

ORDER OF WORSHIP

MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 20, 202011:00 a.m.

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

GATHERING AND GREETING

PreludeChorale Fantasia on “Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern” Dietrich Buxtehude (“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”)O Morning Star, how fair and bright thou beamest forth in truth and light, O Sovereign meek and lowly! Thou Root of Jesse, David's Son, my Lord and Master, thou hast won my heart to serve thee solely! Thou art holy, fair and glorious, all-victorious, rich in blessing, rule and might o'er all possessing.Thou heavenly Brightness! Light divine! O deep within my heart now shine, and make thee there an altar! Fill me with joy and strength to be thy member, ever joined to thee in love that cannot falter; toward thee longing doth possess me; turn and bless me; here in sadness eye and heart long for thy gladness!What joy to know, when life is past, the Lord we love is first and last, the end and the beginning! He will one day, O glorious grace, transport us to that happy place beyond all tears and sinning! Amen! Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! Crown of gladness, we are yearning for the day of your returning.

Chiming of the Trinity

Welcome and Parish NotesReverend Rodney Denton

Lighting of the Fourth Advent CandleMonty & Emma Aycoth

“In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.” (Luke 2:1, 3-4).

Today we remember Joseph, worn-out traveler and worried husband, doing what was necessary for the sake of his family, the burden of poverty stifling his hope in the promise of God. There was no room for him, yet he knows to whom he belongs.

Today we give thanks for the Josephs among us, migrating far from home when there is no choice, fiercely devoted to the ones they love, unwavering in their belief that there is room for all in the kin-dom of God.

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of Joseph, who knocks at the door, ready to take his place among royalty.

Advent Wreath ResponseLet All Mortal Flesh Keep SilencePICARDYClara Reitz, sopranoAt his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim, with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord Most High!

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

Song of PraiseO Holy NightAdolphe AdamClara Reitz, sopranoO holy night, the stars are brightly shining, It is the night of the dear Savior’s birth; Long lay the world in sin and error pining, ’till he appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn; Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night when Christ was born. O night, O holy night, O night divine.Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming; with glowing hearts by his cradle we stand; So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, here come the wise men from Orient land, The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger, in all our trials born to be our friend;

He knows our need, To our weakness no stranger! Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend! Behold your King! your King! before him bend! Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is Love and His gospel is Peace; Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother, and in his name all oppression shall cease, Sweet hymns of joy in grateful Chorus raise we; let all within us praise his Holy name! Christ is the Lord, then ever! ever praise we! His pow'r and glory, evermore proclaim! His pow'r and glory, evermore proclaim!

The Apostles’ Creed

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 ChildrenReverend Lynda Hepler

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s PrayerOur 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.

Meditation“Quia respexit” from “Magnificat”J.S. BachClara Reitz, soprano, and Paige Hepler, oboeQuia respexit humilitatum ancillae suae. (“For He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden. Behold, from henceforth, I will be called blessed.” Luke 1:48)Ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

SermonThe Colors of ChristmasReverend Danny Leonard“Green”Galatians 4:4-7

SENDING FORTH

ResponseGo Where I Send TheeCaldwell & IvoryClara Reitz, sopranoChildren go where I send thee! How shall I send thee? I’m gonna send thee one by one, One for the little bitty baby, the baby boy, born in Bethlehem.

Children go where I send thee! How shall I send thee? I’m gonna send thee two by two, two for Paul and Silas, One for the little bitty baby, the baby boy, born in Bethlehem. Children go where I send thee! How shall I send thee? I’m gonna send thee six by six, six for the days the world was fixed, Five for the bread they did divide, four for the Gospel writers, Three for the Hebrew children, two for Paul and Silas, One for the little bitty baby, the baby born in Bethlehem. Children go where I send thee! How shall I send thee? I’m gonna send the twelve by twelve, twelve, twelve for the twelve disciples, ’leven for ‘em singin’ in heaven, ten for the ten commandments, Nine for the angels’ choir divine, eight for the eight the flood couldn’t take, Seven for the day God laid down His head, six for the days the world was fixed, Five for the bread they did divide, four for the Gospel writers, Three for the Hebrew children, two for Paul and Silas, One for the little bitty baby, the baby boy, born in Bethlehem.

BenedictionRev. Leonard

PostludePostlude on MENDELSSOHNDavid WillcocksHark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies; with th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

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: Galatians 4:4-7

⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Today's featured Chrismon: FISH (ΙΧΘΥΣ) IN A CIRCLE

As early as the second century, Christians were using the fish as a symbol for the Christ. Most sources say that the use of this figure developed because the letters of the Greek word for fish, Ichthus (ΙΧΘΥΣ), formed an acrostic on the Greek phrase, “Jesus Christ, God’s Son, Savior.” (I – Iota, X – Chi, Θ – Theta, Y – Upsilon, Σ – Sigma). A few authorities, however, suggest that, since such a complex of meanings centered around the fish (His miracles, His fishermen disciples, the curiosity of a being who could live in an element – water – in which man dies, among other ideas of that age and culture), it was a symbol first; the acrostic was worked out later.

Clement of Alexandria recommended the design of a fish as suitable for Christians to use on jewelry. In the catacombs, fishes were drawn on the walls to direct worshipers to meeting places. Devotional and inspirational carvings made frequent use of fishes in several ways. A fish not only symbolized the Christ in various acts, but it also referred to his teachings, explained doctrine, and even – when a number of small fishes were used – represented the followers of the Christ, the Christian community. Use of the fish was and is a strong confession of faith and an affirmation of the basic doctrine of Christianity.

Announcements



***** TONIGHT! *****
CAROLS AND CANDLE LIGHTING
Sunday Dec. 20, 7 p.m.,
Weather permitting

Join us on the front lawn of the church tonight. The atmosphere will be festive as the sidewalk will be lined with luminarias. We will be led in the singing of your favorite carols by a brass ensemble and share in the reading of scriptures. Our service will conclude with the lighting of candles.

The service will be held outdoors, so please dress accordingly. For the safety of all gathered, please wear a facemask and practice social distancing. You are invited to bring a lawn chair. We anticipate the service will last 30 minutes.

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. The needs of our neighbors these agencies serve, however, have NOT diminished. In fact, for many organizations, outreach has expanded.

As you pray and ponder how best to 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.

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) (*Make check out to MUMC with "PDI" as memo.*)
 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

Dec. 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 on the website or call the office. ***If there are no available times when you go to sign up, please call the office.***

FAT TUESDAY PANCAKE DAY *CANCELLED*



Once again COVID-19 has forced a decision, and that is to cancel our Fat Tuesday Pancake Day this coming February. It is just not safe enough to have such a large gathering. We are disappointed but look forward to next year when we will resume this annual event.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Check your email for the devotion sent each morning of Advent. If you are not receiving these, contact Susan at sfrye@mumctville.org. Printed copies are available at the church.



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 20

Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 10 R.L. Pope Class Online: Tracy Brinkley
- 11 Live Worship In-Person & Online
- 5:30-7 Youth: Luminarias & Fire Pits
- 7 Carols and Candle Lighting (*Outdoors*)

MONDAY DECEMBER 21

- 10 10@10 Devotion

TUESDAY DECEMBER 22

- 9-10 Men's Prayer Group (*Contact: Tim Lyons, tlyons00@gmail.com*)
- 10 10@10 Devotion
- No Yoga

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 23

- Office Closed*
- The Weekly Update (Facebook Live)
- 6 Youth Small Groups Online

THURSDAY DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve

- Office Closed*
- 10 10@10 Devotion
- 5-6 Christmas Eve Communion (*Sign up for a time slot.*)

FRIDAY DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day

- Office Closed*
- 10 10@10 Devotion

SUNDAY DECEMBER 27

First Sunday after Christmas

- 10 R.L. Pope Class Online: Richard Herman
- 11 Live Worship In-Person & Online
- No Youth

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:

Sydney Hicks
 Britt Martin Williams
 Peggy Graham
 Cyril Harrington
 Brad Hulin
 Jessie Collett
 Jaime Worsham
 Barbara Westmoreland
 Roy Flanagan
Our country and healing for all
 Jennifer Ruff
 Margie Collins
 Carol Kaiser
 Josef Walker
 Dean Sharpe-Austin
 Finley Price family
 Andrea Cain and family
 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

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	Minister of Children & Families
Norris Norwood, nnorwood@mumctville.org	Director of Music Ministries
Peggy May, pmay@mumctville.org	Financial Secretary/Treasurer
Susan Frye, sfrye@mumctville.org	Executive Secretary
Jarry Oldaker, joldaker@mumctville.org	Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds



MEMORIAL™
 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Grow Build Serve

Sunday December 20, 2020 FOURTH 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.**