

WORSHIP OF GOD
FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 27, 2022 Eleven o'clock in the morning
Website: 1stucc.org Facebook: *First United Church of Christ-Salisbury*
Office Telephone: 704-633-2723

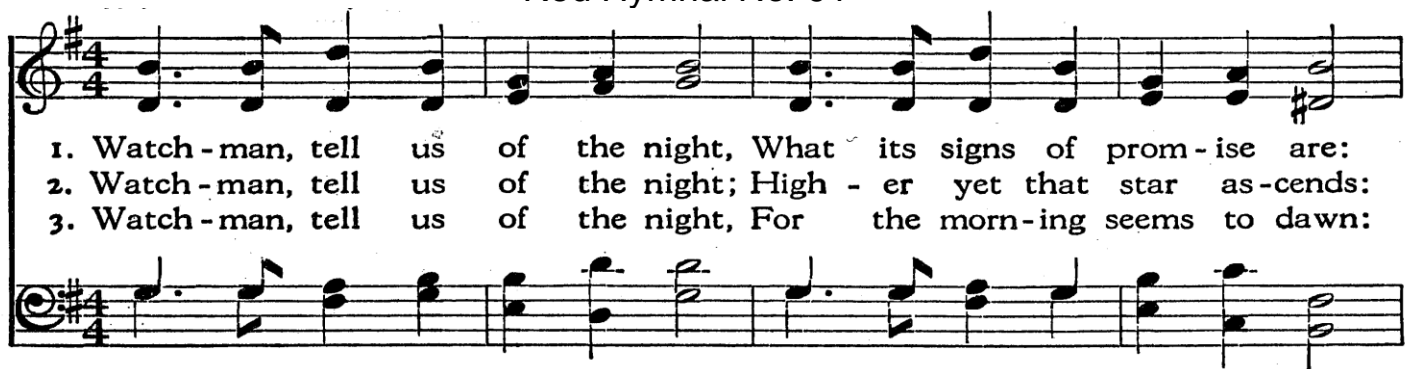
*Whoever YOU are and wherever YOU are on life's journey,
YOU are welcome here!*

Prelude
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
arr. Burton Bumgarner

A Time of Gathering

Words of Welcome and Announcements

†Hymn: *Watchmen, Tell Us Of the Night*
Red Hymnal No. 91



1. Watch - man, tell us of the night, What its signs of prom - ise are:
2. Watch - man, tell us of the night; High - er yet that star as - cends:
3. Watch - man, tell us of the night, For the morn - ing seems to dawn:

Trav - eler, o'er yon moun-tain's height, See that glo - ry-beam-ing star!
 Trav - eler, bless - ed - ness and light, Peace and truth, its course por-tends.
 Trav - eler, dark - ness takes its flight; Doubt and ter - ror are with-drawn.

Watch - man, doth its beau-teous ray Aught of joy or hope fore-tell?
 Watch - man, will its beams a - lone Gild the spot that gave them birth?
 Watch - man, let thy wan-derings cease; Hie thee to thy qui - et home.

Trav - eler, yes; it brings the day, Prom-ised day of Is - ra - el.
 Trav - eler, a - ges are its own, See, it bursts o'er all the earth!
 Trav - eler, lo, the Prince of Peace, Lo, the Son of God is come! A-MEN.

Call to Worship

One: Christmas is the first season of the Christian year. It's a season where the sacred and secular stand in opposition to each other and are often blurred. We throw around the word sacred as if we all have the same understanding of what that means. It means to dedicate something as "holy" or "set-apart". This year we are invited to enter a spiritual journey of learning to see ALL things pregnant and imbued with the Holy. What might our experience of Advent and Christmas be like if we lived it opening our imaginations to the possibility that everything reflects the sacred?

CROSSING THE SACRED

Leader: What if we really did, as we move through this season of Advent, what if we saw the presence of the holy in all that has been, is and always will be-right here-reflected in and through everything and everyone around us? This year I want to invite us to take some time, here at the beginning of worship to soften our focus on life. To see the whole picture with our hearts. To train our hearts to love as God loves, to look at life through the reflections of the sacred.

I invite you to get comfortable in your pew...to invite you to open your hands upwards in your lap as if you are ready to receive a gift. If you feel comfortable, I invite you to close your eyes and focus on your breathing. Let us take one long deep breath together and let it out...if your mind is still racing it's okay...just take another breath and thank that moment and let it go-that's it...take time to settle in.

Now take a moment to remember a time of day that you love. Is there some moment in your day where you get to catch a breath, some time alone? Or maybe it's cooking in your kitchen, or watering plants, or taking a walk...play that moment in slow motion and imagine particles of light showering on the scene...imagine them slowly showering down on this moment. Let the reflection of light be an anointing of hope for learning to see more and more of life as connected and interconnected with the sacred. Continue to just breathe, to listen, and see with your heart.

Sung Response "Upon this Moment"

U - pon this
mo - ment U - pon this peo - ple U - pon this place the Ho - ly
comes And Sa - cred know - ing brings Sa - cred be - ing For Sa - cred
do - ing of God's plan.

Leader: Take one more deep breath and as you are ready, open your eyes. I invite you to stand in body or spirit and face the wreath as the Light of Hope is lit. For those who are joining us online, I invite you to light your first Advent candle now as well.

Advent Candle Lighting The Leichman Family The Candle of Hope

Reader: Please repeat after me.
We pray for hope this day.
We open ourselves to seeing the Sacred reflected in all things.
We open to see each moment
As a gift of holy presence
This is the gift of the Mystery of Christ
Lighting the way to hope
(Candle is lit)

Sung Response “Upon this Moment”

Reader: Loving God, Incarnate Christ, Spirit of Hope, we give you thanks for this holy moment together. As we take in this hope you offer, may we be a reflection of your light and in so doing may we expand the sacred time of “right now” into the sacred time of “always and forever”. Amen.

†Hymn: *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*



1 Light one can - dle to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the
light ban - ish dark - ness. He shall bring sal -
va - tion to Is - rael, God ful - fills the prom - ise.

Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-715560 Glory to God Hymnal

†Prayer of Confession

All: It is true, O God that we lose track of the sacredness of time. We hurry and rush to get things done. Our overloaded schedules leave little free time to reflect on your love and grace. Exhaustion finds us crashed out on our couches at night in front of the TV, unable to barely move. Help us to slow down, to take time each day to breathe in Your presence and focus on Your love for us. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

† Silent Confession

(30 seconds of silence is observed for silent confession)

† Our Assurance of God's Pardon

† The Gloria Patri

REFRAIN

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - - - -

ri - a . . . in ex - cel - sis De - o. A-MEN.

REFRACTING THE SACRED

Children's Message

Choral Anthem *Somewhere A Child*

Gilbert M. Martin

Hebrew Lesson

Isaiah 2:1-5

Scripture Lesson

Romans 13:11-14

†Hymn: One Candle is Lit

Unison



1. Come sure - ly, Lord Je - sus, as dawn fol - lows night,
2. Come quick - ly, sha - lom, teach us how to pre - pare
3. Come, fes - tive - ly sing while a - wait - ing the birth,
4. Come, wan - der where li - on and lamb gent - ly play,
5. Come, lis - ten, the sounds of God - with - us ring clear,



1. our hearts long to greet you, as ros - es, the light.
2. for a gift that com - pels us with jus - tice to care.
3. join an - gels in danc - ing from heav - en to earth.
4. where e - vil is ban - ished and faith takes the day,
5. and signs of a cross in the dis - tance ap - pear.



1. Sal - va - tion, draw near us, our vi - sion en - gage.
2. Our spir - its are rest - less till sin and war cease.
3. Wave ban - ners of good news, lift high thank - ful praise.
4. a babe in a man - ger to fool the world's eyes.
5. The Word once made flesh, yet the Word ev - er near.



1. One can - dle is lit for the hope of the age.
2. One can - dle is lit for the reign of God's peace.
3. One can - dle is lit for the joy of these days.
4. One can - dle is lit for God's lov - ing sur - prise.
5. One can - dle is lit for the Christ - birth - day here.

Leader: This is a word of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“Sacred Time”

Rev. Carol Hallman

REFILLING THE SACRED

†An Affirmation of Faith

The UCC Statement of Faith

All: We believe in You, O God, the Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to Your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in Your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. You judge people and nations by Your righteous will, declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, You have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death, and reconciling the world to Yourself.

You bestow upon us Your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues and races.

You call us into Your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be Your servant in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world, and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ’s baptism and eat at His table, to join Him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust You forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, Your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in Your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto You. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Leader: May the Spirit of God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

The Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

All: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Prayer Response: *Hear Our Prayer, O Lord*

pp Devoutly

Hear our prayer, O Lord; Hear our prayer, O Lord;

Hear our prayer, O Lord, And grant us Thy peace. A-MEN.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has two staves: a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The second system also has two staves: a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo/mood is marked 'pp Devoutly'. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

Invitation

Offertory *Choral*

Flor Peeters


Offertory Response




Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow, Praise God all crea - tures



here be-low. Praise God all hea - vens and the Earth re - flect - ing the sac - red



sto - ry. This, this is Christ the King the One who mir - rows hope for all.



Haste, haste to bring him laud, the word of time e - ter - nal.

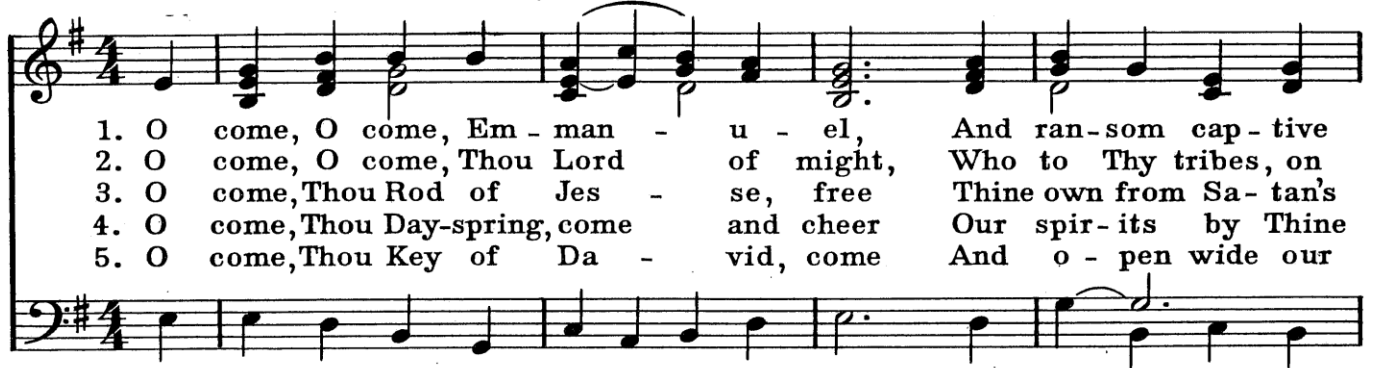
Blessing

REFRAMING THE SACRED

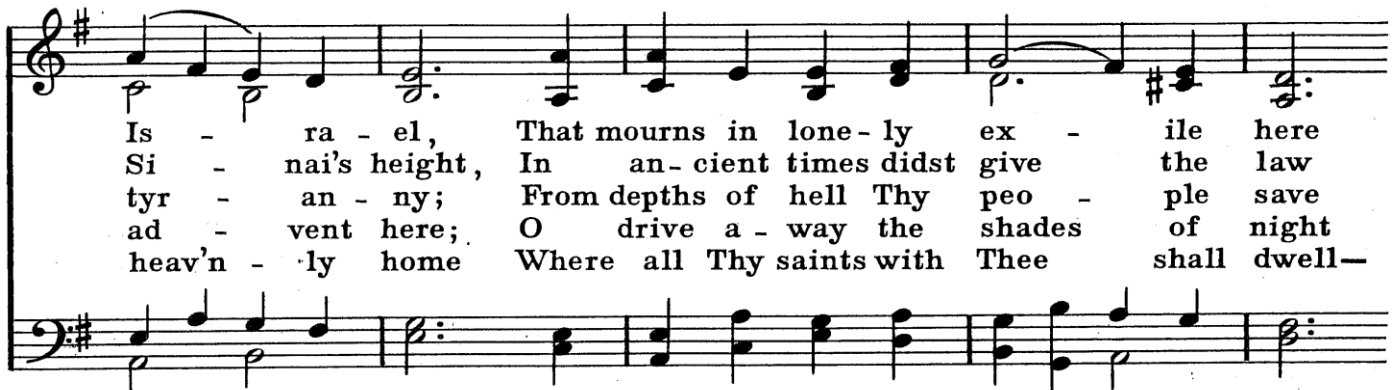
Anointed to Sacred Time

†Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Blue Hymnal No. 83



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran-som cap-tive
2. O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes, on
3. O come, Thou Rod of Jes - se, free Thine own from Sa-tan's
4. O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer Our spir-its by Thine
5. O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come And o - pen wide our




Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone-ly ex - ile here
Si - nai's height, In an-cient times didst give the law
tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell Thy peo - ple save
ad - vent here; O drive a - way the shades of night
heav'n - ly home Where all Thy saints with Thee shall dwell—

REFRAIN *Parts*



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! re - joice!
And pierce the clouds and bring us light.
O come, O come, Em - man - u - el!



Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Benediction

Postlude

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

arr. James Pethel

Assisting in Worship

Rev. Carol Hallman, Resident Pastor

Brian Sevison, Organist/Choir Director

Shearin Teague, Lay Reader

Choral Music Scholars

Teresa Greene, Alto

Graycen Murray, Soprano

Ali Abbey, Alto

Evan Moreno, Tenor

Pavel Gabulle, Baritone



Scan the QR Code with your camera to donate to First UCC.

Remember in Your Prayers

Brenda Bernhardt, Tyler Bernhardt, Steve Bowles, Rev. Warren Casiday, Tim Cook, Gerri D. Crummett (Donna Odrosky's sister), Betty Diehl, Stacy Erb, Winston Ezzell (Carrie Webster's father), Gary Hauze (no visits or phone calls, please), Nancy Hipp, Anne Kennedy, Jasmine Kirby and son Noah (Don Whitfield's niece and great-nephew), Rick Lockhart (Radell Lockhart's uncle), Jim Lyerly, John Marion, Shirley McNeil, Eddie Meeker, Megan Meredith, Dan Morgan (friend of Steve Bowles), Joseph Najarian (son of Dena & David Najarian), Pat Norris, Veronika Poliakova, Patsy Paxton, Mark Shuping, Romas & Sarah Shuping, Claire Skinner, Clyde Taylor (Linda Hauze's uncle), David & Barbara Waller, Waylon Ward. ***If you know of anyone who should be added or removed from our prayer list, let the office know. If you have prayer concerns, please text, call or email Pastor Carol.***

Today, November 27

12:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, November 29

6:30 p.m. Catawba College Lessons & Carols, Church Night

Wednesday, November 30

10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

For the 35th consecutive year, Catawba College will present its Service of Lessons and Carols on November 28th and December 1st in the Omwake-Dearborn Chapel on Catawba’s campus. The prelude will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the Service at 7:00 p.m. **Church Night will be held on Tuesday, November 29.** Tickets are not required.

Lessons and Carols is a service of scripture and song that dates back to the late 19th century. Each lesson tells the story of Christmas and is followed by a carol. Catawba’s Lessons and Carols is seven lessons with scripture readings by the President of the Student Body, a member of the Salisbury-Rowan community, Catawba faculty, and members of the college administration staff.

Some of the carols this year include “We Shall Light a Thousand Candles,” “O Come, O Come Emmanuel,” “Once in Royal David’s City,” “For Unto Us a Child is Born,” “The Carol”, “What Child is This?”, “Gloria in Excelsis,” and “Go, Tell It on the Mountain,” and “The Wise Men are Led by the Star to Jesus.”

While tickets are not required, seating is limited and is available on a first come, first served basis.

Thanks to all who stayed after worship last week for Hanging of the Greens.

The Church Office would like to know your favorite Christmas carols. We plan to sing them on Christmas Day.

The deadline to order **2023 Birthday Calendars** is TODAY. If you wish to place names in honor of or in memory of a special someone or if you would just like to order a calendar please contact Glenda Shrewsbury.

The **Little Red Wagon Food Collection** mission is in need of donations for Rowan Helping Ministries' Food for Thought Program. Some suggestions:

Mac & Cheese Cups

Canned Ravioli or Franks & Beans

Cereal Cups (individual serving size)

Oatmeal

Pudding

Fruit Cups

Various Granola Bars

You may also drop off your donations at the Church anytime during office hours or on any Sunday morning.

5-Alive Donations are always needed and appreciated. Giving to the 5-Alive Fund is used to help those in our church and within our community. Donations may also be made in honor of or in memory of someone special. When donating online, please specify 5-Alive.