



— FOURTH SUNDAY OF —
ADVENT

December 22, 2024
10:55am Worship Service
Main Street United Methodist Church

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS (10:55am)

Wayne Purdy

WE APPROACH GOD

PRELUDE

Bring A Torch, Jeannette Isabella
Jill Gardner, organist

David Cherwien

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Victoria Smathers

Christ's love has called us here. **Our spirits rejoice in God, our Savior.**
Christ's love is transforming the world. **In joy, we'll give thanks and sing.**
Christ's love calls us to justice and peace. **In faith, we'll answer the call.**

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 250

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

* 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 Ward Family

When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, "But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day." (Micah 5:2). But what if Micah is also talking to us, proclaiming, "But you, O Main Street, from you shall come forth for me..." What? What might God be calling forth from us?

God invites us to receive the promise of God's salvation and the sustenance of God's mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God's invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.

We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God's promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God's love for all creation.

PASTORAL 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.

ANTHEM

For Unto Us a Child is Born

Patti Drennan

Chancel Choir; Jill Gardner, pianist; Nancy Blakemore, director

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1: 39-56

Lanny Lancaster

Pew Bible, NT page 57

SERMON

"Christmas Spirit: Magnify"

Lanny Lancaster

WE RESPOND TO GOD

* HYMN No. 219

What Child Is This?

GREENSLEEVES

OFFERING INVITATION

Wayne Purdy

Offertory

Il est né (He Is Born)

André Lash

*Offertory Response *Father, We Have Heard You Calling*

HYFRYDOL

Praise we bring to God the Father, praise we bring to God the Son,

Praise to God the Holy Spirit, praise to you, the three in one.

**Trinity of love inspire us, may we always strive to be one in love and
one in worship—children of eternity.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Phil Kuntz

* HYMN No. 230

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

* BENEDICTION

Lanny Lancaster

* CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

POSTLUDE

God Rest You Merry

Wilbur Held

* 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

6:30pm NOW: Night of Worship contemporary service in the Chapel (1st & 3rd Thursdays)

Main Street UMC Staff

Lanny Lancaster, Senior Pastor
Phil Kuntz, Associate Pastor
Al Ward, Minister of Visitation
Wayne Purdy, Pastor of Youth Ministries
Victoria Smathers, Director of Children's Min.
Nancy Blakemore, Director of Music Ministries
Clay Howard, Jubilee Music Director
Jill Gardner, Organist/Pianist
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
La'Niah Johnson-Flemming, 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

CHRISTMAS EVE: As you celebrate the birth of Christ with family and friends, include one of our Christmas Eve worship services in your plans:

- We have a 4:00pm Family Service that is led by our youth and includes a duet by Allee Davis and Ella Vinay along with an opportunity for all the children in attendance to become a part of the Christmas Story!
- We offer Traditional Candlelight Services at 7pm and 11pm with Holy Communion, special music, and a Christmas message from our Senior Pastor, Rev. Lanny Lancaster.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE CHANGES: We will NOT HAVE our Oasis service or Wednesday Connect Dinner on Dec. 25 or Jan. 1. The Church Office will be CLOSED on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. There will be NO Men's breakfast on Dec. 26. We will NOT HAVE our NOW service on Jan. 2.

COUNTING TEAM: We are in need of an additional person to be a part of the Sunday Counting Team on the 2nd Sunday of each month. If you can volunteer, please contact Tina Crew in the Church Office.

UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONAL BOOKS for January/February have arrived! Pick up your copy in the Sanctuary Narthex, at the "Member Pick-up Station" inside the Main Entrance to the Connections Building, or in the Chapel Narthex.

YARD SIGNS to support our neighbors in Western North Carolina are available from members of the New Horizons SS class and from the Church Office during the week for a suggested donation of \$20 (cash or checks written to New Horizons class). Money raised will go to UMCOR.

CHICKEN PIES: It's almost time to think about Chicken Pies! Our United Methodist Men will begin taking orders for Mrs. Pumpkins frozen chicken pies on **January 1**. More details coming soon!

THIS IS THE WAY... How is God calling you forward in 2025? How is God calling us forward as Main Street United Methodist Church? Come join us on Wednesdays at 11am or 6:30pm as we look at Jesus' life, teachings, and ministry and reflect on how that can teach us the way forward into this new year. Pastor Lanny will lead this class in the Chapel starting on **January 8** and ending on May 21. Please let us know that you'd like to attend by registering at mainstreetumc.org and click "signups" on the red stripe.

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY on **January 12**—contact Pastor Phil Kuntz if you are interested in becoming a member of Main Street UMC on this date or another date.

HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP BIBLE STUDY: A 6-week video-based study called "A History of Christian Worship" will be offered on Wednesday nights starting on **February 12**. Segments include Music, Art & Drama, Baptism and Communion. How have these elements of worship evolved over the 2000 years of Christianity and in various faith communities? The class will meet from 6:30 to 8:15 in room 320 (upstairs Commons classroom) and be led by Wade and Jan Hampton. No preparation is required between classes, just come, watch, discuss. Please let us know that you will attend by signing up at mainstreetumc.org and click "signups" on the red stripe. Class will be limited to 24 participants and will run for 6 weeks.

COLLECTION BOXES are in the new main entrance for: BOOKSAPALOOZA, donate new or used books; HOPE CENTER, donate empty egg cartons, clothing, groceries; and CRISIS CONTROL, donate non-perishable food, each month has an item to focus on, December's item is hot beverages (cocoa, tea, etc).

HELP NEEDED at Jubilee Service to run the ProPresenter Slides—training is available, contact the Church Office if you can volunteer!

THANK YOU for helping to care for our Sanctuary by not bringing in food or beverages.

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).

Lyrics

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

1. Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed; Mary, loving mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.
2. He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall. With the poor, the scorned, the lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.
3. Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day, like us he grew; he was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew; and he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.
4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love; for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above; and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

WHAT CHILD IS THIS

1. What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.
2. Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.
3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him; the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him. This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie; above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
2. For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!
3. How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given; so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.
4. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!