



— SECOND SUNDAY OF —
ADVENT

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

Church Family News (10:55am)

Wayne Purdy

Prelude

Keith Maxey, organist

Chiming of the Trinity

* Call to Worship

Victoria Smathers

Prepare the path of God. **We prepare by living with faith and love.**

Prepare the path of God. **We prepare by pursuing justice and peace.**

Prepare the path of God. **We prepare, we wait, we pray.**

May God bless us with both patience and passion. **We wait and pray to create the path of God.**

* Processional Hymn No. 211 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, vv. 1-4*

French/VENI EMMANUEL

* Sharing the Peace

Victoria Smathers

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Parcell Family

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

VENI EMMANUEL

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

Joys/Concerns/Prayer

Mike Gehring

The Lord's Prayer

Mike Gehring

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.

* Reception of New Members

Phil Kuntz, Wayne Purdy, and Mike Gehring

We rejoice to recognize you as *members* of Christ's holy church, and bid you welcome to this congregation of The United Methodist Church. With you we renew our vows to uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service. With God's help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ that, surrounded by steadfast love, you may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.

Children's Choir Anthem

Merry Christmas

American/Hill

Carol Choir with soloists Hazel Wells and Larkin Garrison
Nancy Blakemore, director; Jill Branoff, pianist

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.

Offering Invitation

Phil Kuntz

Offertory

Alleluia from Christmas Oratorio

Saint-Saëns/arr. Bish

Brian Vannoy, guest organist

*Doxology

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

German/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

Cantata

Sing We Now of Christmas

Main Street United Methodist Church Christmas Choir

Nancy Blakemore, director

The Coming of the Lord

Ray Thomas, reader

People Look East

French Tune/BESANÇON/arr. Helvey

People, look East. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able. Trim the hearth, and set the table. People, look East, and sing today: "Love, the Guest, is on the way."

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there. Give up your strength, the seed to nourish; that in course, the flow'r may flourish. People, look East and sing today: "Love, the Rose, is on the way."

Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled. Even the hour when wings are frozen, He for fledging time has chosen. People, look East, and sing today: "Love, the Bird, is on the way."

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim; shining beyond the frosty weather, bright the sun and moon together. People, look East, and sing today: "Love, the Star, is on the way."

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth. Set ev'ry peak and valley humming with the Word, the Lord is coming. People, look East, and sing today: "Love, the Lord, is on the way."

The Birth of Jesus Christ

Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabella

French Carol/ ed. and arr. Rutter

Nancy Copeland, soprano soloist

Bring a torch, Jeannette, Isabella! Bring a torch, to the cradle run! It is Jesus, good folk of the village, Christ is born and Mary's calling, Ah! ah! beautiful is the Mother! Ah! ah! beautiful is her Son.

It is wrong when the Child is sleeping, it is wrong to talk so loud. Silence, all, as you gather around, lest your noise should waken Jesus: Hush! Hush! See how fast he slumbers; Hush! Hush! See how fast he sleeps!

Softly to the little stable, softly for a moment come! Look and see how charming is Jesus, How he is fair, His cheeks are rosy! Hush! Hush! See how the Child is sleeping; Hush! Hush! See how he smiles in dreams!

O Holy Night (Cantique de Noël)

French/Adam/arr. Courtney

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining. It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth; Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till He appear'd and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn! Fall on your knees! Oh hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night when Christ was born, O night, O night divine...

Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love and His gospel is peace. Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother, And in His name all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, Let all within us praise His holy name. Christ is the Lord. Then ever, ever praise we, His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim, His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim...

He knows our need, to our weakness no stranger: Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend! Behold, behold your King! Before Him bend!

***HYMN No. 228**

He Is Born (Il Est Né)

French Carol/IL EST NÉ

The Angels and Shepherds

Glory Be Unto God in the Highest from Christmas Oratorio

French/Saint-Saëns

Glory be unto God in the highest!... And on earth peace, goodwill to all men... Glory be unto God in the highest! Praise the Lord! Praise God in the highest! Praise the Lord our God! And on earth peace, goodwill to all men!

Ding Dong! Merrily on High

French Tune/ed. and arr. Rutter

Ding dong! merrily on high in heav'n the bells are ringing: Ding dong! Verily the sky is riv'n with angel singing. Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!...

E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen, and i-o, i-o, i-o, by priest and people sungen. Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!...

Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers; May you beautifully rime your evetime song, ye singers! Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!...

The Visit of the Wise Men

Sing We Now of Christmas

French Carol/FRENCH CAROL/arr. Hayes

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel sing we here. Hear our joyful praises, echoing bright and clear. Lift up your voice, O let the world rejoice! Sing we now of Christmas, Noel sing we here.

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel sing we here. Spread the yuletide spirit, comfort, and good cheer. Sing out with gladness and banish any sadness. Sing we now of Christmas, Noel sing we here.

Sing we now of Christmas, join the glad refrain. All the earth rejoices, hope is born again. Peace, goodwill to all, resounds the welcome call. Sing we now of Christmas, Noel sing we here...Sing we all Noel...Gladsome are the tidings that we tell...Sing we all Noel... Joyfully we sing to you Noel. Sing Noel!

Sing we now of Christmas, let the anthem ring. Glory in the highest, hear the angels sing. Join with all creation in songs of jubilation. Sing we now of Christmas, Noel sing we here. Sing Noel.

Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts from Christmas Oratorio

French/Saint-Saëns

Praise ye the Lord of hosts, Sing his salvation, bless His name, show forth his praise in His holy house!...Rejoice, ye heav'ns, and be joyful, on earth, rejoice in the face of the Lord, for He cometh, Alleluia....Alleluia, Alleluia...Rejoice, ye angels, rejoice, all ye nations, now in the face of the Lord, for He cometh, Alleluia!

* Hymn No. 238

Angels We Have Heard on High

French Carol/GLORIA

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

* Benediction

Mike Gehring

* Chiming of the Trinity

Postlude

* please stand as you are able

The 2023 Christmas Cantata is made possible by generous donations to the Blackwell Music Fund.

The Christmas Choir

Andy Anderson	Chuck Foster	Claire McCullough
Dave Black	Elaine Fotia	Sarah McCullough
Rich Blakemore	Rhonda Gehring	Cheryl McKinney
Sally Brown	Mark Graves	Brenda Montague
Jim Chesson	Wade Hampton	Wes O'Brien
Mac Clement	Shaw Kenion	Francesca Romolo
Billie Cole	Celia Leal	Allen Stack
Chip Cole	Joy Malit	Chris Thompson
Nancy Copeland	Leon Martin	Gail Tozer
Willie Craven	Lou Martin	Sharyn Turner
Melissa Dreshfield	Betty McAdoo	

The Christmas Orchestra

Alison Lawson, violin 1	Rowan Clayton, oboe 2
Fabrice Dharamraj, violin 2	Paul Manz, French horn
Catherine Box, viola	Rich Blakemore, trumpet
Evan Richey, cello	Ryan Friddle, percussion
Sharon Fogarty, flute 1	Brian Vannoy, organ
Megan Whelen, flute 2	Keith Maxey, piano
Nicholas Lazzara, oboe 1	

Special Thanks to our Sound Tech Kathy Cissna and the talented audiovisual team.

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

THE WHITE ROSEBUDS on the altar in the Sanctuary are given to the Glory of God and in memory of: Bob Stoebe and Dale Hilton.

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!

IT'S COOKIE TIME AGAIN FOR BETHANY CAFÉ! We would like to gift our Bethany Café guests some Christmas cookies during Bethany Café on December 16. Bring your homemade cookies to the church office on **December 11-15** during office hours. Please package 6 cookies in a Ziploc bag and label the bag with the type of cookie. We need 200 bags to have enough to include one bag with each meal served.

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. 13** is Spaghetti Carbonara (*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). *New Horizons/Journey SS classes serving.*

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!

CHRISTMAS CARDS for our Home Friends and Members over the age of 90 are due by **December 15**. A list of names is available in the Narthex and in the Commons at the Member Pickup Station.

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.

NOW: NIGHT OF WORSHIP CHRISTMAS SERVICE—Join us on Thursday, **December 21** at 7:00pm for a special NOW Christmas Service featuring Christmas Carols with special music by some of MSUMC's children. Nursery is provided.

CHRISTMAS EVE AT MAIN STREET starts at 10:30am as we gather as one church at a combined worship service. 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.

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).

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

Lyrics

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh; to us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
3. O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times once gave the law in cloud and majesty and awe. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
4. O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree, an ensign of thy people be; before thee rulers silent fall; all peoples on thy mercy call. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

HE IS BORN (IL EST NÉ)

1. He is born, the holy Child, play the oboe and bagpipes merrily! He is born, the holy Child, sing we all of the Savior mild. Thru long ages of the past, prophets have foretold his coming; thru long ages of the past, now the time has come at last!
2. He is born, the holy Child, play the oboe and bagpipes merrily! He is born, the holy Child, sing we all of the Savior mild. O how lovely, O how pure is this perfect child of heaven; O how lovely, O how pure, gracious gift to humankind!
3. He is born, the holy Child, play the oboe and bagpipes merrily! He is born, the holy Child, sing we all of the Savior mild. Jesus, Lord of all the world, coming as a child among us, Jesus, Lord of all the world, grant to us thy heavenly peace. He is born, the holy Child, play the oboe and bagpipes merrily! He is born, the holy Child, sing we all of the Savior mild.

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

1. Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains. Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
3. Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
4. See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise; Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise. Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!