

We Gather to Worship God

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Kathleen Thomerson

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Chime Choir

* CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

* THE ADVENT PROCESSIONAL

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the Expected of the nations and their Savior.

Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O Wisdom, who came forth from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from end to end and ordering all things mightily and sweetly.

Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

O Adonai, and Leader of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the flames of the bush, and gave unto him the law on Sinai.

Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O Root of Jesse, who stands for an ensign of the people, before whom kings shall keep silence, and unto whom the Gentiles shall make their supplication.

Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O Key of David and Scepter of the house of Israel, who opens and no one shuts, who shuts and no one opens.

Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O Dayspring, Brightness of the light eternal and Sun of justice.

Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O King of the Gentiles and their Desired One, Cornerstone that makes both one.

Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

* THE HYMN OF THE DAY NO. 196

Hyfrydol

Come, Thou-Long Expected Jesus

* OPENING DIALOGUE

Isaiah 11:1-3; 12:2

Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust, and will not be afraid,

for the Lord God is my strength, and my might;

and has become my salvation.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,

and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him;

his delight shall be shall be in the fear of the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of our salvation, you speak through angels and prophets, telling us:

“Be strong, do not fear! For I will come and save you.” Open our eyes and unstop our ears, that we may sing for joy at the coming of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

~ WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD ~

THE LESSON

Luke 1:5-25

Fear not, Zechariah, priest and righteous one

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, ‘Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.’ Zechariah said to the angel, ‘How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.’ The angel replied, ‘I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.’ Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, ‘This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.’

Thus says the Lord: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

You have called us by name; we are yours.

ANTHEM

Gift of God

Marty Haugen

Cherub Choir; Arianna Hardaway, *soloist*

THE LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

Fear not, Mary, favored one of God

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you;

therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

Thus says the Lord: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

You have called us by name; we are yours.

THE HYMN NO. 198

My Soul Gives Gory to My God

stzs. 1 & 2

Morning Song

THE LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

Fear not, Joseph, son of David

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

THE HYMN NO. 207

Prepare the Way

Prepare the Way

THE LESSON

Isaiah 43:1-7, 15-21

Fear not, chosen people of God.

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, “Give them up,” and to the south, “Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.” I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King. Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

This Week at FUMC

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise. Thus says the Lord: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

You have called us by name; we are yours.

THE HYMN NO. 204 *Emmanuel, Emmanuel* Emmanuel
Sing Twice

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS Mr. Josh
Children ages three through first-grade may go to Children's Church in room 123.
Nurseries provided for infants through 3 years in rooms 118 & 120.

HOMILY Rev. Kyle Randle

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON
God of all time, **we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (after each petition)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM G.F. Handle
Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God

* PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS Doxology No. 95

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION No. 13
*Taking the Bread and Cup
*The Great Thanksgiving
The Lord's Prayer
Giving the Bread and Cup

All are invited to the Lord's Table at the direction of the ushers. There will be three serving stations. Communion will be received by Intinction. The bread will be placed in your hand for you to dip into the Cup. You are invited to kneel and pray at the Chancel Rail after receiving the elements.

The offering received at the Chancel Rail during Communion will be given to The Christmas Project.

COMMUNION ANTHEM *An Advent Prayer* Allen Pote
King's Singers

COMMUNION HYMN No. 626 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* Picardy
~ **WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD** ~

* THE HYMN OF SENDING NO. 706 *Soon and Very Soon* Very Soon

* BENEDICTION

* CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

* CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Toccata on Picardy* Gordon Young

* CONGREGATION STANDING

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God.

Sunday, December 2

9:30 a.m. Sunday School
9:30 a.m. The Hut Bible Class / Broadcast WRNN 99.5 FM
10:30 a.m. Worship Service / Sanctuary
11:30 a.m. Children's Musical Rehearsal / Room 105
4:00 p.m. Candlelight Advent Concert / The Hut Chapel
4:30 p.m. Advent Market / Fellowship Hall

Monday, December 3

8:30 a.m. Preschool / Education Wing
10:00 a.m. Organ Tuning / Sanctuary
11:00 a.m. Henry/Rogers Circle / FLC 101
6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts / FLC 102

Tuesday, December 4

8:00 a.m. Peoples Underwriters / FLC Room 102
8:30 a.m. Preschool / Education Wing
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting / Room 213
10:00 a.m. Burroughs/Collins Circle / FLC Room 101
11:00 a.m. Jimmy Hammond / FLC Gathering Room
6:00 p.m. CA Meeting / FLC Room 102
6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts / FLC Room 104
8:00 a.m. AA Meeting / FLC Room 102
8:00 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting / FLC Room 101

Wednesday, December 5

8:30 a.m. Preschool / Education Wing
3:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday Activities / FLC
4:00 p.m. Asbury Ringers Rehearsal / Room 211
4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class / Room 123
4:30 p.m. Wesley Treble Choir Rehearsal / Room 105
4:45 p.m. Chime Choir Rehearsal / Room 211
5:15 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal / Room 105
5:15 p.m. Voices in Bronze Rehearsal / Room 211
5:30 p.m. Wednesday Evening Meal / Fellowship Hall
6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Room 105
6:15 p.m. Ladies BSF Study / Room 216
6:15 p.m. Haiti Backpack Packing Party / FLC
6:15 p.m. Sanctuary Decorating

Thursday, December 6

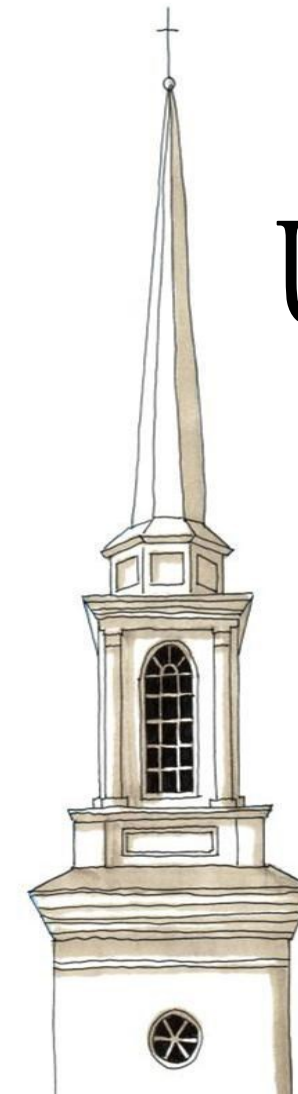
7:15 a.m. Youth Prayer Breakfast / Chick-Fil-A Conway
8:30 a.m. Preschool / Education Wing
6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts / FLC Room 104
7:00 p.m. Trinity UMC Activities / Education Wing

Friday, December 7

8:00 a.m. Peoples Underwriters / FLC Room 102
8:30 a.m. Preschool / Education Wing
5:00 p.m. Todd Wedding Rehearsal / Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. CA Meeting / FLC

Saturday, December 8

9:00 a.m. Breakfast With Santa / Fellowship Hall
11:00 a.m. Conway High School Band / FLC Gathering Room
5:30 p.m. Todd Wedding / Sanctuary



First United Methodist Church

1001 Fifth Avenue
Conway, South Carolina 29526
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www.fumcconway.org

First Sunday of Advent
December 2, 2018
10:30 a.m.



Welcome to First United Methodist Church

The light that shines in the darkness of the Church represents the light of Jesus Christ shining in our dark world. That light dispels the darkness, but not without showing up the dark places of our world, and of our lives. The light of Christ sees us as we are; it judges all, but it is also the illumination and the warmth, the guiding light, which leads us from darkness into light.

The angels who appeared to Zechariah, Mary, and Joseph all proclaimed "Fear not!" in response to the human emotions before them. God's word also breaks into the fears of our world with the promise of Christ. Surely God is our salvation; we will trust and not be afraid.