

MAIN STREET
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 10, 2024
Fourth Sunday in Lent

10:55 am
Traditional Worship Service

Church Family News

Victoria Smathers

Voice of Diakonia (*Voice of Servanthood*)

James Berry

WE APPROACH GOD

Prelude

Prelude from Sonata for Organ in E minor
Brian Vannoy, organist

Felix Borowski

Chiming of the Trinity

* Opening Prayer (*unison*)

Victoria Smathers

God of goodness and grace, gather us in your arms of love. Gather us as people of your goodness and grace. Gather us in worship and prayer, that we may be strengthened with faith and courage. Gather us as those who are eager to live and to share your goodness and grace. Amen.

* Processional Hymn No. 185

When Morning Gilds the Skies

LAUDES DOMINI

* Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance

Victoria Smathers

Gracious God, lift up our hearts this day, for we long to see your salvation. Lift us up from the pits of sin and sorrow, that we may walk in the light of your love and grace. Create us anew as reflections of your light and as offerings of your grace. For we yearn to bless everyone we meet, even ourselves, in your name. In hope and gratitude, we pray.

All pray in silence.

In Christ Jesus, we are created to do good things. By God's grace, we are able to be good people. In God's goodness, we are created good. In Christ's grace, we are saved by love, that we may love and be loved. **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*

* Sung Response

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise vs. 1

ST. DENIO

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

* Sharing the Peace

Victoria Smathers

Joys/Concerns/Prayer

Victoria Smathers

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

Jesus Loves the Little Children

Victoria Smathers

**Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world; every color, shape, and size,
They are precious in his eyes. Jesus loves the little children of the world.**

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 3: 1-21
Pew Bible, NT page 93

Jim Barrett

Anthem

My Soul Cries Out
Chancel Choir; Brian Vannoy, pianist; Nancy Blakemore, director

Cooney/arr. Hayes

Sermon

"The Illusion of Certainty"

Phil Kuntz

WE RESPOND TO GOD

* Hymn No. 292

What Wondrous Love Is This

WONDROUS LOVE

Offering Invitation

Phil Kuntz

Offertory

Andante

Borowski

*Offertory Response

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, vs 4

HAMBURG

**Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Phil Kuntz

* Hymn No. 189

Fairest Lord Jesus

ST. ELIZABETH

* Benediction

Phil Kuntz

* Chiming of the Trinity

Postlude

Allegro

Borowski

* 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 worshiping 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
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

Main Street United Methodist Church

306 S. Main Street, Kernersville, NC 27284

336-993-3411

www.mainstreetumc.org

Announcements

THE WHITE ROSEBUD on the altar in the Sanctuary is given to the Glory of God and in memory of Glenn Womack.

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 **March 13** is Irish Stew (*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). *Christian Fellowship SS class serving.*

BETHANY CAFÉ volunteers needed: Bethany Café provides a free meal to anyone in our community and is hosted each Saturday at local churches. Main Street UMC hosts Bethany Cafe on the 3rd Saturday of every month and lots of help is needed! Job descriptions and a sign-up form are available at mainstreetumc.org (look for the “sign-ups” tab on the red stripe).

LENTEN CANTATA: On Sunday, **March 17** the Combined Choirs and guest musicians will present the Lenten Cantata, *Music of Ireland: St. Patrick's Hymn*. All the music is either based on Irish tunes, written by Irish composers, or uses the text known as “Saint Patrick's Breastplate.” Featured among the guest musicians are Glen Alexander and Sharon Fogarty, known as “The Fiddler and the Flutist.” They will present a fifteen-minute extended Prelude of Irish tunes and hymns from 10:45-11:00 am in the Sanctuary. Everyone is invited. The Combined Choirs will present the Cantata in the 8:30 and 10:55 Services.

HERITAGE CLUB will meet on **March 19** for Breakfast at Country Barbeque on Wendover in Greensboro and Shopping at Hamrick's. Meet at the church at 8:40 to carpool or at the restaurant by 9:00. Pay for your meal at the restaurant.

PREACHER JEOPARDY at the United Methodist Men's Quarterly Dinner on Tuesday, **March 19**. Everyone is invited to dinner and the program! We will have dinner at 7 PM; donations will be accepted towards the cost of the meal. Our program will be *Preacher Jeopardy*. Come see a Jeopardy game featuring contestants Rev. Al Ward, Rev. Phil Kuntz, and Rev. Wayne Purdy. Host Ken Jennings will be played by Wes O'Brien. All interested church folks are invited to be part of the studio audience. Make your dinner reservations by Friday, March 15 at mainstreetumc.org and look for “signups” on the red stripe.

CEMETERY CLEAN-UP is scheduled for **March 23** at 9:00am. Everyone is encouraged to come out and help make our Cemetery beautiful in preparation for our Easter Sunrise Service.

GET YOUR EASTER BAKED GOODS from Circle #4! Once again, we will be selling Wilkerson's Moravian Baked Goods for delivery on **March 28** from 10am to noon in the Commons Area Kitchen. We will take orders from March 1 to March 15. Hot Cross Buns (\$9.50), Sugar Cake (\$12.00), and Sugar Cookies (\$12.50) may be ordered from Janice Atchison (336-391-3149), Phyllis Davis (336-830-9271) or any Circle 4 member. All proceeds go to local missions.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE: *Palm Sunday* worship services on March 24 at 8:30, 8:45, and 10:55; *Maundy Thursday* worship service on March 28 at 7:00pm; *Good Friday* worship service on March 29 at 7:00pm; *Easter Sunrise Service* on March 31 at 6:30am, followed by breakfast in the Fellowship Hall.

EASTER WORSHIP on **March 31** at 8:30, 8:45, and 10:55—*Celebrate the Resurrection* at our Easter Worship Services with a message by Rev. Mike Gehring. There will be triumphant praise music at the 8:45am Jubilee service and joyous music at 8:30 and 10:55 services from the Combined Choirs with a string quartet, organ, timpani, and trumpet.

SHREDDING: Circle #2 is sponsoring a Shred Event on Saturday, **April 13** from 9am until noon in the church parking lot. Suggested donation is \$5 per box and all proceeds go to benefit local ministries in Kernersville.

JOB OPENINGS: We would like to hire a Church Organist 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. March's item is canned meats; 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).

Lyrics

WHEN MORNING GILDS THE SKIES

1. When morning gilds the skies my heart awaking cries: May Jesus Christ be praised! Alike at work and prayer, to Jesus I repair: May Jesus Christ be praised!
2. The night becomes as day when from the heart we say: May Jesus Christ be praised! The powers of darkness fear when this sweet chant they hear: May Jesus Christ be praised!
3. Let all the earth around ring joyous with the sound: May Jesus Christ be praised! In heaven's eternal bliss the loveliest strain is this: May Jesus Christ be praised!
4. Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine: May Jesus Christ be praised! Be this th'eternal song through all the ages long: May Jesus Christ be praised!

WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS

1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.
2. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of life to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul, to lay aside his crown for my soul.
3. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM, while millions join the theme I will sing, I will sing; while millions join the theme I will sing.
4. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be, and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and through eternity I'll sing on.

FAIREST LORD JESUS

1. Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature, O thou of God and man the Son, thee will I cherish, thee will I honor, thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.
2. Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands, robed in the blooming garb of spring: Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, who makes the woeful heart to sing.
3. Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, and all the twinkling starry host: Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels heaven can boast.
4. Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations! Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine.