

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them 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, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, 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

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

**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.**

### Breaking the Bread

### Giving the Bread and Cup

### Anthem

*Away in a Manger*

*Mack Wilberg*

### Prayer after Receiving Communion *(In unison)*

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### Litany for Sharing the Light of Christ

The God who said, "Let there be light,"  
has caused light to shine in our hearts

That light is the glory of God  
reflected in the face of Jesus Christ

As our candles are a sea of light lit from the one light of Christ  
so may the church reflect Christ's light and love in the world.

### Carol No. 239

*Silent Night*  
(first stanza)

*Stille Nacht*

### \* Carol No. 240

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

*Mendelssohn*

### \* Benediction and Choral Response

### \* Voluntary

# First United Methodist Church

1001 Fifth Avenue  
Conway, South Carolina 29526

(843) 488-4251

[www.fumcconway.org](http://www.fumcconway.org)

## Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelighting

The Reverend Paul M. Kinnett, Pastor  
[mac.kinnett@fumcconway.org](mailto:mac.kinnett@fumcconway.org)

Billy Fallaw, MM, Director of Music and Organist  
[billy.fallaw@fumcconway.org](mailto:billy.fallaw@fumcconway.org)

Neal Hendrick, Director of Student Ministries  
[neal.hendrick@fumcconway.org](mailto:neal.hendrick@fumcconway.org)



## Call to Worship

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.  
Let us pray.

## Invocation

Voluntary *Christ is Born Today* Gerald Near  
\* Processional Hymn No. 234 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* *Adeste Fideles*  
(stanzas 1, 3 and 6)

## Opening Prayer *(In unison)*

Gracious God, with joy and thanksgiving we gather as your people.  
We have come to hear again the timeless story of Christ's birth.  
In the excitement of this night, quiet our hearts  
that we may know the peace and fullness of this holy time.  
Shine, O Light, in the darkness of our world. Sing, O angels, in the stillness of our  
hearts, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those God favors."  
This we pray in the name of the Child of Bethlehem. Amen.

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath and Christ Candle

### Anthem

\* Gospel Lesson Luke 2:1-20  
\* Hymn No. 246 *Joy to the World* *Antioch*

## Confession and Pardon *(In unison)*

Merciful God, we confess that often we find darkness more comfortable than light.  
We confess that we find your good news frightening and unsettling,  
especially when we consider its demands as well as its promises.  
We confess that Christmas has become more to us than the birthday of the Christ,  
partly because we do not want a Christ-Child in our lives or in our world.  
Forgive us, break us, bend us, remake us.  
Give us the courage to lay ourselves open to the wonder and healing of your coming.  
Be born again into our world, be born again into our hearts and lives.  
Hear now our silent and personal confessions as we prepare ourselves for your nativity.

*All pray in silence.*

The true light that enlightens all has come into the world. That light shines on in the  
darkness, and the darkness has never been able to put it out. This is the good news:  
God has heard our confession. God has forgiven our sin.

Thanks be to God!

## 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,  
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You created light out of darkness and  
brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us  
the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained  
steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,  
and spoke to us through your prophets.

In the fullness of time you gave your only Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior, and at his  
birth the angels sang glory to you in the highest and peace to your people on earth.  
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. As Mary and Joseph went from  
Galilee to Bethlehem and there found no room, so Jesus went from Galilee to  
Jerusalem and was despised and rejected. As in the poverty of a stable, Jesus was  
born, so 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.

As your Word became flesh, born of woman, on that night long ago, so, 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.**