

**THE WORSHIP OF GOD
NOVEMBER 29, 2020
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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.

Singing: We will not be singing the hymns. You are encouraged to read the meaningful words as the hymn is played.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK

GATHERING AND COMMUNITY CONCERNS

PRELUDE

Fantasia on 'Veni Emmanuel'

Heathcote Statham
(1889-1973)

CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVELY)

Leader: Restore us, O Lord, God of hosts.

People: Let your face shine, that we may be saved!

HYMN NO. 202

People, Look East

BESANÇON

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (RESPONSIVELY)

Tom and Mary Holden Burke

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." (Luke 21:25-28, NRSV)

The Wise Men and shepherds saw signs that foretold Jesus' coming 2000 years ago. Today we don't look for a single brilliant star to follow, or for angels singing in the heavens. We look for other signs that Jesus is with us, signs that:

...we are feeding the hungry, healing the sick,
...clothing the naked, caring for the poor,
...working for justice and righteousness at home and in
our world.

And so we watch, and wait, and stay alert, waiting again for the coming of Jesus. And we light a single candle in preparation for that glorious day.

[Light the first candle on the Advent wreath.]

Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

God is always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and ready to give more than we either desire or deserve. So let us not be fearful in desiring God's mercy, but rather, confess our sins so that we may receive forgiveness with joy.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (IN UNISON)

How many times, Lord Jesus, have you come to us unexpectedly? How often have you visited, yet we have been too busy to notice? How many times have you spoken, yet we have been too full of ourselves to listen? As we turn over into this new year, so much of life as we've known it remains changed, unhealed, and in question. Forgive us, Lord Jesus, for despairing. Transform us this Advent season, so that we may be ready and expectant of your coming to us each day, even in the midst of this uncertain time, that we would be prepared to welcome your Final Coming as the fullness of love and joy. Amen.

PERSONAL CONFESSION AND MEDITATION (IN SILENCE)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Hear the good news. God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. God turns away from punishing, desiring instead resurrection and new life. Rejoice! Our salvation is near. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (IN UNISON)

Almighty God, you are the potter, and we are the clay. Shape us through the reading and proclaiming of your Word, that as one people we may live out the compassion and justice of our Lord Jesus Christ, whole and sound in the realm of your peace. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 64:1-9

SERMON "Come Down" Rev. Patrick Murphy

CALL TO PRAYER

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Let us pray.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN No. 706

Soon and Very Soon

VERY SOON

BENEDICTION

The ushers will dismiss the congregation by rows.

POSTLUDE

People, Look East

Barbara Harbach
(b. 1946)

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Thank you for your support of the mission and ministry of the church. Offering plates are placed at the doors from the narthex into the sanctuary so that our gifts and tithes may be placed in them upon entering or leaving. If you would prefer to make your contribution via Text-to-Give, just text your offering amount to FSUMC's dedicated number, 336-489-GIVE (4483).

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in memory of Wayne, LaJune, and Bill Vaught by Henry and Jenna V. Johnson.

WE THANK Julian Mims for serving as lay reader during our worship service.

THE PRAYER REQUEST CARDS are located on the tables in the narthex and may be placed in the offering plate or in the prayer request box in the narthex area, or you may email the prayer ministry team at prayer@frontstreetumc.org. A member of the prayer team will collect requests and offer prayers for requests given on the prayer request cards.

TODAY IS UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

Gifts to the United Methodist Student Day offering help deserving United Methodist students continue their education and their faith journeys as they strive to make a difference in the world and discern what God has called them to do. Offering envelopes are provided for your gift.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The **2021** 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).

People, Look East

202

1. Peo-ple, look east. The time is near of the crown-ing of the
 2. Fur-rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant-ed
 3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall
 4. An-gels an-nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to

year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the
 there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in
 brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as
 earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum - ming with the

People, look east and sing to - day:
 hearth and set the ta - ble. People, look east:
 course the flower may flour-ish.
 sun and moon to - geth - er.
 word, the Lord is com-ing. People, look east:

Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 Love, the Star, is on the way.
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.

WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon, 1928
 MUSIC: Trad. French carol; harm. by Martin Shaw, 1928

BESANÇON
 87.98.87

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Soon and Very Soon

706

1. Soon and ver - y soon, we are going to see the King;

(Hal-le-lu-jah!)

The first system of music consists of a treble and bass staff in G major and 2/2 time. The treble staff features a melody with a dotted half note followed by a quarter note, and a final quarter note. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

soon and ver - y soon, we are going to see the King;

(Hal-le-lu-jah!)

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system, maintaining the same musical structure.

soon and ver - y soon, we are going to see the King.

The third system continues the melody and accompaniment, with the treble staff ending on a whole note chord.

Hal-le - lu - jah! Hal-le - lu - jah! We're going to see the King.

The fourth system concludes the piece with a final cadence in both staves.

- 2. No more dy-ing there,
- 3. No more cry-ing there,

WORDS: Andraé Crouch, 1978 (Rev. 21:3-4)
MUSIC: Andraé Crouch, 1978; adapt. by William Farley Smith, 1987

VERY SOON
Irr.

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Poinsettias



- In honor of our family by Curtis and Sharon Beal**
In honor of Jim and Martha Brannock by Taylor and Nancy Wilson
In honor of Dr. Matt Brittain by the Epworth Ringers
In honor of Dr. William M. (Matt) Brittain by Ray and Nancy Brittain
In honor of the Front Street Congregation and Staff by Sarah and Ross Carter
In honor of Tom and Lynn Chandler by their children, and grandchildren
In honor of Mary Margaret Harris by Gary & Marianna Harris
In honor of Bill and Jennie Hawks by their children, grandchildren, and granddogs
In honor of our children and grandchildren by F. D. and Mary Zeta Hornaday
In honor of Julia Huneycutt by Matthew, Paige, and Hannah Huneycutt
In honor of Jesus by Bob Poindexter
In honor of Pat Kernodle by Dee Evans
In honor of Buck and Bobbie McMillan by Dee Evans
In honor of Cynthia Powell by the Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Study
In honor of Jennifer Smith by Chuck and Belinda Grady
In honor of my family by Alice Thompson
In honor of June West by the Genesis Sunday School Class
In memory of Louis Carr Allen, Jr. and Angelea by David and Nancy Hamby
In memory of Louis Carr Allen, Sr. and Bess by David and Nancy Hamby
In memory of Ann Mechum Carter by Marty and Mary Key and family

Poinsettias

- In memory of Harold and Nora Eckard by Roger and
Doris Jefferson
- In memory of Pete Freeman by Charles Hawks
- In memory of Tom Freeman and Claire Freeman by
Nancy Freeman
- In memory of Virginia Lee (Ginny) Coen Griffiths by
Jonathan Cloud and Deborah Elaine Black and
family
- In memory of our mothers by Roy and Peggy Harris
- In memory of Hilda Hedgecock by David Hedgecock
- In memory of Lloyd and Peggy Hedgecock by David
Hedgecok
- In memory of Bill and Mary Ann Inabnit and David L.
Hacker, Jr. by the William Inabnit family
- In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Johnson and Mr. and
Mrs. Robert Hinkle by Jim and Alliene Johnson
- In memory of Irene Key by Marty and Mary Key and
family
- In memory of Charles Aycock and Patricia Black
LeGrand by Charles LeGrand, Jr. and Jane
Ghant
- In memory of Leon by Brad Pullins
- In memory of Claude and Alva Lee Currin Long by
Merrimon Long Kennedy, Elan Long, and
Vincent Long
- In memory of Vincent and Eleanor Davidson Long by
Merrimon Long Kennedy, Elan Long, and
Vincent Long
- In memory of Ruth Mechum Orrell by Marty and Mary
Key and family
- In memory of Ken Paul by Linda Paul
- In memory of Mary Register and Bill Sharpe by Robert,
Jan, Alex, Robert, Jr. and William Register
- In memory of Bob Saffelle by the Saffelle family
- In memory of Gene Scarborough by Joanne Scarborough
- In memory of Burke Sellars by Dee Evans
- In memory of Bob, Betty, and Robin Smith by Todd,
Beverly, Alexis, and Matt Smith
- In memory of Robert and Jane Taylor by Tim and Janet
Van Sant
- In memory of Rebecca Thompson and Myrtle Marshall
by Bob and Linda Weavil

ADVENT DEVOTIONS

Front Street's Advent Devotions 2020 are now available. Please pick up a copy in the Welcome Center, Narthex, or Heritage Center. We ask that you only take one copy per family. Beginning today, a devotion will be posted on Front Street's Facebook page three times a week. 'Like' us to receive notifications. Alternatively, sign up at our website, www.frontstreetumc.org, to receive Advent devotions straight to your inbox. We hope these devotions will be a source of renewal for you this Advent season.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes are now available for pick-up outside the church office. If you give a stock gift to the church, please call the church office and inform Tammy Page, Finance Manager, of your gift. When the church receives a stock gift, the donor name is not always provided. We want to ensure the correct individual is credited with the donation.

FORGOTTEN ANGEL DRIVE

Thank you to everyone who purchased gifts for the Salvation Army Forgotten Angel Drive. We are still accepting donations through **tomorrow, November 30**. Purchase an item or two for older boys and girls. Pick up a list of suggested items from the Welcome Center. Drop your unwrapped gift(s) in the Welcome Center by the deadline.

BIBLE STUDY AND COFFEE WITH A PASTOR

Join Pastor Ross and Pastor Patrick as we delve into the book of Luke beginning in Advent. This study is open to all, and will meet via Zoom on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Please read Luke chapter 1 for the first gathering on **December 2**.

CEREAL SUNDAY

Don't forget **December 6** is Cereal Sunday at FSUMC! Please deposit cereal or other canned/dry goods in the tubs in the cabinet in the Welcome Center. Thank you for helping stock the food pantry at the Salvation Army.

CHRIST OFFERING

On **Sunday, December 13**, as has been our tradition, we will receive this year's 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. If you will not attend church in person that Sunday, please mail it to church or send it by any electronic means you prefer. Just indicate "Christ Offering" on your gift.

TREES OF LOVE

This season, share Christ with our neighbors by adorning our Trees of Love:

Tree of Grace: Share love with our neighbors in financial distress by making a gift to the Pastor's Discretionary Community Relief Fund. Specifically, this fund helps to pay for electric, gas and water bills.

Tree of Hope: Our Sister's House has women and children residing there over the holidays. Help make Christmas special for them by taking an ornament and returning the item listed on the reverse. Let's bring some hope to our neighbors who need our help the most.

Tree of Life: Help feed the hungry in our community by stocking our local food pantry this Christmas. The Salvation Army has specific requests for the following food items:

- any canned goods
- mac and cheese
- cereal
- spaghetti (noodles and sauce)

Adorn our Trees of Love with the spirit of giving! Please return all items (unwrapped) to the trees by **Sunday, December 20**. Note: if you are donating money or gift cards, please return to the church office. Thank you!

COVER IMAGE: Ivanka Demchuk (b. 1990), "Christ in Glory," 2015. Mixed media on wood, Lviv, Ukraine.