

ORDER OF WORSHIP

MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 6, 202011:00 a.m.

Morning Worship Broadcast over WGOS-AM 1070 and on Facebook Live

GATHERING AND GREETING

Prelude“Dans cette Ville immense” from “L’enfance du Christ”Hector BerliozLissie & Peter Shanahan, flutes

Hector Berlioz’s oratorio, *L’enfance du Christ* (*The Childhood of Christ*), is a musical setting of the Holy Family’s flight into Egypt to escape the wrath of Herod as told in the Gospel of Matthew:

“When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.” (Matthew 2:13-16.)

“Dans cette Ville immense” (“*In This Huge City*”) depicts the Holy Family’s arrival in the Egyptian city of Sais following a very troubled journey from Bethlehem. Inside the city, Joseph and Mary’s pleas for refuge are overwhelmingly rejected by the townspeople who are Hebrews. Exhausted and forlorn, they are finally greeted by a family of Ishmaelites (descendants of Abraham) who take pity on them. The Ishmaelite father invites them into their house and commands his family to care for them, and has music played to soothe them.

Chiming of the Trinity

Welcome and Parish NotesReverend Rodney Denton

Lighting of the Second Advent CandleTony and Lorna McCullough

“In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people.’” (Luke 2:8-10)

Today we remember the shepherds, workers for the common good, steadfast watchmen isolated and alone, far from the warmth of home, doing the job no one wants. And yet God saw them, God valued them, and God declared the greatest news of all to them alone.

Today we give thanks for the shepherds among us, back-breaking laborers on whom our economy stands, those we overlook or rarely see, yet rely on for our very survival, the ones who have much to teach us about watching for God in the darkness.

On this second Sunday in Advent, we light the second candle as a symbol of the shepherds, agents of the gospel and redeemers of the world.

Advent Wreath ResponseLet All Mortal Flesh Keep SilencePICARDYLissie & Peter Shanahan, flutes

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood, Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood; He will give to all the faithful His own self for heavenly food.

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

Song of PraiseFor Unto Us a Child Is Born (from “Messiah”)G.F. HandelLissie & Peter Shanahan, flutes

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given,
and the government shall be upon His shoulder;
and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor,
the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.
(Isaiah 9:5)

The Apostles’ CreedReverend Lynda Hepler

***I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.***

Moment with the Children

Prayers of the People

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.***

MeditationGreensleeves to a GroundAnonymousLissie & Peter Shanahan, flutes

What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Sermon“That Baby Is Going to Change Your Life”Rev. DentonLuke 2:8-12

SENDING FORTH

ResponseO Come, O Come, EmmanuelVENI EMMANUEL
Lissie & Peter Shanahan, flutes


O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

BenedictionRev. Denton

PostludeRejoice! Rejoice! Veni EmmanuelPhil Lehenbauer

What to Expect at Indoor Worship



- Some pews are blocked to maintain social distancing.
- Face masks are required for everyone.
- Out of respect for others, please refrain from shaking hands or hugging.
- Offering plates are available at the entrance and exit of the sanctuary.
- At the end of the service, the congregation will be dismissed by section.
- No nursery staff are present, but the nursery space is available.

Today's Scripture: Luke 2:8-12

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.”



Today’s featured Chrismon: EPIPHANY (Five-Point Star & Rose)

The symbolism of the rose is derived from Isaiah’s prophecy of Zion’s glory (“The desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.” – *Is . 35:1*, KJV). Because some people interpret this as a Messianic promise, the flower has come to symbolize the Messiah. In addition, the rose is a widely used figure for our Lord’s mother Mary. This association led to its also becoming a symbol for Christ’s human birth and His humanity.

On the other hand, the star points to Jesus’ divinity. “Epiphany” is derived from a Greek word which means *the appearance or revelation of a god*. The Epiphany Star has five points; it specifically refers to the revelation or showing of our Savior as the Son of God (*Numbers 24:17; Matthew 2; Revelation 22:16*). Thus, a combination of the rose and the five-point star in one design is a portrayal of the two natures of the Christ: He is true God, and He is true Man.



The Chrismon Christmas Tree, which was originated in the Lutheran Church of the Ascension, Danville, Virginia, in 1957, is a way of honoring Christ. “Chrismon” is derived from two words, CHRIST and MONogram, and is just that, a monogram of Christ. The originator of the Chrismon Tree, after much research, found these monograms in many places – in the Bible, on utensils, jewelry, in catacombs, and in buildings. They were used by early Christians as identification to one another, to designate meeting places of the church, and as a witness to unbelievers. More significantly, these early symbols were a way of transmitting their faith. Over the years, still other symbols for the Savior have developed and are represented in the Chrismons. All Chrismons are made in combinations of white and gold. White, the liturgical color of Christmas, refers to our Lord's purity and perfection; gold, to His majesty and glory. We point to the Christ as the Light of the world by using tiny white lights on the tree.

Announcements

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE WITH CAROLS, Sunday December 20, 7 p.m.
On the front lawn, weather permitting



Save the date!

More information about this service coming soon.

NO ALTERNATIVE GIFTS, BUT...

To our wonderfully generous MUMC family:

Given the COVID-19 dynamics of this particular season, the Missions Committee is not able to host our Annual Alternative Gifts Campaign. Given the in-person nature of our in-house ordering, printing, and distribution system, we feel it best to suspend the effort during Advent. The needs of our neighbors these agencies serve, however, have NOT diminished. In fact, for many organizations their outreach has expanded.

As you pray and ponder how to best come alongside those who struggle, please consider donating to ministries/agencies/organizations that have been on our lists of previous years. There are no forms or cards, but WE can still make a difference. As you make out and mail your checks to the selected places, please confirm the proper mailing addresses. Our gratitude for you abounds and we look forward to a better 2021!

Some options include:

Cooperative Community Ministry
Davidson Medical Ministries
Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club
Salvation Army Davidson County
Dragonfly House
UMCOR (The church office may can help with Advance Numbers.)
Crossnore School & Children's Home
Project Divine Interruption (PDI) (Please make the check out to MUMC with "PDI" on memo line.)
Lexington Housing Community
Development Corporation
Meals on Wheels - Thomasville
ZOE Ministry
Project AGAPE
Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing Event

Again, thank you for continuing to be our neighbor's keeper. In doing so we, too, are kept.



CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION
December 24, 5-6 p.m.
Sign up for a time.

Come receive Holy Communion in the Chapel or Sanctuary on Christmas Eve. In light of COVID-19 protocols, we ask that you sign up for a time. We will limit each time slot to 6 people per location. Larger groups may sign up for back-to-back slots in the same location. Reserve your time at the signup link or call the office:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0545A8AF28A02-christmas>.

FAT TUESDAY PANCAKES 2021
**** CANCELLED ****

Once again COVID-19 has forced a decision, and that is to cancel our Fat Tuesday Pancake Day this coming February 16, 2021. It is just not safe enough to have such a large gathering. Supplies must be ordered and arrangements made in order to put on this day long event and it is just not feasible to do so at present. We are disappointed not to be able to do this fundraising mission but look forward to next year when we will resume this annual event.

2020 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

It's here! The 2020 Advent Devotional collection is now available in full on



our webpage. Printed copies are also available at the church. Check your email daily for the daily devotion sent each morning of Advent. If you are not receiving these, please let Susan know at sfrye@mumctville.org.

ARTS ALIVE OPEN HOUSE
January 3, 2-5 p.m.

We welcome students and staff from Praise 2 Life Music Academy, who are joining Arts Alive! Our open house will feature a concert by the 3 Heath Brothers at 3 p.m.

Calendar

SUNDAY DECEMBER 6

Second Sunday of Advent

10 R.L. Pope Class Online: Jim McGhee
11 Live Worship In-Person & Online
4-5:30 Youth: Game Show Night

MONDAY DECEMBER 7

10 10@10 Devotion

TUESDAY DECEMBER 8

9-10 Men's Prayer Group (Contact: Tim Lyons, tlyons00@gmail.com)

9-10 Christmas Crafts – Angels
(Contact Katie Conant to register for the craft classes being offered, 336-225-1947.)

10:30-12 Crafts – Doily Wreath

12:30-1:30 Crafts – Lunch Bag Wreath

10 10@10 Devotion

5:30 Yoga (Jarrett Hall)

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 9

The Weekly Update (Facebook Live)
6 Youth Small Groups Online

THURSDAY DECEMBER 10

10 10@10 Devotion

FRIDAY DECEMBER 11

10 10@10 Devotion

SUNDAY DECEMBER 13

Third Sunday of Advent

10 R.L. Pope Class Online: Allen Brown

11 Live Worship In-Person & Online

4 Youth (In-Person)

Prayer List

If you or a loved one would like to be added to the prayer list, please contact Lorna McCullough at 336-259-5814. If you put a name on the list, please keep in touch to let us know how that person is doing, as names are removed after three weeks. During the coming week, please pray for:

Britt Martin Williams

Peggy Graham

Cyril Harrington

Brad Hulin

Jessie Collett

Jaime Worsham

Barbara Westmoreland

Roy Flanagan

Conlin O'Shea

Our country and healing for all

Jennifer Ruff

James Carmichael

Margie Collins

Carol Kaiser

Josef Walker

Dean Sharpe-Austin

Finley Price family

Andrea Cain and family

Robert Miller

Dave Ogren

Tim Priska

Chris Eddinger

Peace and justice in our nation, state,

and city

Our first responders, medical

community, and essential workers

All those affected by COVID-19

All military personnel

Our United Methodist missionaries

The United Methodist Church

UPCOMING

DEC. 17 **At First Presbyterian Church** - RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

DEC. 20 CANDLELIGHT SERVICE WITH CAROLS (**Outdoors**)

DEC. 24 CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION (*See announcement for information about reserving a time.*)

JAN. 3 ARTS ALIVE OPEN HOUSE

Church Staff

Danny B. Leonard, dleonard@mumctville.org

Senior Minister

Rodney W. Denton, rdenton@mumctville.org

Minister of Youth & Young Adults

Lynda C. Hepler, lhepler@mumctville.org

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Jarry Oldaker, joldaker@mumctville.org

Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds



Sunday December 6, 2020
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

101 Randolph Street Thomasville, NC
336.472.7718 mumctville.org



Ministers

DANNY B. LEONARD
Senior Minister

RODNEY W. DENTON
Minister of Youth & Young Adults

LYNDA C. HEPLER
Minister of Children & Families

**We are called by Christ to Grow in Faith,
Build Relationships, and Serve All People.**