



MAIN STREET

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 31, 2023

First Sunday after Christmas Day

10:55 am

Traditional Worship Service

Church Family News

Al Ward

WE APPROACH GOD

Prelude

Keith Maxey, organist

Chiming of the Trinity

* Call to Worship

Al Ward

With mighty mountains and crashing seas, **praise the name of the Lord.**

With rolling valleys and lush forests, **praise the name of our God.**

With tiny ants and majestic eagles, **praise the name of the Holy One.**

With innocent children and wise elders, **praise the name of Love.**

* Processional Hymn No. 220

Angels from the Realms of Glory

English/REGENT SQUARE

* Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance

Al Ward

We come to you with joy and happiness, but we know it won't always be so. The human heart is a fickle thing. As we celebrate the birth of your Son, open us to the many ways you seek to bless us. Free our lips to sing your praises, even when we feel alone and in need. As a new year dawns, help us bring righteousness and praise to all the earth in your heavenly name. *All pray in silence.*

Through praise and thanksgiving, glory is given to God's name. Guided by the Holy Spirit, see what God's salvation has brought to God's precious children. **Amen.**

* Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

Al Ward

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

* Sung Response

Angels from the Realms of Glory (refrain)

Come and worship, Come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

* Sharing the Peace

Al Ward

Joys/Concerns/Prayer

Al Ward

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* Katherine Goad
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 Luke 2: 22-40 Ray Thomas
Pew Bible, NT page 59

Anthem *Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts* French/Saint-Saëns
Chancel Choir; Keith Maxey, organist; Nancy Blakemore, director

Sermon “Simeon, Anna, and Jesus” Mark Key

WE RESPOND TO GOD

* Hymn No. 233 *Cold December Flies Away* Spanish/LO DESEMBRE CONGELAT

Offering Invitation AI Ward
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 AI Ward

* Hymn No. 224 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* German/IN DULCI JUBILO

* Benediction AI Ward

* 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

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.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed on January 1.

WE WILL NOT HAVE our *Oasis Worship Service* or our *Wednesday Connect Dinner* on 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 January 4 or January 11. Enjoy the holidays and we will resume meeting on January 18.

UMM CHICKEN PIES: it's time to place your order for frozen chicken pies again! More details will be available soon with pricing and pickup information.

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.

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 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.

JOIN THE HERITAGE CLUB for Game Night on January 30 at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite finger food or dessert to share. If you have a game that you like to play, please bring that too!

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).

VOLUNTEER SOUND TECHS are still needed to help with all of our worship services. No experience is required and training is available. Please contact the church office if you are interested.

Lyrics

ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

1. Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth; ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.
2. Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night, God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.
3. Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar; seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.
4. Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear; suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

COLD DECEMBER FLIES AWAY

1. Cold December flies away at the rose-red splendor. April's crowning glory breaks while the whole world wonders at the holy unseen power of the tree which bears the flower. On the blessed tree blooms the reddest flower, on the tree blooms the rose here in love's own garden, full and strong in glory.
2. In the hopeless time of sin shadows deep had fallen. All the world lay under death, eyes were closed in sleeping. But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose golden light brings unending joy, brings the endless joy of our hope, highest hope, of our hope's bright dawning, Son beloved of heaven.
3. Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world awakens. In the lily's purest flower dwells a wondrous fragrance. And it spreads to all the earth from the moment of its birth; and its beauty lives. In the flower it lives, in the flower, and it spreads in its heavenly brightness, sweet perfume delightful.

GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: News, news! Jesus Christ is born today! Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today, Christ is born today!
2. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: News, news! Jesus Christ was born for this! He hath opened heaven's door, and yet are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!
3. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave: News, news! Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall. Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!