chuck Foster, and a short devotion by a member of our congregation. Our Oasis service is meant to be a time of refreshment and encouragement in the middle of a busy week. *Oasis will meet only on weeks that we have the Wednesday Night Connect Dinner.*

THE WEDNESDAY CONNECT DINNER on **Dec. 6** is Chicken Marsala (*gluten-free entrée is available upon request*). Dinner is served at **5:30pm**. Reservations can be made by: signing a reservation card and placing it in the offering plate; emailing Kathryn (kathryn.jenkins@mainstreetumc.org); calling the church office at 336-993-3411; visiting our website or clicking the link in the Thursday Connections email each week. Reservations must be made by **Monday at noon**. The suggested donation is \$6/adult, \$3/child (10 & under). *JC Grose SS class serving.*

JOIN US FOR our Night of Worship (NOW) service at 7pm on **December 7** in the Chapel. Childcare is provided.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA will be on Saturday, **December 9**. Mrs. Claus will be preparing delicious pancakes and bacon. Don't forget to bring your camera because Santa is looking forward to having his photograph taken with everyone who joins him for breakfast! The suggested donation for this morning of holiday cheer is only \$6.00 per person. Santa will be taking reservations for breakfast at 8:30am & 9:45am in the fellowship hall. Reservations are required, sign up at mainstreetumc.org and click on "signups" on the red stripe.

ADVENT MUSIC: On **December 10** at the 8:30 and 10:55 services in the Sanctuary, Main Street's combined choirs will present *Sing We Now of Christmas*, a service of Christmas Carols and tunes from France. In addition to the combined choirs, we will have a chamber orchestra along with organ and piano. That same morning, the Jubilee Band will present Contemporary Christmas songs at 8:45 in the Chapel. Throughout the season of Advent, service music will highlight Christmas carols from around the world.

SERVICE OF HOPE AND HEALING: The holidays are approaching and for some of us they may look different this year. The loss of a loved one, a diagnosis, divorce, loss of a job, or other major life event may have changed our lives. Grief, sadness, tiredness, and anxiety are a few words that may describe the feelings you are experiencing. You may feel the need for gentle instead of jolly. Your Pastors and Stephen Ministers invite you to approach the holidays with HOPE. Please join us for a Service of Hope and Healing on Tuesday, **December 12**, at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. Come hear the music, a message of hope, receive Communion, and have the opportunity for prayer and lighting a candle for loved ones, for a gentle entry into the holidays.

OUR CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PLAY will be presented in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30pm on **December 15**. We will hear music from the children's choirs and then enjoy the fully costumed re-telling of the Christmas story in the play titled "The First Christmas". Afterwards, we will enjoy dessert and cocoa/coffee. We hope to see you there!

OUR PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY will NOT meet on December 21, December 28, January 4, or January 11. Enjoy the holidays and we will resume meeting on January 18.

THE MAIN STREET BOOK CLUB will meet at noon in Room 310 on **December 21**. Everyone is invited to read Charles Dickens' book, *A Christmas Carol*, in advance and join us for the discussion.

JOB OPENINGS: We would like to hire a Church Organist, Chancel Chorale Accompanist/Pianist, and a Technology Ministries Director. The complete job descriptions for these positions can be found under "NEWS" at mainstreetumc.org or you can contact Tina Crew in the church office for more details (336-993-3411).

CRISIS CONTROL Collection boxes are in the new main entrance for donations to Crisis Control's Item of the Month. December's items are canned mixed vegetables; other non-perishable food items can be donated as well. Items may be dropped off at any time during office hours (8:30-4:00 Monday-Thursday and 8:30-noon on Friday).

LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHTY GATES

1. 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!

I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT

1. I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus. In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.
2. I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus. Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father. In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.
3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus. When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus. In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.
2. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.