

First Church at Worship

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Michael Praetorius

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

* CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

* THE GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,
give thanks in all circumstances.

* THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 203

Ellacombe

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free;
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.

He comes with succor speedy
to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying,
are precious in his sight.

To him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his name shall stand forever;
that name to us is love.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Teddy, Jimmie, Laynee Lamont

THE RESPONSE

Trentham

**Kindle this flame of joy. May it burn bright and true.
Lighting the way that is of God, the journey we pursue.
God's realm is our desire, where peace and justice reign.
Heaven and earth combined as one, when Christ shall come again.**

ANTHEM

Every Valley
Mark Rollins, *soloist*

John Ness Beck

~ WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD ~

THE FIRST LESSON

Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The LORD, your God, is in your midst,

a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,

he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing

¹⁸as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,

so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors

at that time.

And I will save the lame

and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise

and renown in all the earth.

²⁰At that time I will bring you home,

at the time when I gather you;

for I will make you renowned and praised

among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes

before your eyes, says the LORD.

The word of God for the people of God

Thanks be to God.

THE ACT OF PRAISE

Isaiah 12:2-6

Canonbury

**Surely, it is God who saves me,
And I will trust him without fear:
My stronghold and my sure defense,
My Savior who is always near.**

**Draw water from salvation's springs,
And on that day your joy proclaim,
Give thanks to God, make known his deeds,
And call upon his holy Name.**

**Exalt God's Name, for he has done
Great things, and sing his praises well;
Zion, ring out your joy for him,
The Holy One of Israel.**

**All glory to the Father, Son,
And to the Holy Spirit be,
As from the first it was, is now,
And will be for eternity.**

THE SECOND LESSON

Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness
be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything,
but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your
requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses
all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

* SEQUENCE HYMN No. 2030 (TFWS)

The First Song of Isaiah

First Song

Surely, it is God who saves me;
will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,
and he will be my Savior.

*THE GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 3:7-18

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You
brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" ⁸Bear
fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have
Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to
raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the
trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and
thrown into the fire."

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he
said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has
none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came
to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He
said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for
you." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to
them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation,
and be satisfied with your wages."

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning
in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John
answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is
more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his
sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His
winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather
the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable
fire." ¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to
the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to thee, O Christ.

* SEQUENCE HYMN No. 2030

First Song

The First Song of Isaiah

Surely, it is God who saves me;
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,
and he will be my Savior.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Mr. Josh

SERMON

Rev. Kyle D. Randle

~ WE RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL ~

ANTHEM

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Hal Hopson

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God for whom we wait,

**in the presence of one another,
we confess our sin before you.
We fail in believing that your good news is for us.
We falter in our call to tend your creation.
We find our sense of self in material wealth.
We fear those different from ourselves.**

**We forget that we are your children
and turn away from your love.
Forgive us, Blessed One,
and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.**

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!
Through the power of the Holy Spirit, † your sins are forgiven.
You are children of the Most High,
inheritors of the eternal promise,
and recipients of divine mercy.
God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace. **Amen.**

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostle's Creed*

No. 881

**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.**

* THE GLORIA PATRI No. 70

Meineke

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

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 ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD ~

* HYMN OF SENDING No. 224

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

In Dulci Jubilo

Good Christian friends, rejoice,
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
News, news!
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door,
and ye are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice,
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
News, news!
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!

* BENEDICTION

* CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

* CLOSING VOLUNTARY Improvisation on *Hyfrydol*

Paul Manz

* Congregation Standing

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and
in celebration of our 60th Wedding Anniversary on December 16th
by Ed and Polly Sauer.

This Week at FUMC

Sunday, December 12

Fruit Basket Pick-Up in the Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. The Hut Bible Class / Broadcast WRNN 99.5 FM
9:30 a.m. Sunday School / Education Building
10:30 a.m. Worship Service / Sanctuary
3:00 p.m. UMYF and Bridge Meeting / Family Life Center (FLC)
6:00 p.m. Festival of Lessons and Carols / Sanctuary

Monday, December 13

12:00 p.m. Advent Luncheon / St. Anne's / Fellowship Hall
8:30 a.m. Preschool / Education Wing
6:30 p.m. Quintet Rehearsal / Room 105
6:30 p.m. NA Meeting / FLC Room 102

Tuesday, December 14

8:00 a.m. Peoples Underwriters / FLC Gathering Room
8:30 a.m. Preschool / Education Wing
9:30 a.m. UMW Cookie Exchange / FLC Gathering Room
6:00 p.m. CA Meeting / FLC Room 102
8:00 p.m. AA Meeting / FLC Room 102
8:00 p.m. Al Anon Meeting / FLC Room 101

Wednesday, December 15

8:30 a.m. Preschool / Education Wing
3:00 p.m. WW Snack and Fellowship / Fellowship Hall
3:30 p.m. WW Activities / Education Wing
3:45 p.m. Youth Hangout / FLC Room 103
4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class / FLC Room 104
4:45 p.m. Chime Choir Rehearsal / 2nd Floor Commons
5:30 p.m. Wednesday Evening Meal / Fellowship Hall
6:15 p.m. Adult Bible Study / Room 216
6:30 p.m. Dessert Theater / Children's Christmas Musical / FLC

Thursday, December 16

8:30 a.m. Preschool / Education Wing
6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts / FLC Gathering Area
6:30 p.m. NA Meeting / FLC Room 102

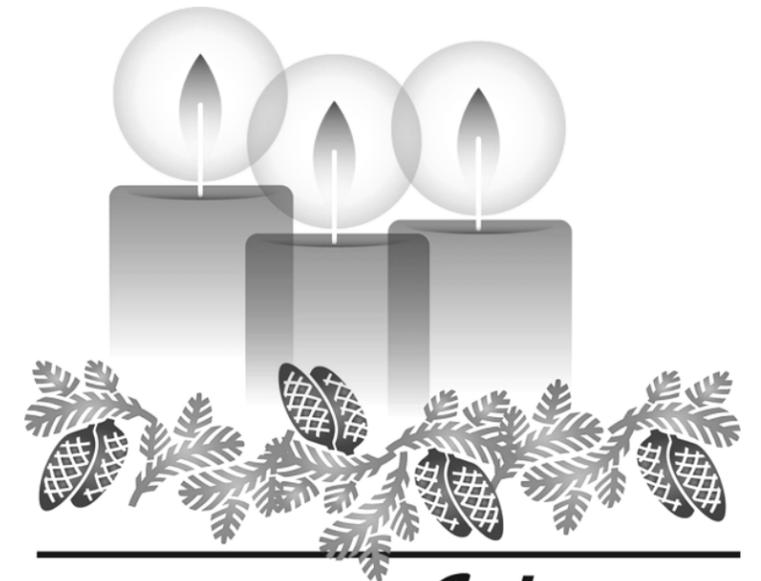
Friday, December 17

7:00 a.m. Youth Prayer Breakfast / FLC Gathering Area
8:30 a.m. Preschool / Education Wing
12:15 p.m. NA Meeting / FLC Room 102
7:00 p.m. CA Meeting / FLC Room 102

First United Methodist Church

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THIRD SUNDAY OF *Advent*

Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021

10:30 a.m.



Welcome to First United Methodist Church

Out of a broken and sinful world, all people are welcomed into
the body of Jesus Christ at First Church. As children of God,
together we join in worship to experience the transforming
love of our Savior.

We are here this morning to worship God. Through our songs,
words of praise, prayers and scripture reading, we give honor
and glory to God. Wondrous things happen as we worship.
Lives are changed. The presence of God brings hope, comfort,
healing, and joy. Let us worship in gladness. Jesus, the Lord
of Life is with us.