



— FOURTH SUNDAY OF —
ADVENT

December 24, 2023
10:30am Combined Worship Service
Main Street United Methodist Church

Church Family News (10:30am)

Wayne Purdy

WE APPROACH GOD

Prelude

Gigue on Go, tell it on the mountain
Keith Maxey, organist

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Chiming of the Trinity

* Call to Worship

Victoria Smathers

The night was dark. **A baby lay in a manger.**
The night was still. **Angels sang to shepherds.**
The night was expectant. **God's glory shone brightly.**
On this night, **let us rejoice in the gift of love.**

* Processional Hymn No. 246

Joy to the World

English/ANTIOCH

* Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance

Victoria Smathers

We often come to Christmas longing for a cozy story of a baby born in a manger. But this baby will change the world. He is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace. Something strong and powerful began with that infant. He brings justice and righteousness for all the world. Enlarge our minds, increase our vision, and strengthen our commitment, that we too may work for justice and righteousness. Help us walk faithfully with him, and lead us on your paths of peace. All pray in silence.
Jesus is our blessed hope, bringing grace and salvation to all. On this night of nights, we are loved and made whole.
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*

* Sharing the Peace

Victoria Smathers

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Lutz Family

Congregational Response No. 211 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (refrain)
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

VENI EMMANUEL

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.

WE HEAR FROM GOD

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

John 1: 1-14
Pew Bible, NT page 91

Wayne Purdy

Special Music

Early on One Christmas Morn
Jubilee Praise Band

Sermon

"The Incarnate Word"

Mike Gehring

WE RESPOND TO GOD

* Hymn No. 217

Away in a Manger

American/AWAY IN A MANGER

Offering Invitation

Offertory Anthem

Christmas Joy!
Main Street Choirs; Keith Maxey, pianist; Nancy Blakemore, director

Wayne Purdy

English/SUSSEX/arr. Forrest

*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

Phil Kuntz

* Hymn No. 251

Go, Tell It on the Mountain Afro-American Spiritual/GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

* Benediction

Mike Gehring

* Chiming of the Trinity

Postlude

Joy to the World

Johnson ©1966 Singspiration Music

* 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 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

THE WHITE ROSEBUDS on the altar in the Sanctuary are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Luther Conger and Caroline Martin.

CHRISTMAS EVE AT MAIN STREET — Come back at 4:00pm for our Family Christmas Eve Service. This service is led by our youth and is a perfect opportunity for all the children in attendance to become a part of the story! You won't want to miss it! Our Christmas Eve Services will continue at 7:00pm and 11:00pm with our Traditional Candlelight Services. These touching and poignant services with Holy Communion are the perfect way to remember and reflect on the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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.

WE WILL NOT HAVE our *Oasis Worship Service* or our *Wednesday Connect Dinner* on Dec. 27 and Jan. 3. Both activities will resume on January 10.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: A brief meeting of the 2024 Church Council will occur after the 10:55 service (approx. 12:10pm) on January 7 in the Sanctuary. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on SPRC's motion to give Pastor Mike a 6-week renewal leave. All 2024 Church Council members are encouraged to attend.

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

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. January's items are canned soup and crackers; 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).

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed on December 25 and January 1.

MEN'S BREAKFAST will not meet on December 28.

SING WITH THE LENTEN CHOIR on March 17, *The Music of Ireland*. Rehearsals start the second week of January.

INVITATION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT, a short-term Disciple Bible Study will be offered on Wednesdays at 6:30pm starting February 28 and ending on May 1. Buck Murchison will facilitate this Bible Study. This class will meet in Room 320, which is the upstairs classroom in the Commons area (elevator access is available). The participant book is \$18.50 and will be available for purchase through the church office. Register for the class at www.mainstreetumc.org and click on the red "signups" tab. Class size will be limited to 12 participants.

THE HERITAGE CLUB will meet for breakfast at the Olympic Restaurant in Kernersville on January 9 at 9:00am. Pay for your own meal from the menu.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER of Main Street UMC? We will have New Member Sunday on January 14. Contact Pastor Phil Kuntz at 336-993-3411 if you would like to discuss church membership.

OUR COMMUNITY MLK SERVICE will be on January 14 at 5:00pm in our Sanctuary. Join the Kernersville Christian Ministers Fellowship and friends from other churches in our community as we come together to celebrate the Life and Ministry of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Our Guest Speaker will be Corey D. B. Walker, Dean of the Wake Forest University School of Divinity. A reception will follow the service in our Commons area.

THE YOUTH CHILI COOK-OFF will be a night of great food and great fun! Help the youth raise money for their summer mission trips by making a donation when you attend the chili cook-off. There will be prizes awarded for the best chili. Contact Wayne Purdy at 336-993-3411 for more information about entering the contest. Even if you don't cook any chili, we invite you to come out and enjoy sampling the great variety of chilis on January 21 at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

JOY TO THE WORLD

1. 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 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 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 the curse is found [far as the curse is found], far as, far as the curse is found.
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 of his love [and wonders of his love], and wonders, wonders of his love.

AWAY IN A MANGER

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes; I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray; bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

1. Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold throughout the heavens there shown a holy light.
2. Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born. The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth, rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth.
3. Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.