



— THIRD SUNDAY OF —
ADVENT

*December 17, 2023
10:55am Worship Service
Main Street United Methodist Church*

Church Family News (10:55am)

Wayne Purdy

WE APPROACH GOD

Prelude

Keith Maxey, organist

Chiming of the Trinity

* Call to Worship

Victoria Smathers

When the Lord restores our fortunes, **we are like those who dream.**
Our mouths are filled with laughter; **our hearts sing with shouts of joy.**
Worship the Lord of our salvation. **Worship the Lord!**

* Processional Hymn No. 234

O Come, All Ye Faithful

English/ADESTE FIDELES

* Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance

Victoria Smathers

Merciful God, we hear John's fervent cry; "Make straight the way of the Lord," but we don't know what we should do. Our lives carry on as they have before. Nothing seems to change. Yet we long to be caught up in the ecstatic visions of prophets and mystics. We yearn to tune our ears to the heralds who testify to your light. Help us walk in the ways that lead to life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *All pray in silence.*
The God of peace sanctifies us, that our souls may be sound and blameless. The one who calls is faithful. The one who saves fashions us for eternal life. **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

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	<i>O Come, Little Children</i>	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 <i>Kids Connect-Worship</i> . Parents may pick up their children in the Children's Education Building after the worship service.		

Scripture	John 1: 1-5 Pew Bible, NT page 91	Ann Ballard
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Anthem	<i>Sing We Now of Christmas</i> Chancel Choir; Keith Maxey, pianist; Nancy Blakemore, director	French/arr. Hayes
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Sermon	"A Good Word"	Mike Gehring
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WE RESPOND TO GOD

* Hymn No. 229	<i>Infant Holy, Infant Lowly</i>	Polish/W ZLOBIE LEZY
<i>(You are invited to bring your 2024 Financial Commitment Cards to the Communion Rail during this hymn)</i>		

Offering Invitation		Phil Kuntz
Offertory		
*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
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* Hymn No. 240	<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>	English/MENDELSSOHN
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* Benediction		Mike Gehring
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* Chiming of the Trinity

Postlude

* 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 RED ROSEBUD on the altar in the Sanctuary is given to the Glory of God and in honor of the birth of Lorenzo Markus Langlais, new grandson of Bob & Juanita Langlais. Parents are Mickey & Adriana Langlais.

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!

TAKE A HIKE: our walking group will meet in the church parking lot at 8:30am on **December 19** to walk on the new Greenway near the church. Old and new friends are invited to come along!

WE WILL NOT HAVE our *Oasis Worship Service* or our *Wednesday Connect Dinner* on Dec. 20, 27 and Jan. 3. Both activities will resume on January 10.

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).

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.

Lyrics

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem. Come and behold him, born the King of angels; O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
2. True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal, lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb; Son of the Father, begotten, not created; O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
3. Sing, choir of angels, sing in exultation; O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest; O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
4. See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle, leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze; we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
5. Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger, we would embrace thee with love and awe. Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly? O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be all glory given. Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
- 7.

INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

1. Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing: Christ the babe is Lord of all.
2. Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow: Christ the babe was born for you.

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

1. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies; with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
2. Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord; late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity, pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"