



December 8, 2024
10:30am Worship Service
Main Street United Methodist Church

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

PRELUDE

O Holy Night Adolphe Adam/arr. by Lani Smith
Beth Chapman, guest pianist; Jill Gardner, organist

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

* CALL TO WORSHIP

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **And also with you.**
The risen Christ is with us. **Praise the Lord!**

* **PROCESSIONAL HYMN** No. 238 *Angels We Have Heard on High, vv. 1, 2, 3, 4* GLORIA

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** No. 881 The Apostles' Creed

* SHARING THE PEACE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Shepherd Family

The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger who burns with a passion for God's coming salvation. "For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness" (Malachi 3:2b-3).

In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo, we choose to live with a passion for God's peace, to listen to those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves to God's grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God's love throughout the earth.

We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until God's kin-dom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

SPECIAL MUSIC

He Is Born Il Est Ne/arr. Kevin McChesney
Main Street Handbell Choir; Nancy Blakemore, Director

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.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.

CANTATA

A Thrill of Hope

written and arranged by Joel Raney

A Thrill of Hope

John 1: 1

Betsy Dagenhart, scripture reader
Alan Martin, narrator

Long ago, prophets knew Christ would come, born a Jew, come to make all things new, bear his people's burden, freely love and pardon. God in time, God in man, this is God's timeless plan: he will come, as a man, born himself of woman, God divinely human. Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring, sing, choirs, sing, sing, when he comes...we will make him welcome! A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks...Of the Father's love begotten, ere the world began to be, he is Alpha and Omega, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn! Let every heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing... Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel! Hope of all creation, Lord, Emmanuel. Sing we noel, a King will come noel! Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all Noel, noel, noel. Hope of the world; Emmanuel. Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth thou art; dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart. A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn! Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. Through thine own eternal Spirit, Hope of all the earth thou art; dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart. A thrill of hope, Emmanuel.

* Hymn No. 211

O Come, O Come Emmanuel, vv. 1, 2, and 4
(Congregation please stand as you are able)

VENI EMMANUEL

A Gift of Love

John 1: 14

Love came down at Christmas, at the holy Savior's birth. In Bethlehem on Christmas morning, love came down to earth. Love came down at Christmas, in a manger filled with hay. In Bethlehem on Christmas morning, love came down to stay. Heavens glowing, cattle lowing, shepherd's knowing, love is born. Love came down at Christmas; angels gave the sign. Love came to earth at Christmas, love amazing, love divine... Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth; you who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth. Come and worship the newborn King, come, come, love has come to earth. 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, come and worship the newborn King, come, come, love has come for all... Love divine, all love's excelling, Joy of heav'n to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art...Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me I pray, Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven, to live with you there!...Come, Jesus, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole. Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed...Worship Christ, the newborn King. A thrill of hope, a gift of love.

* Hymn No. 234

O Come All Ye Faithful, vv. 1, 2, and 3

ADESTE FIDELES

A Prayer for Peace

Luke 2: 13-14

Sleep in heavenly peace...Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me; let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be. With God our Creator, children all are we. Let us walk with each other, in perfect harmony. Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now. With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow: to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally. Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me...weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!...With God our Creator, children all are we. Let us walk with each other, in perfect harmony. O, let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now. With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow; to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally. Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me. Let peace begin with me. Amen.

Hymn No. 217

Away in a Manger, vv. 1, 2, and 3
(Congregation may remain seated)

AWAY IN A MANGER

A Song of Joy

Luke 2: 15-20

Rejoice, rejoice!... rejoice, and sing to the newborn King, alleluia, rejoice! Rejoice!...Mary had a baby, my Lord; Mary had a baby, my Lord; Mary had a baby, rejoice, rejoice!...Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains. Gloria! In excelsis Deo! Gloria! Gloria!...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 angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"... Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns; let all their songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy!... Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ was born today; ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today!...Rejoice! Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss; Jesus Christ was born for this; he has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this, for this! Good Christian friends, rejoice, rejoice, rejoice!

Hymn No. 246

Joy to the World, vv. 1, 2, and 4

ANTIOCH

OFFERING INVITATION

Offertory Solo

O Holy Night

Jill Gardner, soprano; Beth Chapman, guest pianist

Lanny Lancaster

Adolphe Adam

*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

* **RECESSIONAL HYMN** No. 240 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, vv. 1, 2, and 3* MENDELSSOHN

* **BENEDICTION**

Lanny Lancaster

* **CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**

POSTLUDE

The Gift of Love

Beth Chapman, guest pianist; Jill Gardner, organist

Setting by Joel Raney

The congregation is invited to remain seated for the playing of the Postlude.

* please stand as you are able

*The Christmas Cantata is made possible by your generous financial gifts to the Blackwell Music Fund,
Tithes, and Offerings*

Main Street United Methodist Church Ministry of Music

Nancy Blakemore, director Jill Gardner, organist and pianist
Betsy Dagenhart, scripture reader Alan Martin, narrator

Christmas Choir

Glen "Andy" Anderson	Melissa Dreshfield	Eileen Kirby-Smith	Cheryl McKinney
Lance Antieau	Chuck Foster	Janet Lancaster	Brenda Montague
Dave Black	Sarah Foster	Celia Leal	Wesley O'Brien
Rich Blakemore	Elaine Fotia	Bonnie Macumber	Debbie Prior
Sally Brown	Jennifer Graves	Joy Malit	Adam Register
Jim Chesson	Mark Graves	Leon Martin	Carolyn Simmons
Mac Clement	Wade Hampton	Lou Martin	Chris Thompson
Nancy Copeland	Stacey Harward	Betty McAdoo	Gail Tozer
Willie Craven	Theresa Johnson-Crews	Claire McCullough	Sharyn Turner
Chuck Dagenhart	Shaw Kenion	Sarah McCullough	

Christmas Orchestra

Janet Orenstein, violin	Melanie Watson, horn
Brooks Whitehouse, violoncello	Jill Gardner, organ
Megan Whelen, flute	Jenny Lail, piano
Mark Biggam, oboe	Ryan Friddle, timpani and percussion

Main Street Handbell Choir and Cantata Ringers *

Lance Antieau	Carol Manz*
Leslie Antieau*	Sarah McCullough
Dave Black	Wesley O'Brien
Susan Boyd*	Kelly Thompson*
Melissa Dreshfield	Linda Wakefield*
Amy Macumber*	

***Special Thanks to Kathy Cissna & Richard Taylor, sound technicians,
and our talented A/V Team Volunteers***

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

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

SILENT AUCTION to benefit Western NC Disaster Relief is set up in the Commons and bidding ends at **12:30pm TODAY!** The Christian Fellowship Sunday School class is sponsoring this fundraiser. Stop by the Commons and check out the nice items!

THE WEDNESDAY CONNECT DINNER on **December 11** is Meatloaf (*gluten-free entrée is available upon request*). Dinner is served at **5:30pm**. Dining together is a great fellowship opportunity, but if you need to get your meal “to-go”, then we can do that, too! We have disposable takeout containers but we encourage you to bring your own re-usable containers for “to-go” meals. Reservations can be made by: signing a reservation card and placing it in the offering plate; calling the church office at 336-993-3411; emailing Kathryn (kathryn.jenkins@mainstreetumc.org); visiting our website or clicking the link in the Thursday Connections email each week. Reservations for dining in-person or “to-go” must be made by **Monday at noon**. The suggested donation is \$6/adult, \$3/child (10 & under). We accept cash, check, or cards. Cornerstone class serving.

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 & encouragement in the middle of a busy week.

SERVICE OF HOPE AND HEALING—The holidays are approaching and for some of us they may look different this year. The loss of a loved one, a diagnosis, divorce, loss of a job, or other major life event may have changed our lives. Please join us for a *Service of Hope and Healing* at 7:00pm on **December 10** in the Sanctuary. Come hear the music, a message of hope, receive Communion, and have the opportunity for prayer and lighting a candle for loved ones, for a gentle entry into the holidays.

PRAYER SHAWL Holiday Party at 9:30am on **December 12** in the Church Library. Bring Brunch goodies to celebrate another successful Prayer Shawl year. Contact Patty Rapp for more information.

CHRISTMAS CARDS for our Home Friends and Members over the age of 90 are due by **December 13**. A list of names is available in the Narthex and in the Commons at the Member Pickup Station.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PLAY will be presented by the Kid's Connect Choir in the Sanctuary at 6:30pm on **December 13**. This evening promises to be “merry and bright” while touching the very heart of Christmas!

COOKIES NEEDED: We would like to gift our Bethany Café guests some Christmas cookies during Bethany Café on December 21. Bring your homemade cookies to the church office on **December 16-20** during office hours. Please package 6 cookies in a Ziploc bag and label the bag with the type of cookie. We need 250 bags to have enough to include one bag with each meal served.

HERITAGE CLUB will go to High Point University Christmas Lights and Dinner on **December 17**. Van will leave the church at 4:30, we will drive through the HPU campus and enjoy their holiday lights before having a buffet dinner at Spiro's Family Restaurant. Pay for your own meal. Reservations required by December 10. Contact Debbie Smith.

NIGHT OF WORSHIP (NOW) is starting a new Christmas tradition—Main Street UMC Preschool is combining with the A&O Choir and the NOW band on **December 19** at 6:30pm. Please join us as our preschool children tell the story of the night our Savior was born! We will enjoy music from kids, adults, and youth.

CHRISTMAS EVE at Main Street will be celebrated with 3 services:

- 4pm—Family Christmas Eve service, led by our youth with the opportunity for all children in attendance to become a part of the Christmas story.
- 7pm & 11pm—Traditional Candlelight services with Communion

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.

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.