

We Gather to Worship God

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Of The Father's Love Begotten

Wilbur Hold

WELCOME

* THE CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

* THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 196

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Hyfrydol

* CALL TO WORSHIP

From the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

Grace and peace be with you all.

And also with you.

* THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

As you have made this day, O God,

you also make the night.

Give light for our comfort.

Come upon us with quietness and still our souls

that we may listen for the whisper of your Spirit

and be attentive to your nearness in our dreams.

Empower us to rise again in new life to proclaim your praise,

and show Christ to the world. Amen.

PSALM 27

PRAYER

Lord God, our light and our salvation, grant that your servants who seek your face in times of trouble may see your goodness in the land of the living, and that we may be set safely on the rock of our faith, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God

HYMN No. 211

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
stanzas 1-3

Veni Emmanuel

SECOND READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God

HYMN No. 218

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Carol

THE THIRD READING Matthew 11:28-30

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN No. 211

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
stanzas 5-7

Veni Emmanuel

THE FOURTH READING John 1:1-5, 14

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God

HYMN No. 230

O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

REFLECTION

Rev. Kyle Randle

GOSPEL CANTICLE

The Song of Mary

St. Thomas

My soul proclaims with joy

The greatness of the Lord;

My spirit will rejoice in him,

My Savior and my God.

The Lord has favored me;

All ages will proclaim

That God has done great things for me,

And holy is his Name.

On those who fear the Lord

His mercy will abide;

He showed the strength of his right arm;

The proud are scattered wide.

The mighty are cast down,

and lowly ones are raised;

He fills the hungry with good things

And sends the rich away.

He comes to us to keep

The promise made before

To Abraham and all his heirs

Of mercy evermore.

PRAYER

During this time, you are invited to light a candle, kneel and pray.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,

always and everywhere to give thanks to you,

Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

From the silence before creation

your Word spoke all that is into being.

You saw the darkness and called forth light,

dividing the day from the night,

and giving each its name and your blessing.

We abused your blessing,

choosing to control rather than tend,

to consume rather than nourish,

to turn away from your light,

and turn your darkness into a hiding place,

a place of fear and shame.

Still you chose to bless us and redeem us,

calling us to restored fellowship

through prophets, leaders, and faithful people.

And so, with your people on earth

and all the company of heaven

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

From the darkness of a stable,

you brought forth the light of the world,

He carried your light into every darkened corner,

calling those kept in darkness

to rejoice in your love,

and exposing those who hid from your Truth

to the light of your righteous judgment.

By the baptism of his suffering, death and resurrection you gave birth to your

church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new

covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us

he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,

gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup,

gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you;

this is my blood of the new covenant,

poured out for you and for many

for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this as often as you drink it,

in remembrance of me."

And so,

in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,

*we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.*

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

*Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them to be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.*

*By your Spirit, make us one with Christ in his sufferings,
one with each other in mutual love,
and one in ministry to all the world with healing grace,
until Christ comes in final victory,
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.*

*Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
All honor and glory is yours, almighty Father,
now and forever.*

Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Alleluia! In the midst of our longest night, Christ our Savior dwells among us!
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!*

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

Communion will be received by Intinction. The bread will be placed in your hand for you to dip into the Cup.

* THE CAROL OF LIGHT No.239

Stille Nacht

Silent Night, Holy Night

During the hymns, as your candle is lit,
pass the light to worshippers near you.

* BLESSING

* CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Johann Pachebel

In Dulci Jubilo

Come worship with us this Christmas Season

Saturday, December 24

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service / Sanctuary

Sunday, December 25

10:30 a.m. Morning Worship / Sanctuary

Sunday, January 1

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Morning Worship / Sanctuary

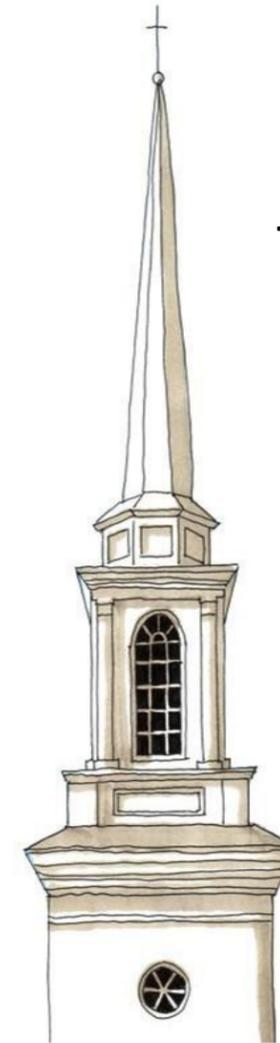
Wednesday, January 4

2:30 p.m. Children are picked up at school.

3:15 p.m. Follow That Star / FLC

5:30 p.m. Wednesday Evening Meal / Fellowship Hall

6:30 p.m. Epiphany Celebration / Sanctuary



First United Methodist Church

1001 Fifth Avenue
Conway, South Carolina 29526
(843) 488-4251
www.fumcconway.org

The Longest Night Service
December 21, 2016
6:00 p.m.



Welcome to First United Methodist Church

While Advent is a season of hope and Christmas is a season of joy, not everyone feels hopeful or like celebrating. Grief, aging, illness, depression, loneliness, unemployment, and loss are magnified. Even for those who are not struggling with losses may feel the stress of preparations and expectations around Christmas. On the longest night of the year, we gather to worship with a time of solace during the often frenetic days surrounding the celebration of Christmas. We come together seeking healing and room to share grief, sadness, loneliness, or confusion when these emotions often feel out of place during the holidays.

On this darkest day of the year, we come with our honest yearnings seeking the return of light and hope.