

First United Methodist Church
Sunday, December 8, 2024



Strengthening and sharing our Christian
faith through fellowship and service

December 8 ~ The Second Sunday of Advent

Enter to Worship

This is a Time of Silence as We Prepare for Worship.

Prelude

Welcome

† Opening Hymn, No. 211

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appeal. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

† Call to Worship

One: John came out of the wilderness to preach repentance; he preaches to us still.

All: *Make straight the paths we now walk and prepare the way for God's reign of justice and love.*

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Upon hearing the news that his son would be a prophet of the Most High Zechariah broke into a song of praise.

“And you, child, will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.”

Light the candle.

We light the second Advent candle as an act of praise that by God's mercy, the Messiah will come to give light to those in darkness, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Covenant God, you send us messengers to cleanse and refine us for your coming. Help us endure the mirror of the prophet's message, that we may see you when you suddenly appear among us; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

Holy One, through your Holy Spirit instruct us by the light of your prophets. Illumine our hearts, that we may hear your call to become your path into the world. In the name of Christ Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

Luke 1:68-79

Responsive Reading

68 ***"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,***

for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

69 He has raised up a mighty savior for us
in the house of his child David,

70 ***as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,***

71 that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

72 ***Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors
and has remembered his holy covenant,***

73 the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,
to grant us

74 ***that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,***

75 in holiness and righteousness
in his presence all our days.

76 ***And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,***

77 to give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.

78 ***Because of the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,***

79 to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Epistle Lesson

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6

† Gospel Lesson

The Word of God for the People of God. ***Thanks be to God.***

Sermon

Anthem

† Affirmation of Faith for Advent

We believe that God has come to us;

that God brought us into being,

that this God gave us breath and purpose,

that we have been blessed to be a blessing to others,

that we have fallen short of this commandment

but that God has nevertheless loved us despite our brokenness.

We believe that God is coming to us;

*that this God will come to us as a particular human being,
that God will be made known to us in flesh and bone like ours,
that Mary will soon give birth and Joseph will soon clap his hands in
joy,
that Jesus Christ will be born and our salvation made complete.
We believe that God will come to us;
that God will have the final word and that Word will be good,
that this God will give us the presence of the Spirit to continue our
work,
that we are called to be disciples to all the corners of the earth,
that the day is coming when tears and pain will be no more,
and all will gather at the Table to sing an endless and perfect
"Alleluia!"*

~ By Rev. Stephen M. Fearing

† Hymn, No. 388

O Come and Dwell in Me

*O come and dwell in me, Spirit of power within, and bring the glorious liberty from
sorrow, fear, and sin.*

Prayers of Intercession

A time of silence follows each petition

Loving God, through the gift of prayer you teach us to hold one another in our hearts.

Hear now our prayers:

For the leaders and people of every nation

For the church and all who serve the Lord

For those who suffer in sorrow and affliction

For refugees and travelers far from home

For all who are in prison and facing trial

For those who sit in darkness, or in the shadow of death

Gracious God, this is our prayer: that your love will overflow more and more in our lives, in your church, and in all the world, until all may know the compassion of Christ Jesus, our Savior and Lord, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of all righteousness, receive these gifts of gratitude, the offerings of our lives. Purify them with your refining fire so that they may serve your purposes and shine with your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

† Closing Hymn, No. 419

I am Thine, O Lord

I am thine, O Lord, I have heard thy voice, and it told they love to me; but I long to rise in the arms of faith and be closer drawn to thee. Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to the cross where thou hast died. Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to thy precious bleeding side.

† Prayer for the Renewal of Christ's Church

Christ has no body now, but yours.

No hands, no feet on earth, but yours.

Yours are the eyes through which Christ looks compassion into the world.

Yours are the feet with which Christ walks to do good.

Yours are the hands with which Christ blesses the world.

~ St. Teresa of Avila

† Charge to the Congregation and Blessing

I am confident of this: that the one who began a good work in you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. Prepare the way of the Lord!

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Amen.

Please remain in silence until the Postlude has concluded and all have been dismissed.

† Please stand as you are able.

Words in **bold & italic** are to be spoken by the congregation.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Isaiah 12:2-6

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

LEADING OUR WORSHIP

Lay Reader: Glenn Miller

Ushers: MISSION TEAM

TO BE REMEMBERED

Prayers for Healing

Members: A.Y. Cooper, Yvonne Edwards, Sibyl French, Phyllis Kirts, Cindy Loving, Rita Potter, Jane Preston, Cathy Price, Lynda Rainey, Norman Shields, Nancy Vincent, Sally Walker, Barbara Yost

Friends: Phyllis Earley

December Birthdays for the week:

12/12 Vaughan Lunsford

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

United Women In Faith; On **Thursday, December 12, from 12:00 until 2:00,** we will be providing snacks for the students at CNU during a stressful exam week. We usually pass out over 250 items such as pre-wrapped nabs, water bottles, apples, home-made cookies and brownies, etc. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Please bring your contributions to the church kitchen Thursday morning between 9:30 and 11:00. **THANKS SO MUCH FOR ANY SUPPORT YOU CAN GIVE!**

CARING FOR GOD'S CREATION— Focus on “enough” with holiday foods. Food waste that ends up in landfills becomes methane, which exacerbates climate change. Feast with gratitude and joy~and with the goal of little to no waste. Compost any scraps or leftovers as a gift to earth.

FOOD CLOSET NEEDS! As the shelves continue to be sparse at the food-bank, help our closet by bringing these items: **canned fruit, spaghetti & sauce, soups, and mac & cheese.** Thanks for your support.

ALL CHURCH MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MISSION. Menchville House was established in Newport News in 1998 to assist women and their children. Please keep the families at Menchville House in your prayers. Circle 5 is collecting a Christmas gift for the children at Menchville House. We are collecting fleece throws and children's books to be given out at Christmas. You may participate by bringing a throw, a children's book, a large Christmas gift bag, or all three. There will be a hamper in the narthex to place your contribution. The final date to participate is **December 15th.**

THIS WEEK

Sun, December 8

9 am – Sunday School
10 am – Worship
11 am – Choir Practice
11:45 am – Hand bell Choir

Wed, December 11

10 am – Chapel
6pm Bible Study

Mon, December 9

10:45 am – Bible Study

Find us on Facebook!

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First United Methodist Preschool:

www.facebook.com/FUMPreschool

Instagram: www.instagram.com/firstumcpreschool

TITHES & OFFERING REPORT – December 2, 2024

Date	Budget Need	Offerings	Deficit
December	\$5,020.00	\$2,997.00	-\$72,832.74
Year To Date	\$240,960.00	\$168,127.26	-\$72,832.74

First United Methodist Church

Sunday Services: 9 am Sunday School; 10 am Worship Service

10246 Warwick Boulevard, Newport News, Virginia 23601 • Church Office: (757) 595-0383;

Church Office Email: administrativeasst@firstumcnewportnews.com

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs, 9:30 am-2:30 pm • Website: www.firstumcnewportnews.com

Pastor Elizabeth: pastor@firstumcnewportnews.com • Phone: Mobile: (757) 335-2649