

**THE WORSHIP OF GOD
DECEMBER 13, 2020
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

PRELUDE

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel
I. Chant
II. Meditation
III. Toccata

John Behnke
(b. 1953)

As the prelude is played, prepare your home, yourself, and your family to enter into this time of worship.

CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVELY)

Leader: The Lord has done great things for us. Let us rejoice!

People: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

Leader: God brings down the mighty from their thrones and lifts up the lowly.

People: The Lord fills the hungry with good things and sends the rich away empty.

All: Let us bless the Lord!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (RESPONSIVELY)
Family

The Chris Huneycutt

"Rejoice in the Lord always."

"And again, I will say, rejoice."

"Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:4-7, NRSV)

Jesus is near. Despite the busy-ness, the pressure, and the assault of our senses that so often passes for Christmas, we have the promise of Scripture that ... Jesus is near.

When the shopping drains us physically and the spending drains us financially;
...when we think we can't stand to hear "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree"
one more time,
...then we will remember to REJOICE ... and again ... REJOICE.

We light a candle to help us remember that Jesus is near.

The peace of God will keep us in Christ Jesus.

[Light the third candle.]

Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy
2. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and

peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us,
yet a King, born to reign in us for - ev - er,

let us find our rest in thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so -
now thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By thine own e - ter - nal

la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art; dear de - sire of
spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone; by thine all suf -

ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

CALL TO CONFESSION

God has come down to us in Immanuel, God-with-us, Jesus the Christ, so that we may never fear being abandoned by God because of sin or death. Let us now draw near to God and confess our sins, that we might receive the assurance of our forgiveness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (IN UNISON)

Almighty God, you who cast down the mighty and lift up the lowly, remember us in your mercy this day. Call to our hearts and minds the grace and mercy you have shown in the past for your people Israel and for the world through your Son Jesus Christ. Forgive us, we pray, for we have acted haughty and great without reason, and forgotten the cries of the needy and the sick. We have chosen ourselves over the welfare of all. Lord, have mercy, so that we may turn and live as those who have been restored by the good news of Christ's coming. Turn our mourning into rejoicing. This we ask in Christ's name. Amen.

PERSONAL CONFESSION AND MEDITATION (IN SILENCE)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Hear the good news: The Lord has done great things for us, for God has entered the world in the womb of Mary and become like us in all things, so that through his life, suffering, and death, we might be raised with him to new life. Rejoice! In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

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

All: Glory to God! Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (IN UNISON)

O Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us this day. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
For he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
For the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
According to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.



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

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.

GIVING

3 WAYS TO GIVE

TEXT
Text \$ amount to
336.489.4483

ONLINE
[www.frontstreetumc.org/
give](http://www.frontstreetumc.org/give)

MAIL
PO Box 2597
Burlington, NC 27216

OFFERTORY

Arise, Shine, for Thy Light Is Come

Chancel Choir

Healey Willan

(1880-1968)

Arise, shine, for thy light is come,
And the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. Alleluia!
Oh, praise the Lord, all ye nations,
And laud Him, all ye people!
For his merciful kindness is great toward us,
And the truth of the Lord endureth forever. Alleluia!
-Isaiah 60:1; Psalm 117

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise 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!**

BENEDICTION

Copyright Acknowledgements

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of my four granddaughters, Mary Hunter and Liza Hite and Ava and Layne Pittard by Mary Ann Garrison.

Christ Offering



You are the Light of the world

Christ Offering: 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. Please mail your offering to the church or send it by any electronic means you prefer. Just indicate "Christ Offering" on your gift.

Advent Devotions: Front Street's Advent Devotions 2020 is now available. Please pick up a copy in the Welcome Center. We ask that you only take one copy per family. Devotions are 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.

The Upper Room: The January-February issue of The Upper Room is available. Please feel free to stop by the church and pick up a copy. Copies are located in the Welcome Center.

Offering Envelopes: Offering envelopes are now available for pick-up outside the church office. Please collect your envelopes by the end of December. Thank you.

Church Office Hours: Until January 4, the office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The office will be closed on Fridays. The church office will be closed **December 24, 25, and 28** for Christmas and **Friday, January 1** for New Year's Day. Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year from all the staff at FSUMC!

Trees of Love: Thank you to everyone who has adorned our Trees of Love to share Christ with our neighbors this season. It's not too late to participate—please take an ornament and 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. Visit www.frontstreetumc.org for additional information on each Tree of Love.

Christmas Eve Offering: An offering will be taken at all three services. This year's Christmas offering for the noon and 8 p.m. services will be divided between missions and the church budget. The children's service offering will go towards the Eastlawn Backpack Ministry.

Christmas Eve Services at noon | 5 p.m. | 8 p.m.: You are invited to join us as we celebrate the birth of our savior this Christmas Eve. As with most events this year, these services will be slightly different than in the past. All services (20-30 mins) will be held outside (weather permitting) on the grassy area by the playground and will include the reading of scripture and singing of Christmas carols. Our 5 p.m. service is designed especially for children and their families. Votives will be distributed during the 8 p.m. service for the singing of *Silent Night*.

For the health of everyone please:

- Maintain a distance of 6 between families
- Wear a mask
- Bring your own lawn chair or blanket, if you wish to sit during the service. Of course, standing is also an option. Alternatively, worship with us from your car with the windows rolled down.

2020 Contribution Deadline: A friendly reminder from the Church Office: in order for contributions to be included as a contribution towards your 2020 statement, please have mail postmarked or dropped at the church office NO LATER THAN **December 31**. All contributions received after December 31 will be applied to your 2021 statement.

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).

Sermon Image: Sr. Grace Remington, OCSO, "Virgin Mary and Eve," crayon & pencil drawing, 2005, Sisters of the Mississippi Abbey.

WORSHIP NOTES

Prelude

John Behnke is an American composer, organist, handbell director, and clinician. He is the Emeritus Professor of Music at Concordia University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He has composed many organ works, as well as works for handbell and choral ensembles. He earned his undergraduate degree from Concordia University in River Forest, Illinois and master's and doctorate degrees from Northwestern University. This setting of "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel" includes three movements: I. Chant, II. Meditation, and III. Toccata. In the first movement, the chant-like quality of the tune is set without meter in the right-hand. In the second movement, the tune is more obscure, but fragments of it occasionally appear in the pedal. The third movement begins with a reprise of the material from the first movement, but devolves into a fast-moving toccata with the melody in the pedal.

Offertory

Healey Willan was an Anglo-Canadian organist and composer. He served as organist/choirmaster of St. Paul's Anglican Church, Bloor Street (Toronto's largest), the home of a magnificent new organ by Casavant Frères (though of decidedly English character) and then as Precentor at Toronto's Anglo-Catholic parish of Saint Mary Magdalene, where his cultivation of Gregorian chant and numerous compositions for choir made him world famous. This motet-style anthem showcases his love for Renaissance music. It includes two main sections organized around two scripture passages (Isaiah 60:1 and Psalm 117). The first section features the Isaiah text in a homophonic style, while the second section features the Psalm text as a dialogue between the various voice parts. Both sections are followed by Alleluias, which are set contrapuntally.