

The Worship of God

Fayetteville First United Methodist Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent | 11:00 AM | December 22, 2024

MUSIC OF PREPARATION

Noel Nouvelet
arr. Diane Bish

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 234** (Vv. 1-3, 6) *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Leader and **People**
The Fernandes Family

When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, "But you, O Bethlehem...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day." (Micah 5:2) But what if Micah is also talking to us, proclaiming, "But you, O Fayetteville, Georgia... from you shall come forth for me..." What? What might God be calling forth from us?

God invites us to receive the promise of God's salvation and the sustenance of God's mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God's invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.

We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God's promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God's love for all creation.

***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."*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Charles Robinson
Minister of Nurture

**Come, divine Interpreter,
open our eyes to your truth, and our hearts to obey your word
that we may share in your glory and reign with you forever. Amen.**

- Charles Wesley, 1762 (UMH 594) Adapted by Rev. Drew West

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 80:1-7

Rev. Robinson

¹Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

²before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!

³Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

⁴O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.

⁶You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

May God bless the hearing of this scripture.

Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES

The Rev. Allyson Lawrence
Associate Minister

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Lawrence and People

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.

OFFERTORY

Carol of the Bells
arr. Peter J. Whilhousky

The Chancel Choir

*Hark! how the bells, sweet silver bells, all seem to say, "Throw cares away."
Christmas is here, bringing good cheer, to young and old, meek and the bold.*

Ding, dong, ding, dong, that is their song, with joyful ring, all caroling.

One seems to hear words of good cheer from everywhere, filling the air.

O, how they pound, raising the sound, o'er hill and dale, telling their tale.

Gaily they ring while people sing songs of good cheer, Christmas is here!

Merry, Merry, Merry, Merry Christmas!

Merry, Merry, Merry, Merry Christmas!

On, on they send, on without end, their joyful tone to every home.

Ding, Dong, Ding, Dong.

*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 ages 4 years through 2nd grade are invited to attend Wonders of Worship in Room B225.

Younger children are invited to attend with a parent.

Children 3rd grade and older are encouraged to stay in the sanctuary for the service.

The nursery is available for infants through 3 years.

*SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:46-55

Rev. Lawrence

⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me

blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

May God bless the hearing of this scripture.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Inside the Manger: Mary"

The Rev. Kaylen Short
Senior Minister

***HYMN 230**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Short

CHORAL RESPONSE

I'm Trying to Be Like Jesus
arr. Barlow Bradford

The Chancel Choir

*Love one another as Jesus loves you.
Try to show kindness in all that you do.
Be gentle and loving in deed and in thought,
for these are the things Jesus taught.*

***POSTLUDE**

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella
arr. Keith Chapman

Mr. Bowden, organ

*Please stand in body or spirit.

Congregational responses are in **bold type**.

Please remember in your prayers:

Van Askew
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
Bettie Smith
December 6, 2024

Our Christian prayers and sympathy are with
the family of Bettie Smith who passed on December 6.

The flowers in the sanctuary are presented to the glory of God
and in memory of Julia Webb by her husband, Dick Webb.

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CONNECT



QR Code for
WEEKENDER



Online Giving: onrealm.org/FFUMC/give

Scripture quotations from New Revised Standard Version
Hymns: Copyright 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

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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