

The Worship of God

Fayetteville First United Methodist Church

First Sunday of Advent | 11:00 AM | December 1, 2024

MUSIC OF PREPARATION

Savior of the Nations, Come from Orgelbuchlein
Johann Sebastian Bach

Nicholas Bowden
Director of Music & Organist

INTROIT

Make a Joyful Noise
John Ness Beck

The Chancel Choir

*Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all ye lands! Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before his presence with singing.
Enter into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise.*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Drew West
Minister of Families and Children

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 211

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LEONI EMMANUEL

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Leader and **People**
The Stevens Family

From deep in the past, Jeremiah calls to us, *"The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah."* Jeremiah 33:14

Beloved, the days are surely coming when the yearning of the land; the longing of the sun, moon, and stars; the desperate need of the people of earth for flourishing and peace will receive their fulfillment.

While fear, anxiety, misinformation, and suspicion surround us on every side, we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice and cooperate with God's grace already at work in our midst.

We light this candle of hope as a sign of our commitment to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming and are already here when God's love, justice, and mercy will reign.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. West

*Offer one another signs of reconciliation and love:
"The peace of Christ be with you." "And also with you."*

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES AND PASTORAL PRAYER

The Rev. Kaylen Short
Senior Minister

OFFERTORY

And the Glory of the Lord from Messiah
George-Frederick Handel

The Chancel Choir

*And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together;
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.*

*DOXOLOGY

OLD 100th

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. West

*Children are invited to return to seats after Children's Moment.
No Wonders of Worship today as we celebrate Communion together.*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Rev. West and People

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

*SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:8-15

Rev. West

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When 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."

May God bless the hearing of this scripture.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Inside the Manger: The Shepherds"

Rev. Short

*INVITATION, CONFESSION, & PARDON

Rev. West and People

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another.

Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Let us pray together:

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have failed to be an obedient church.

We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy.

Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All pray in silence.

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
God Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

...And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves
in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

**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 for-
give 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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

Gluten-free elements are available upon request at the chancel.

You are invited to contribute to the Benevolence Fund by leaving an offering
on the chancel rail. These funds are used to assist those in need.

*HYMN 196

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Short

*CHORAL RESPONSE

The Lord Bless You and Keep You
Peter J. Lutkin

Chancel Choir

The Lord bless you and keep you.

*The Lord lift His countenance upon you and give you peace.
The Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. Amen.*

***POSTLUDE**

Jesus Christ, Only Son of The Father from **Orgelbuchlein**
Johann Sebastian Bach

Mr. Bowden

*Please stand in body or spirit.

Congregational responses are in **bold type**.

Please remember in your prayers:

Van Askew
Blanche Babcock
Nancy Byers
Richard Clayton

Karen Davis
Robbie Gray
Martha Hale
Tangie Hubbard

Jerry Light
Bettina McDowell
Ron McDowell
Ingrid Shields

Brenda Tierman
Paul Wiley

In Memoriam
Tim Rainey
November 20, 2024

Our Christian prayers and sympathy are with

Marsha Rainey and family upon the death of her husband, Tim Rainey, on November 20.

The flowers on the sanctuary altar are presented to the glory of God

and in memory of Marsha Minnick by her daughter, Anna Mayhew.

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CONNECT



QR Code for
WEEKENDER



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Scripture quotations from New Revised Standard Version
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AA Meetings: Sundays 3 PM; Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays,
Fridays, Saturdays 7 PM; Thursdays, 7:30 AM

NA Meeting: Thursdays 7 PM

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GIVING



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