

First Church at Worship

The 10:30 a.m. service will be broadcast live via Facebook and the Church Website: www.fumcconway.org.

OPENING VOLUNTARY 8:15 a.m. *Ave Maria* Fanz Schubert
Janet Lawrence, *clarinet*

10:30 a.m. *Who May Abide the Day of His Coming* G.F. Handle
Mark Rollins, *soloist*

* CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

* THE GREETING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
The voice of one crying in the wilderness says:
“Prepare the way for the Lord, make his paths straight.”
The Spirit and the church cry out:
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

* THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 196 *Hyfrydol*
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

THE RESPONSE NO. 692 *Conditor Alme*
Creator of the Stars of Night
vs. 1

Creator of the stars of night, thy people’s everlasting light, O Christ, thou Savior of us all, we pray thee, hear us when we call.

~ WE LISTEN TO GOD’S WORD ~

THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
⁸For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge

that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.
This is the word of God for the people of God
Thanks be to God.

THE ACT OF PRAISE Psalm 126 *St. Peter*

**Freedom was like a dream to us
When God set Zion free;
We laughed, we sang, our voices rang
With shouts of liberty.**

**The heathen nations round us said
“God’s gifts to them are good;”
Yes, God has done great things for us,
We praise him as we should.**

**Restore our fortunes now, O Lord,
Like Negev’s waterways,
And grant that those who sow in tears
May reap with hymns of praise.**

**Let those who weep as they go out
And take with them good seed,
Bring back in joy such harvest sheaves
As may fulfill their need.**

THE SECOND LESSON I Thessalonians

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil. ²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.
This is the word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

* HYMN OF THE DAY No. 207 *Prepare the Way*
Prepare the Way of the Lord

* THE GOSPEL LESSON John 1:6-8, 19-28

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the

prophet?” He answered, “No.” ²²Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said,
“I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ ”
as the prophet Isaiah said.
²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to thee, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MOMENT (10:30 a.m.) Mr. Josh

SERMON Rev. Kyle D. Randle

Anthem (10:30 a.m.) *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* David A. White

~ WE RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL ~

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
whose forgiveness is sure
and whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

Together let us honestly and humbly confess
that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Loving and forgiving God,

**we confess that we are held captive by sin.
In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray.
We have not welcomed the stranger;
we have not loved our neighbor;
we have not been Christ to one another.
Restore us, O God.
Wake us up and turn us from our sin.
Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

People of God, hear this glad news:
by God’s endless grace
your sins are forgiven, and you are free—
free from all that holds you back
and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.
May you be strengthened in God’s love,
✠ comforted by Christ’s peace,
and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit. **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.**

* GLORIA PATRI No. 70

Meineke

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

~ WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD ~

* HYMN OF SENDING No. 220

Regent Square

Angels from the Realms of Glory
vs. 1 & 4

* BENEDICTION

* CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

* CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Robert Powell

Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending

* Congregation Standing

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

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.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: Rowland H. Pritchard; harm. from The English Hymnal

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all the people will see the salvation of our God.

Text: Isaiah 40:3, 52:10

Music: © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, by permission of G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain:

Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear;
suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear:

Refrain:

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854 Music: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

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The altar flowers are in loving memory of
James Taylor, Jr. & Ray and Elizabeth Clonts,
and to the glory of God and his Son, Jesus Christ,
by Josephine Holbert & Dawne and Danny Clonts.

This Week at FUMC

Sunday, December 13

8:15 a.m. Early Worship Service / Sanctuary
9:30 a.m. The Hut Bible Class / Broadcast WRNN 99.5 FM
9:30 a.m. Elementary Sunday School / Education Building
9:30 a.m. Youth Sunday School / Family Life Center (FLC)
9:30 a.m. Journey Seekers Sunday School / 5th Ave. Parking Lot
10:30 a.m. Worship Service / Sanctuary
3:00 p.m. Youth Mission / FLC
4:00 p.m. Candlelight Advent Concert on Facebook
5:30 p.m. UMYF & Bridge / FLC

Monday, December 14

8:30 a.m. Preschool / Day Tutoring / Education Wing

Tuesday, December 15

8:30 a.m. Preschool / Day Tutoring / Education Wing
6:00 p.m. CA Meeting / FLC Room 102
6:00 p.m. Sanctuary Reserved

Wednesday, December 16

8:30 a.m. Preschool / Day Tutoring / Education Wing
3:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesday Children's Activities / FLC
3:30 p.m. Chime Choir Rehearsal / Fellowship Hall
4:00 p.m. 7th & 8th Grade Hang-out / FLC Room 103
4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class / FLC Room 104
4:15 p.m. Asbury Ringers Rehearsal / Fellowship Hall
6:00 p.m. Evening Communion / Front Portico on 5th Ave.

Thursday, December 17

8:30 a.m. Preschool / Day Tutoring / Education Wing
6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts / FLC Gathering Area

Friday, December 18

7:00 a.m. Youth Prayer Breakfast / FLC
8:30 a.m. Preschool / Day Tutoring / Education Wing
6:30 p.m. CA Meeting / FLC

Masks are required when inside church buildings.

Thank you to Mike and Libby Saville, Kathleen McCracken, Howard and
Jo Ann Smith and families for the new Advent Candelabra Stand
given in loving memory of Ruth Bethea Smith.

FUMC Staff

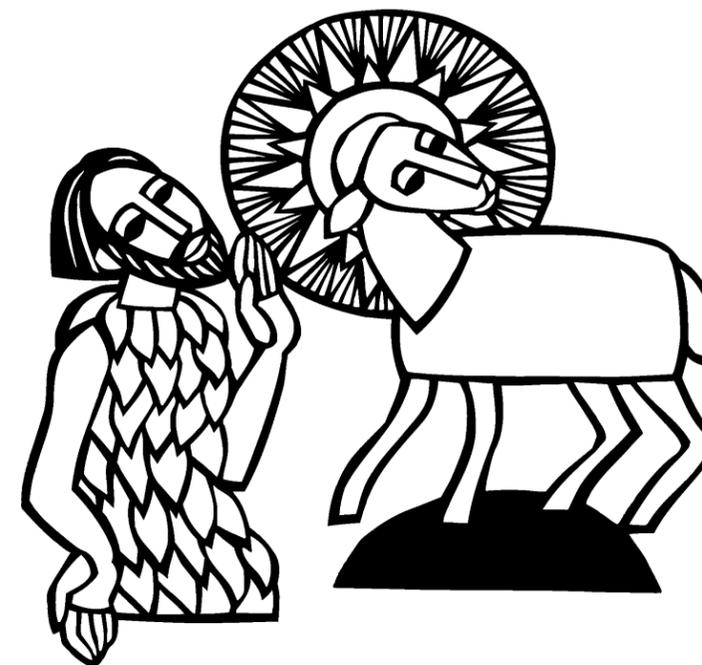
Reverend Kyle Randle, Pastor
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Josh Tietje, BS, Dir. of Christian Ed. & Mission
Danny Clonts, Accountant
Cathy Estridge, Ministry Assistant
Gayle Fanshaw, Nursery Attendant
James Graham, Sexton
Chrissy Merolle, Nursery Attendant
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Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020

8:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Out of a broken and sinful world, all people are welcomed into the body of
Jesus Christ at First Church. Our highest priority is the health, safety and well-
being of all persons, with a particular concern for the most vulnerable. It is our
collective responsibility as Christians to be good neighbors in our community.
As we join together in worshipping God to experience the transforming love of
our Savior, let us honor God and love one another.

- Masks must be worn inside the buildings
- Family members are invited to sit together on pews
- Sit in every other pew
- No more than four persons per pew except for families with appropriate spacing
- Follow the instructions of the ushers/health team
- Cough & sneeze into your sleeve
- No hugging or handshakes. Find alternative ways of greeting
- Avoid gathering in the Sanctuary, Narthex or near the doors of the church before and following Worship.
- Thank you for joining us in loving one another.