

# The Nativity of Our Lord

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE VOLUNTARY Fantasia J. S. Bach

\*THE PROCESSIONAL CAROL No. 240  
*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* Mendelssohn

## \*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

*Minister: Glory to God in the highest.*

**People:** *And on earth peace and good will toward men.*

*Minister: Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.*

**People:** *Glory be to God on High.*

*Minister: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders;*

**People:** *And he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

## \*THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*Jesus Christ is the Light of the World!*

*A light no darkness can diminish.*

Congregational Response No. 230  
*O Little Town of Bethlehem* (stanza 4) St. Louis

## \*THE PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

## \*THE COLLECT

*The almighty God bless us with divine grace, Christ give us the joys of everlasting life, and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.*

\*THE CAROL OF PRAISE No.238  
*Angels We Have Heard on High* Gloria

## THE FIRST LESSON *Isaiah 9:2-7*

**Response:** *Whom do you behold, O shepherds? Tell us. Declare to us the tidings, on earth who has appeared? We saw the newborn infant, and the choir of angels, praising the Lord together. Alleluia, alleluia!*

## THE SECOND LESSON *Titus 2:11-14*

**Response:** *The Angel said unto the shepherds, "Behold, I bring you joyful tidings. For unto you is born this day the world's Redeemer." Alleluia!*

## \*THE GOSPEL *Luke 2:1-20*

**Response:** *Alleluia. I am bring you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. Alleluia.*

\*THE CAROL OF THE DAY No. 219  
*What Child Is This* Greensleeves

THE MEDITATION Rev. Randle

## CHRISTMAS PRAYERS

**Leader:** *I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever.*

**People:** *With my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.*

**Leader:** *To us you have brought abundant joy.*

**People:** *Before you we rejoice and sing.*

**Leader:** *Let us pray. O God, to whom glory is sung in the highest while on earth peace is proclaimed to all people of goodwill, grant that goodwill to us, your servants. Cleanse us from all our sins, and give perpetual peace to us and to all people; through your mercy, O God, who blesses and governs all things, now and forever.*

**People:** *Amen.*

**Leader:** *Tomorrow the iniquity of the earth shall be blotted out.*

**Response:** *Alleluia. I am bring you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. Alleluia.*

**People:** *And the Savior of the world shall reign over us.*

**Leader:** *The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light.*

**People:** *For those abiding in the land of death, a new splendor has appeared.*

**Leader:** *God of love, Father of all, the darkness that covered the earth has given way to the bright dawn of your Word made flesh. Make us a people of this light. Make us faithful to your Word, that we may bring your life to the waiting world; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**People:** *Amen*

**Leader:** *Today for our sake, the King of heaven is born of a virgin mother:*

**People:** *To reclaim the lost for the heavenly kingdom.*

**Leader:** *All the angels cry aloud with joy:*

**People:** *For God has come himself to save all humanity.*

**Leader:** *Almighty God, you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ who came to share our humanity, and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**People:** *Amen.*

**Leader:** *The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

**People:** *And also with you.*

*All greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you." Afterwards, the people are seated.*

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Nicene Creed No. 880

\*THE GLORIA PATRI No. 70 *Meineke*

THE OFFERTORY Johann Walther  
*Soul Adorn Thyself with Gladness*

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM The Jesus Gift Gilbert Martin  
*Margaret Jordan, soloist*

\*PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS Doxology No. 95

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION No. 13

*The Great Thanksgiving  
The Lord's Prayer  
Giving the Bread and Cup*

*The Communion Offering left at the Chancel Rail  
will go to the Shepherd's Table.*

## CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS Sung during Communion

*Away in a Manger* No. 217  
*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* No. 218  
*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* No. 229  
*Angels from the Realms of Glory* No. 220

## THE LIGHTING OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CANDLES

*As the acolytes pass the light to members of the congregation, pass it to the person next to you. DO NOT TIP a lighted candle. While the light is being passed, the Minister reads the following:*

## \*LESSON OF LIGHT **John 1:1-14**

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the*

world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

**\*SONG OF SIMEON:**

*Lord, now let your servant go in peace; you word had been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you prepared in the sight of every people: a light to lighten the nations and the glory of your people Israel. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.*

**\*THE CAROL OF LIGHT** No.239  
*Silent Night, Holy Night* *Stille Nacht*

**\*THE BENEDICTION**  
 All Extinguish Their Candles

**\*THE CAROL OF SENDING** No. 251  
**Go, Tell It on the Mountain**

**VOLUNTARY** Marcel Dupre  
 Gloria (from Magnificat V)

\*Congregation Standing

A very merry Christmas to all who come to worship the Christ Child. Our liturgy this evening is the special Eucharist from which comes the word "Christmas." It is the Christ Mass, the incarnation of our Lord and Savior in a manger in Bethlehem, in the Word of proclamation, in the sacrament of Holy Communion, and in our hearts as we take him into the world.

Ancient scriptures combine with candles, carols, and bright array to tell the story of the Christ Child's birth in the quiet of this special night. In the intimacy of this hour, we meditate by the manger, and in awe adore him as the infant God and King.

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The First Church Family wishes you a blessed Christmas. The church office will be closed December 24, 25, 26 and January 1. The staff thanks you for this time to celebrate with our families and friends.

### Come worship with us this Christmas Season

**Sunday, December 30**

9:45 a.m. . . . . Sunday School  
 11:00 a.m. . . . . Morning Worship  
 6:00 p.m. . . . . Evening Service in the Hut

**Sunday, January 6**

9:45 a.m. . . . . Sunday School  
 11:00 a.m. . . . . Epiphany Worship Celebration  
 5:00 p.m. . . . . Follow That Star...  
 an Epiphany Family Celebration

**THINGS TO KNOW WHILE WORSHIPING AT FIRST UMC**

We are grateful that you have chosen to worship with us today. We hope that you will receive a blessing from the service. If you don't already have a church home, it is our hope that you will consider letting First Church fill that need.

The Nursery is located on the first floor of the Education Wing in Rm. 118. Our nursery is staffed with paid professionals and loving volunteers. Parents are asked to sign in their children and check out a pager, so that we may contact you should the need arise during worship.

A restroom is located in the Narthex, the Parlor, and the first floor of the Education Wing. Baby Changing Stations are located in the Nursery, Rm. 118.

In the hustle and bustle of getting ourselves ready for church, it is easy to forget to turn off our cell phones. We offer this gentle reminder to please turn cell phones off so that the worship service is not disrupted by them.

# Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



*December 24, 2012*

*5:00 p.m.*

*First United Methodist Church*

*1001 Fifth Avenue*

*Conway, South Carolina 29526*

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