

The Worship of God

Fayetteville First United Methodist Church

Second Sunday of Advent | 11:00 AM | December 8, 2024

MUSIC OF PREPARATION

Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts from **Christmas Oratorio**
Camille Saint-Saens

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. Allyson Lawrence
Associate Minister

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 203

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

ELLACOMBE

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Leader and **People**
The Hansen Family

The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger who burns with a passion for God's coming salvation. "For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness" - Malachi 3:2b-3

In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo, we choose to live with a passion for God's peace, to listen to those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves to God's grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God's love throughout the earth.

We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Lawrence

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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Rev. Lawrence

**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

Malachi 3:1-4

Kathie Hansen

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is

coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES

The Rev. Drew West
Minister of Families and Children

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. West 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

Come Unto Me
Michael Cox

The Chancel Choir
Stephen Rotz, Tenor

Come unto me, come unto me and learn of me.

Refrain:

*Come unto me all ye that labor, come unto me ye heavy laden,
come unto me and I will give you rest.*

Take my yoke upon you and learn of me. Come unto me.

Ask and it shall be given you, seek and ye shall find.

Knock and it shall be opened unto you, seek and ye shall find.

Take my yoke upon you and learn of me. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

-Matthew 11:28-30, 7:7

*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

Matthew 1:18-24

The Rev. Kaylen Short
Senior Minister

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child

conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife.

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

SERMON

"Inside the Manger: Joseph"

Rev. Short

***HYMN 206**

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

HOUSTON

***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**

The Little Drummer Boy/Pat-a-Pan
Diane Bish

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

Our Christian prayers and sympathy are with
Ron and Bettina McDowell after the passing of their son, Scott McDowell, on November 23.

The flowers on the sanctuary altar are presented to the glory of God
and in honor of James Watkins' 105th birthday and in loving memory of James' brother,
Jennings Watkins.

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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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