

# First Church at Worship

OPENING VOLUNTARY      *Advent Meditation*      Douglas E. Wagner  
Voices in Bronze

\* 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.**

The voice of one crying in the wilderness says:

**“Prepare the way for the Lord, make his paths straight.”**

\* THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 209

*Blessed Be the God of Israel*

*Merle’s Tune*

Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,  
who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.

The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;  
God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace

Now from the house of David a child of grace is given;  
a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven.  
Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,  
the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.

On prisoners of darkness the sun begins to rise,  
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner’s eyes,  
to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace;  
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH      Greg, Amy, and Allie Williams

THE RESPONSE (sung)

*Trentham*

**Kindle this flame of peace. 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.**

~ WE LISTEN TO GOD’S WORD ~

ANTHEM

*He Shall Feed His Flock*  
Will Brown, *soloist*

John Ness Beck

THE FIRST LESSON

Malachi 3:1-4

<sup>1</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

The word of God for the people of God

**Thanks be to God.**

THE ACT OF PRAISE

Luke 1:68-79

*Truro*

**Blessed be Israel’s Lord and God,  
For he has come and freed his own;  
He sent a mighty savior born  
Of David’s house and for his throne.**

**He promised through his prophets once  
To save us from our foes’ intent;  
He promised to show mercy and  
Recall his holy covenant.**

**He swore this oath to Abraham,  
To set us free from hostile might;  
To worship him, free from all fear,  
Holy and righteous in his sight.**

**And you, my child, shall now be called  
The prophet to prepare his way,  
To teach salvation to his own  
By putting all their sins away.**

**In the compassion of our God  
The heavenly dawn shall bring release,  
To shine on those who dwell in fear  
And guide us in the way of peace.**

THE SECOND LESSON

Philippians 1:3-11

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup>constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup>because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God’s grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup>to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup>having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.  
This is the word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

\* SEQUENCE HYMN No. 706

*Soon and Very Soon*

*Very Soon*

Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King,  
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King,  
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King,  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah!  
We’re going' to see the King!

\* THE GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 3:1-6

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went,

into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;

<sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

\* SEQUENCE HYMN No. 706

*Very Soon*

*Soon and Very Soon*

Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King,  
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King,  
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King,  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah!  
We’re going' to see the King!

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Mr. Josh

SERMON

Rev. Kyle D. Randle

~ WE RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL ~

\* 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.

~ THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION ~

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*see insert*

*This morning as we come forward for to receive the elements of Bread and Wine, you are invited to bring you "Leap of Faith" Stewardship Cards and place them in the designated basket.*

~ WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD ~

\* HYMN OF SENDING No. 220

*Regent Square*

*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.

Sages, leave your contemplations,  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great Desire of nations;  
ye have seen his natal star: **Refrain**

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

\* BENEDICTION

\* CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

\* CLOSING VOLUNTARY

*Chaconne*

Theodore Dubois

\* Congregation Standing

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in  
loving memory of our mother, Fran DeWhirst,  
by Jim and Donna DeWhirst.

### This Week at FUMC

#### Sunday, December 5

Pick up your Family Advent Bags / Narthex and Commons  
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  
4:30 p.m. Voices in Bronze / 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Commons  
5:30 p.m. Asbury Ringers / 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Commons  
5:30 p.m. UMYF and Bridge / Family Life Center (FLC)  
6:00 p.m. Candlelight Advent Concert / Sanctuary

#### Monday, December 6

8:30 a.m. Preschool / Education Wing  
10:30 a.m. UMW Circles Meeting / FLC  
12:00 p.m. Advent Luncheon / Fellowship Hall  
6:30 p.m. NA Meeting / FLC Room 102

#### Tuesday, December 7

8:30 a.m. Preschool / Education Wing  
7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts Meeting / FLC Room 103  
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 8

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 / 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Commons  
5:30 p.m. Wednesday Evening Meal / Fellowship Hall  
6:15 p.m. Adult Bible Study / Room 216  
6:15 p.m. Bon Fire / Smores / Courtyard  
6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Room 105

#### Thursday, December 9

8:30 a.m. Preschool / Education Wing  
10:30 a.m. Journey Seekers / Fellowship Hall  
4:30 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal / Room 105  
5:00 p.m. Wesley Treble Choir Rehearsal / Room 105  
6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts / FLC Gathering Area  
6:30 p.m. NA Meeting / FLC Room 102

#### Friday, December 10

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

#### Saturday, December 11

9:00 a.m. Breakfast with Santa / FLC  
10:00 a.m. Conway Christmas Parade / Main Street



#### Today is the last day to order Fruit Baskets.

Fruit Baskets will be ready for pickup  
Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>  
in the Fellowship Hall.

# First United Methodist Church

1001 Fifth Avenue, Conway, South Carolina 29526

843-488-4251 / [www.fumcconway.org](http://www.fumcconway.org)



SECOND SUNDAY  
OF  
*Advent*

Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 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.