

# **A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2021**

**TEN FORTY-FIVE O'CLOCK**



**PASTORS  
REV. ROSS CARTER  
REV. STEPHAN MARGESON**

**CHILDREN'S MINISTER  
MELISSA MILLER**

**YOUTH MINISTER  
CHRIS HUNEYCUTT**

**MINISTER OF VISITATION  
LESLIE B. PEAVY**

**ORGANIST/DIRECTOR OF MUSIC  
DR. MATT BRITTAIN**

**CHOIR DIRECTOR  
DR. P. BRADLEY LOGAN**

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**FRONT STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
136 SOUTH FISHER STREET**

# ORDER OF SERVICE

*Welcome: It's time to celebrate; we are in the presence of God. We invite you to joyfully prepare your hearts to receive God's love and to feel connected to the Body of Christ this day. Please take a moment to sign the pew pads. We'd like to keep you informed of what we are doing, so please give us your email, too.*

*All in attendance are required to wear a mask regardless of vaccination status.*

*\*Those who are able, please stand.*

## GATHERING AND COMMUNITY CONCERNS

### VOLUNTARY

Evening Noël  
Noël à l'Enfant  
Noël of the Birds  
Linda Cykert, flute

Jacques Berthier  
(1923-1994)

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Ross Carter

Leader: Come and rejoice in God!

**People: Sing praise to God who continually blesses our lives!**

Leader: In the midst of troubles and stress, God is near, offering compassion.

**People: Our hope is in the Lord.**

Leader: Let all the people praise God.

**All: Hallelujah! AMEN.**

### \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Once in Royal David's City  
Congregation and Chancel Choir  
Margaret Hample, soprano

IRBY

**Solo**

*Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.*

**Chancel Choir**

*He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;  
With the poor, and mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.*

**Congregation**

*And through all his wondrous childhood he would honor and obey,  
Love, and watch the lowly maiden, in whose gentle arms he lay;  
Christian children all must be mild, obedient, good as he.*

**Congregation**

*For he is our childhood's pattern, day by day like us he grew,  
He was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew;  
And he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.*

**Congregation**

*And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love,  
For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;  
And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.*

**Congregation**

*Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,  
We shall see him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;  
When like stars his children crowned all in white shall wait around.*

Words, Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)  
Music, Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876)  
Harmonized, Arthur Henry Mann (1850-1929)  
Descant, Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)  
*Oxford University Press*

**THE BIDDING PRAYER**

Rev. Ross Carter

**B**eloved in Christ, this Christmas Season it is our duty and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us hear again from Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our sin until the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child; and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise.

But first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart, let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world, and all his people; for peace upon the earth he came to save; for love and unity within the one Church he did build; for goodwill among all peoples.

And particularly at this time let us remember the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly let us remember all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words that Christ himself has taught us.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER (IN UNISON)**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES (RESPONSIVELY)**

Don and Lizzie Hill

Luke 2:10 "I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people."

*(Light three candles)*

Loving God, you have given us the greatest gift we could hope for in Jesus. Help us spread the news of that gift through everything we say and do.

Come, Lord Jesus!

## FIRST LESSON

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**Reader:** Janet Van Sant, A Representative of the Chancel Choir

*God announces in the Garden of Eden Adam and Eve's punishment for their rebellion and that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.*

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

**T**hey heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel." And to the man he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

This is the Word of the Lord.

**All:**      **Thanks be to God.**

**Carol**

### **The Apple Tree**

Chancel Choir

William Inabnit, baritone

*The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green:  
The trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ, the apple tree.*

*His beauty doth all things excell: by faith I know, but ne'er can tell  
The glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ, the apple tree.*

*For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought:  
I missed of all; but now I see 'tis found in Christ, the apple tree.*

*I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile:  
Under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ, the apple tree.*

*This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive;  
Which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ, the apple tree.*

Words, Anonymous, Collection of Joshua Smith, New Hampshire (1784)

Music, Scottish Folk Song

Arranged, K. Lee Scott (b. 1950)

*Hinshaw Music*

## SECOND LESSON

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**Reader:** Lizzie Hill, A Representative of the Congregation

*God promises to Abraham that by his descendants all the nations of the earth shall obtain blessing.*

Genesis 22:15-18

**T**he angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

This is the Word of the Lord.

**All:**     **Thanks be to God.**

**Carol**

### **Lute-Book Lullaby**

Chancel Choir

*Sweet was the song the Virgin sang,  
When she to Bethlem Juda came  
And was delivered of a son,  
That blessed Jesus hath to name:  
'Lulla, lulla, lulla, lullaby.'  
'Sweet babe,' sang she, 'my son,  
And eke a Savior born,  
Who hast vouchsafed from on high  
To visit us that were forlorn:  
Lalulla, lalulla, lalullaby.  
Sweet babe,' sang she,  
And rocked him sweetly on her knee.*

Words and Music, William Ballet (c. 17<sup>th</sup> Century)

Arranged, Geoffrey Shaw (1879-1943)

*Oxford University Press*



## THIRD LESSON

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**Reader:** Jim Roberson, Lay Leader

*The prophet announces the birth of a king to a people in darkness.*

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

**T**he people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**All:**      **Thanks be to God.**

**\*Hymn**

**God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen**

**GOD REST YOU MERRY**

Congregation and Chancel Choir



*God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,  
For Jesus Christ our Savior was born upon this day,  
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray:  
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

*From God our heavenly Father a blessèd angel came,  
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same,  
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name:  
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

*The shepherds at those tidings rejoicèd much in mind,  
And left their flocks a-feeding in tempest, storm and wind,  
And went to Bethlehem straightway this blessèd babe to find:  
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

*But when to Bethlehem they came, whereat this infant lay,  
They found him in a manger, where oxen feed on hay;  
His mother Mary kneeling, unto the Lord did pray:  
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

*Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface:  
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

Words and Music, English Traditional Carol  
Arranged, Sir David Willcocks  
Oxford University Press

## FOURTH LESSON

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**Reader:** Katie Porter, Afterschool Director

*The king is coming and will usher in a reign of justice for the poor and peace for all of God's creation.*

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

**A** shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**All:**      **Thanks be to God.**

**Carol**

### **There Is No Rose**

Chancel Choir

*There is no rose of such virtue  
As is the rose that bore Jesu. Alleluia.*

*For in this rose containèd was  
Heaven and earth in little space. Res miranda.*

*By that rose we may well see  
There be one God in persons three. Pares forma.*

*Then leave we all this worldly mirth  
And follow we this joyful birth. Transeamus.*

*The angels sungen the shepherds to  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gaudeamus.*

*Then leave we all this worldly mirth  
And follow we this joyful birth. Transeamus.*

Words, Anonymous English (15<sup>th</sup> Century)  
Music, Alan Husby  
Augsburg Fortress

## FIFTH LESSON

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**Reader:** Melissa Miller, Children's Minister

*The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary that she  
will give birth to God's promised Son whose kingdom shall  
never end.*

Luke 1:26-35, 38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Carol**

### **A Maiden Most Gentle**

Chancel Choir

*A maiden most gentle and tender we sing:  
Of Mary the mother of Jesus our King.  
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.*

*How blessed is the birth of her heavenly child,  
Who came to redeem us in Mary so mild.  
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.*

*The Archangel Gabriel foretold by his call  
The Lord of creation, and Savior of all.  
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.*

*Three Kings came to worship with gifts rich and rare,  
And marvelled in awe at the babe in her care.  
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.*

*Rejoice and be glad at this Christmas we pray;  
Sing praise to the Savior, sing endless 'Ave.'  
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.*

Words, Paraphrased from the Venerable Bede  
Music, French Traditional  
Arranged, Andrew Carter (b. 1939)  
Oxford University Press



## SIXTH LESSON

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**Reader:** Chris Huneycutt, Youth Minister

*Against a backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born.*

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Carol**

### **Away in a Manger**

Chancel Choir

Erin Layfield, soprano

Linda Cykert, flute

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head,  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes,  
I love Thee Lord Jesus look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.*

*Be near me Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever, and love me I pray,  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.*

Words, 19<sup>th</sup> Century  
Music, W. J. Kirkpatrick (1838-1921)  
Arranged, P. Bradley Logan

## SEVENTH LESSON

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**Reader:** Dr. Matt Brittain, Director of Music/Organist

*The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world, lying in a manger.*

Luke 2:8-16

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing 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. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**All:**      **Thanks be to God.**

**Carol**

### **Brightest and Best**

Chancel Choir

*Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;  
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.*

*Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining,  
Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,  
Maker, and Monarch, and Savior of all.*

*Shall we now give him, in costly devotion,  
Gifts of incense and offerings divine;  
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,  
Myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?*

*Vainly we offer the rarest oblation;  
Vainly with gifts would his favor secure;  
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,  
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.*

*Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;  
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.*

Words, Reginald Heber (1783-1826), alt.

Music, Paul Sjölund (b. 1935)

*Hinshaw Music*

## EIGHTH LESSON

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**Reader:** Rev. Stephan Margeson, Pastor of Discipleship

*The wise men follow a star to find the child Jesus, the King of the Jews.*

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**All:**      **Thanks be to God.**

**\*Hymn**

**The First Nowell**

**THE FIRST NOWELL**

Congregation and Chancel Choir

- Congregation**    *The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep:  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel!*
- Chancel Choir**    *They lookèd up and saw a star, shining in the east, beyond them far;  
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night:  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel!*
- Congregation**    *And by the light of that same star, three wise men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went:  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel!*
- Chancel Choir**    *This star drew nigh to the northwest; o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
And there it did both stop and stay right over the place where Jesus lay:  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel!*
- Congregation**    *Then entered in those wise men three, full reverently upon their knee,  
And offered there in his presence their gold and myrrh and frankincense:  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel!*
- Congregation**    *Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
That hath made heaven and earth of naught, and with his blood mankind hath bought:  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel!*

Words and Music, English Traditional Carol  
Arranged, Sir David Willcocks  
Oxford University Press

## \*NINTH LESSON

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**Reader:** Rev. Ross Carter, Senior Pastor

*St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.*

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**All:**      **Thanks be to God.**

**\*Hymn**

**Hark! the Herald-Angels Sing**  
Congregation and Chancel Choir

**MENDELSSOHN**

*Hark! the herald-angels sing glory to the new-born King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled:  
Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies,  
With the angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem.  
Hark! the herald-angels sing glory to the new-born King.*

*Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come offspring of a virgin's womb:  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald-angels sing glory to the new-born King.*

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings;  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.  
Hark! the herald-angels sing glory to the new-born King.*

Words, Charles Wesley (1707-1788)  
Music, Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847)  
Arranged, Sir David Willcocks  
Oxford University Press

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**OFFERTORY**

**Angels We Have Heard on High**  
Epworth Ringers

arr. Fred Gramann  
(b. 1950)

**\*DOXOLOGY No. 94**

**Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**

**LASST UNS ERFREUEN**

**P**raise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**\*AFFIRMATION FROM I TIMOTHY****Leader:**

There is one God  
and there is one mediator, Christ Jesus,  
who came as a ransom for all,  
to whom we testify.

**People:**

This saying is sure  
and worthy of full acceptance:  
That Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners,  
and was manifested in the flesh,  
vindicated in the Spirit,  
seen by angels,  
proclaimed among the nations,  
believed in throughout the world,  
taken up in glory.

Great indeed is the mystery of the gospel. Amen.

**\*HYMN****Joy to the World!**

**ANTIOCH**

Congregation and Chancel Choir

*Joy to the world! the Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King.*

*Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

*Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love.*

Words, Isaac Watts (1674-1748)  
Music, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)  
Arranged, John Rutter (b. 1945)  
Oxford University Press

## \*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Rev. Ross Carter

**M**ay the Christ who by his Incarnation gathered into One things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go forth in peace and joy.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

The congregation is asked to be seated for the postlude.

## POSTLUDE

**Joy to the World!**  
Epworth Ringers

arr. Philip L. Roberts

**In dulci jubilo, BWV 729**

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)

**WELCOME!** We're glad that you have chosen to worship with us today. Following this service, there is a gathering in the Heritage Center for fellowship and refreshments. Our hosts this week are Marshall and Carol Old.

**THIS MORNING WE WELCOME** Linda Cykert playing the flute. Linda teaches at Elon University and is a member of the Greensboro Symphony Orchestra.

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God and in in loving memory of their parents, Jerry and Pat Fritz and Delmas and Lois Bearden, by Donna and Bob Bearden.

**MEMBERS OF THE ALTAR GUILD SERVING IN DECEMBER** are Mary Ellen Cross, Trisha Craig, Marie Crissman, Helen Ellington, and Beth Kelley.

**OUR ACOLYTE** is Meredith Henry and our crucifer is Robert Henry.

**THE PRAYER REQUEST CARDS** in the pews may be placed in the offering or in the prayer request boxes in the Reading Area and the Narthex Area, or you may email the Prayer Ministry Team at [prayer@frontstreetumc.org](mailto:prayer@frontstreetumc.org). A member of the prayer team will collect requests and offer prayers for requests given on the prayer request cards.

## CHRIST OFFERING

### Christ Offering



**You are the Light of the world.**

These words capture the meaning of the Advent season, a time when we live somewhere between the fact of darkness and the hope of light. As a faithful supporter of the ministries of Front Street United Methodist Church, you play an important role in seeing that light wins over darkness. Your faithful support helps us to battle the darkness of this present age.

As the end of the year approaches, we ask that you help us finish our "first mile" and participate in our Christ offering. This offering assures that we not only meet our obligations for the year, but that we testify to the light which is Jesus Christ our Lord. Offering envelopes are provided in the pew slots for your gift. Please give generously today.

## UPPER ROOM

The January-February issue of the Upper Room is available. Copies are located in the Narthex and Welcome Center.

### **TREES OF LOVE**

Thank you to everyone who has adorned our Trees of Love to share Christ with our neighbors this season. Please return all items (unwrapped) to the trees by **Sunday, December 19**. Note: if you are donating money or gift cards, please return them to the church office.

### **CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING**

A Christmas Eve offering will be taken. This year's Christmas offering will be divided between missions and the church budget.

### **OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

The church office will be closed **December 23, 24, and 27** for Christmas and **December 31** for New Year's Eve. Merry Christmas and happy New Year!

### **OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Offering envelopes are available for pick-up outside the church office. PLEASE pick yours up by **December 31**. This will help in reducing our mailing costs. Thank you.

### **2021 CONTRIBUTION DEADLINE**

A friendly reminder from the Church Office: in order for contributions to be included as a contribution towards your 2021 statement, please have mail postmarked or dropped at the church office NO LATER THAN **December 30**. All contributions received after December 31 will be applied to your 2022 statement.

Please note: when you provide a check as payment, you authorize us either to use information from your check to make a one-time electronic fund transfer from your account or to process the payment as a check transaction.

### **ALTAR FLOWERS 2022**

The **2022** flower calendar is available in the Welcome Center. If you are interested in placing flowers in the Sanctuary in honor or in memory of a loved one, please write your name on the Sunday you wish to put flowers in the church. For more information, please contact Linda Paul at 336-543-5081 (cell) or kpaul5@triad.rr.com (email).

### **LIVE-STREAMING**

We are pleased to be able to live-stream our 11:00 a.m. worship each week for the benefit of those who are not able to be physically present. For those who would prefer to not be on camera, we endeavor to make the back half of the Sanctuary a non-video zone. The balcony is also available for non-video seating. If you have any

### **WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Aldersgate</b>	<b>11:00</b>	<b>Total</b>
11/14	30	137	167
11/21	34	124	158
11/28	31	155	186
12/5	30	144	174

questions about this service, please feel free to speak with Pastor Ross. For Aldersgate sermons, search Aldersgate@FSUMC wherever you find podcasts to listen to past sermons.

**FRONT IMAGE:** photo by John Moran.

## **CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 12, 2021**

### **Sunday, December 12**

8:45	Aldersgate Contemporary Worship	Aldersgate Hall
9:45	Sunday School	Class Rooms
9:45	Aldersgate Praise Band Rehearsal	Chapel
10:45	Service of Lessons and Carols	Sanctuary
6:00	UMYF Christmas Cheer Shopping/ Wrapping	Meet at the Church
6:00	Confirmation	Ministry Center

### **Tuesday, December 14**

9:00	Men' Breakfast Bible Study	Zoom
9:30	Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study	Room 305
7:00	Circle #5 Meeting	Heritage Center

### **Wednesday, December 15**

7:30	Youth Breakfast Club	Biscuitville on S. Church Street
7:00	The Empty Chair Bible Study	Room 401
7:00	Chancel Choir Practice	Choir Room

### **Thursday, December 16**

9:00	Sabbath Study with Pastor Stephan	Chapel
9:30	Prayer and Meditation	Room 402/Zoom

### **Sunday, December 19**

8:45	Aldersgate Contemporary Worship	Aldersgate Hall
9:45	Sunday School	Class Rooms
9:45	Aldersgate Praise Band Rehearsal	Chapel
11:00	Worship Service	Sanctuary
5:00	UMYF Christmas Party	Huneycutt's Home



**FRONT STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
MUSIC MINISTRY, FALL 2021**

**Chancel Choir**

**SOPRANO**

\*Margaret Hample  
\*Tessa Larson  
\*Erin Layfield  
Dawn Logan  
Janet Van Sant

**ALTO**

Donna Bearden  
Marty Crank  
Bert Mims  
Jan Peach  
Marti Strickland

**TENOR**

Bob Bearden  
Gene Fonville  
William Inabnit

**BASS**

David Hoxie  
André Johnson  
Brad Mace

Dr. P. Bradley Logan, Choir Director  
Dr. Matt Brittain, Organist/Director of Music

\*Denotes section leader.

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**Epworth Ringers**

Stephanie Gable  
Carol Hoxie  
David Hoxie  
Betsy Huneycutt  
William Inabnit  
Beth Kelley  
Suzie Lambeth

LuAnn Maner  
Paula Reardon  
Erin Rodriguez  
Lisa Thomas  
Janet Van Sant  
Susie Wall

Dr. Matt Brittain, conductor



# Christmas Eve Service

Candlelight Communion Service

for the Whole Family

December 24 at 5:00 PM in the Sanctuary

*WORSHIP WITH US!*



# PARTICIPATE IN OUR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

## An Invitation to All Children

Do you have a child or grandchild who would enjoy dressing up and participating in our Christmas Eve service?

Be an angel, a shepherd, a sheep, a donkey or a cow.

Costumes are provided (or you can wear your own).

Learn more and sign up at [frontstreetumc.org](http://frontstreetumc.org).