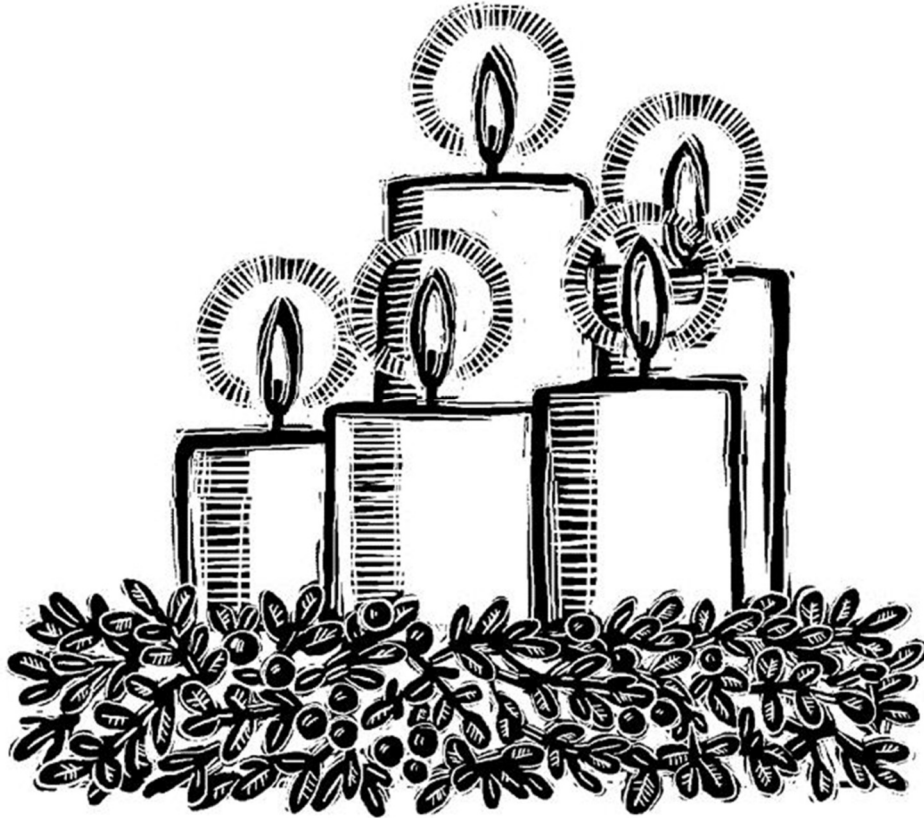


Main Street United Methodist Church
Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2024

7:00PM



306 S. Main Street Kernersville, NC 27284
(336) 993-3411 www.mainstreetumc.org

Fostering vital communities through love and life-changing experiences.

You are invited to join us for our regular worship services

SUNDAYS: 8:30am Traditional service in the Sanctuary
8:45am Jubilee! Contemporary service in the Chapel
10:55am Traditional service in the Sanctuary

WEDNESDAYS (September-May): 5:00pm Oasis service in the Sanctuary

1ST & 3RD THURSDAYS: 6:30pm NOW (Night of Worship) in the Chapel

Christmas Eve 2024

7:00pm

PRELUDE (6:45pm)

Music for Organ, Harp and Strings

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

*HYMN UMH, No. 234

O Come, All Ye Faithful (vv. 1-3)

ADESTE FIDELES

*WELCOME

Phil Kuntz

*CHRISTMAS PRAYER (unison):

Mark Key

Eternal God, by the birth of Jesus Christ you gave yourself to the world. Grant that, being born in our hearts, he may save us from all our sins, and restore within us the image and likeness of our Creator, to whom be everlasting praise and glory, world without end. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Wayne & Martha Boger

Beloved, today we welcome the Christ Child, the fulfillment of our joy, as we proclaim with the prophet Isaiah, "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Christ our joy has come near. Emmanuel, God with us, has come to dwell with us as a tiny baby. "His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this" (Isaiah 9:7).

We light this candle as a sign of Christ coming to dwell with us, to live in the neighborhood of vulnerable humanity as a vulnerable child. May the light of Christ warm our hearts and light our way as we share the joy of God's salvation wherever we go.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 9: 2-7

Al Ward

*HYMN UMH, No. 246

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

PASTORAL PRAYER

Al Ward

ANTHEM

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA/arr. Trevor Manor

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2: 1-20

Mark Key

CHRISTMAS HOMILY

"Christmas Spirit: Glory!"

Lanny Lancaster

*HYMN UMH, No. 218

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Al Ward

Offertory Anthem

The First Noel/Pachelbel's Canon Johann Pachelbel/arr. Michael Clawson

*Doxology

What Child Is This, vs. 3

GREENSLEEVES

**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.***

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Al Ward

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** (Musical Setting)

Lanny Lancaster and Phil Kuntz

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor..... we join in the song of unending praise, singing:

(To the tune of *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*)

Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored!

Heav'n and earth cannot contain, All the glory of your name!

Hail, hosanna, God most high! Blest is he who now draws nigh.

In the name of God the King! Hallelujahs glad we sing:

Hail, hosanna! Praises due, be forever, Lord, to you!

Pastor as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

(To the tune of *Angels from the Realms of Glory* - refrain only)

Christ has died, Christ is risen, And our Christ will come again.

Pastor all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

Amen.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER** (to the tune of *Away in a Manger*)

***Our Father in heaven, all praise to your name! Your kingdom among us, your will done the same
By mortals and angels, Come, Lord, reign alone: Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.***

***The bread that we yearn for provide us each day: As we forgive others, our sins take away;
In time of temptation, to lead us be near; From evil deliver your children most dear.***

***For yours is the kingdom; o'er all things you reign. And yours is the power, all things you maintain.
To you be the glory, resounding again, From all of creation, forever! Amen!***

THE SHARING OF THE MEAL

In the United Methodist Church, the Lord's Table is open to everyone who seeks the grace of God in Christ. Because of our conviction that God's grace is extended to people of all ages, children are welcome at the communion table. You will stand to receive the elements and then kneel to pray at the communion rail if you choose. As a sign of your openness to receive the sacrament, stretch out your hands to receive the bread. The pastors will place a piece of bread in your hand and you will be offered the cup. By faith, this will be for you a sharing in the Body and Blood of Christ. The ushers will guide your coming to and going from the Lord's Table. If you are unable to come to the front to receive communion, just let one of the ushers know and the pastors will serve you in your seat. You are welcome to leave an offering to the poor on the communion rail. Pre-packaged Communion elements are available upon request from the basket at the communion rail.

Communion Music:

Music for Harp and Strings

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Al Ward

A SERVICE OF LIGHT

The Pastors' candles will be lit from the Christ candle. The ushers will light their candles from the pastors' candles and move down the aisles. The worshipper nearest the aisle will receive the light and, in turn, give the light to the one by his/her side. Tip the unlit candle to receive light from the lighted candle. Please give special care not to drip wax on the carpet or the pew.

***HYMN** UMH, No. 239

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

***DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

Lanny Lancaster

***CHORAL RESPONSE** UMH No. 234 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* v. 6

ADESTE FIDELES

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!

***POSTLUDE**

*Please stand as you are able.
UMH: United Methodist Hymnal

Leading Worship Tonight:

Rev. Lanny Lancaster, Senior Pastor
Rev. Phil Kuntz, Associate Pastor
Dr. Al Ward, Minister of Visitation
Dr. Mark Key, Retired UMC Pastor

Communion Assistants:

Jan Hampton
Scott Higgins
Tina Higgins
Joy Key
Miriam Ward

Musicians:

Laura Blankenship, violin
Richard Dunn, violin
Bethany Lancaster, harp
Ryan Friddle, timpani and percussion
Richard Blakemore, trumpet
Jill Gardner, organ and piano
Nancy Blakemore, Director of Music
Main Street Choir

*The Christmas Eve Music is made possible
through generous donations to the Blackwell
Music Fund.*

UPDATES TO THE 2024 POINSETTIAS AND MEMORIAL GIFTS:

Gift to the Stocking Fund

In Memory of James & Theresa Edwards by Rich & Nancy Blakemore

In Memory of William & Hilda Blakemore by Rich & Nancy Blakemore

In Memory of Robert "Bobby" Blakemore by Rich & Nancy Blakemore

In Memory of Walter & Carolyn Rayfield by Jack & Robin Rayfield

Poinsettia in Honor of:

Laura Smith by Joe & Anne Coltrane