

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

November 28, 2021 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

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

arr. Wilbur Held

Greetings and Announcements

Installation of Church Council

Introduction

Presentation

Leader: Members of this household of faith, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Will those who are able rise and witness to the commitment we now make.

All: **We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.**

Prayer

Declaration

We Open the Door

Leader: The season of Pandemic has unveiled, widened, and laid bare before us economic disparity within our community but also throughout the world. As we begin our Advent journey, I wonder. I wonder how our church can become a place where the holy is born anew? A place offering respite, comfort, strength, care, and compassion, opening the doors even wider to those who seek shelter from all the challenges that life throws at us? No one church can do it all, but each church can do something. As we listen to the prophets, as we ponder their words which call us to care for our neighbors and make “room in the inn,” the lonely, frightened spaces within us can be filled with hope, peace, joy and love.

Hope Waits for Us at Advent

Amanda Udis-Kessler

The musical score is written for a single voice in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The score consists of five lines of music, with measure numbers 5, 9, 13, and 17 indicated at the start of their respective lines. The final line of music ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Hope waits for us at Ad-vent. Hope waits for us to trust.
5 Hope waits for our com - mit - ment to a land that's kind and just.
9 In this time of pre - par-a - tion for the work of co - cre-a - tion,
13 for the birth - ing of a world that heals the ones in pain,
17 Hope is born in us a - - gain.

Used with permission

Lighting of the First Candle: Hope

The Leichman Family

Reader: Today we offer the Light of Hope to illumine the Door of Welcome. May this light shine in our hearts, our lives, and our church. May Hope awaken us to new possibilities and lead us to great hospitality. There *is* room in this inn, a House for the holy.

Hope Waits for Us At Advent

(Sing Again)

†Hymn: *All Hail to God's Anointed*

James Montgomery

1. All hail to God's anointed, great
 2. You come with rescue speed - y to
 3. You shall come down like show - ers up -
 4. All rul - ers bow be - fore you, and

Da - vid's great - er Son! All hail, in time ap - point - ed, your
 those who suf - fer wrong, to help the poor and need - y and
 on the fruit - ful earth; love, joy and hope, like flow - ers, spring
 gold and in - cense bring. All na - tions shall a - dore you; your

7
 reign on earth be - gun! You come to break op - pres - sion, to
 bid the weak be strong; to give them songs for sigh - ing, their
 in your path to birth. Be - fore you on the moun - tains shall
 praise all peo - ple sing. To you shall prayer un - ceas - ing and



11
set the cap - tive free, to take a - way trans -
dark - ness turn to light, whose souls, con - demned and
peace, the her - ald, go, and righ - teous - ness in
dai - ly vows as - cend. Your rule is still in -

14
gres - sion and rule in eq - ui - ty.
dy - ing, are pre - cious in your sight.
foun - tains from hill to val - ley flow.
creas - ing; your rule is with - out end.

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

†Prayer of Confession

All: On this first Sunday of Advent, you call us to hold onto hope, but we confess, O Forgiving One, that too often we despair. We look around us and we see pain and suffering, we look around us and the environment is groaning, we look around us and we see desolation and emptiness. Forgive us for our inability to see the hope that you put all around us. Open our hearts and fill us with hope that we might begin to hope again. And through that hope may we begin to make a difference, becoming the hope that others need to see in the world.

†Silent Confession

(30 seconds of silence is observed for silent confession)

†Kyrie *Lord Have Mercy Upon Us*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Christ, have mercy upon us

Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.

Lord, have mercy upon us

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

†Our Assurance of God's Pardon

†The Gloria Patri *Glory to God in the Highest*

Glo-ry to God in the high - est! Sing glo-ry to
God! _____ Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to God's peo-ple on earth! _____

Choral Anthem
People, Look East
arr. Tom Mitchell

First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

†Hymn: **Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**
Blue Hymnal No. 84

1. { Come, Thou long-expect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;
From our fears and sins re-lease us: Let us find our rest in Thee.

2. { Born Thy peo-ple to de-liv-er, Born a child and yet a King;
Born to reign in us for-ev-er; Now Thy gra-cious King-dom bring.

Is-rael's Strength and Con-so-la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
By Thine own e-ter-nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a-lone;

Dear De-sire of ev-'ry na-tion, Joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart.
By Thine all suf-fi-cient mer-it, Raise us to Thy glo-ri-ous throne.

Second Reading

Psalms 25:1-10

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon
“Making Room” (Hope)
Rev. Carol Hallman

Prayer of the People

Prayer Response: *Make of My Heart a Stable*

Sing Verse 1

Amanda Udis-Kessler

The musical notation is written on a single staff in 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. A triplet of three eighth notes is marked above the first three notes. The lyrics are printed below the staff, with three verses of text. The first line of lyrics is: '1. Make of my heart a sta - ble, a house for the Ho - ly, a'. The second line is: '2. Make of my life a sta - ble,'. The third line is: '3. Make of our church a sta - ble,'. The melody continues with a dotted quarter note, followed by two eighth notes, and ends with a quarter note. A small '5' is written below the first note of the second line of music.

1. Make of my heart a sta - ble, a house for the Ho - ly, a
2. Make of my life a sta - ble,
3. Make of our church a sta - ble,

⁵warm and stur - dy place for hope to live and grow.

Used with permission

We take time this morning to open the doors of our hearts to honesty before God about what we've done and left undone that created less hope in a hurting world. Let us breathe out this regret... and breathe in the life-giving, for-giving Spirit of God... and out again with the Peace of Christ... .

Make of My Heart a Stable

Sing Verse 2

We take time this morning to open the doors of our lives to the call of the Spirit, inviting us to become more than we can ask or imagine. Let us breathe out our fear... and breathe in the courage of the Spirit of God... and out again, with the Peace of Christ...

Make of My Heart a Stable

Sing Verse 3

The Pastoral Prayer

We pray this in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray:

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, forever. Amen.

A Story of Inn Keeping: Offering

Invitation

Offertory

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

arr. Paul Manz

Blessing

†Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem (Verses 1-5)

Red Hymnal No. 108

With joy and serenity



1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie;
2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, And gath - ered all a - bove,
3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is given!
4. O Ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem! De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by:
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of! won - dering love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heaven;
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The Ev - er - last - ing Light;
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
No ear may hear His com - ing, But in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad ti - dings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
And prais - es sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth!
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Em - man - u - ell A - MEN.



O Little Town of Bethlehem Verse 5

Where children pure and happy
Pray to the blessed Child
Where misery cries out to thee,
Son of Mary Mild;
Where charity stands watching
And faith holds wide the door,
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
And Christmas comes one more.

Benediction

Postlude

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

arr. David N. Johnson

Assisting in Worship

Rev. Carol Hallman, Resident Pastor

Dr. Phillip Burgess, Choir Director *Susan Trivette*, Organist

Choral Interns

Sopranos: *Michelle Medina-Villalon, Abby Skibsted*

Tenors: *Chandler Fields, Robert Parks*

Bass: *Clay Brown*

Monday, November 29

6:30 Lessons & Carols at Catawba College

Thursday, December 2

6:30 Lessons & Carols at Catawba College

Friday, December 3

7:30 Gay Men's Chorus at First UCC

Sunday, December 5

11:00 a.m. 2nd Sunday of Advent, Lessons & Carols Service

3:00 p.m. Blue Christmas Service

Remember in Your Prayers

Mabel Barnhardt, Brenda Bernhardt, Nancy Baker Blackwell (mother of Shirley McNeil's son-in-law), Steve Bowles, Gerri D. Crummett (Donna Odrosky's sister), Leigha Davenport (6-year-old daughter of Susan Ward's friend), Gary Hauze (no visits or phone calls, please), Nancy Hipp, John and Dawn Isenberg, Anne Kennedy, Jasmine Kirby and son Noah (niece and great nephew of Don Whitfield), Charlie Little, Diane Lockhart (Radell Lockhart's mother), Dan Morgan (friend of Steve Bowles), Jimmy Mullis (friend of Daniel Artz), Joseph Najarian (son of Dena & David Najarian), Pat Norris, Sarah Shuping, Claire Skinner, John Wagoner, Waylon Ward, Don Whitfield. ***If you know of anyone who should be added or deleted from our prayer list, be sure and let the office know. If you have prayer concerns, please text, call or email Pastor Carol.***

There is a signup list for anyone wishing to participate in the One Church One Child Christmas Star Program. Children's ages are from 6 months to 8 years and wishes are made by each child. Gifts will be due by next Sunday, December 5.

The 2022 **Birthday Calendar** deadline is today. Contact Glenda Shrewsbury or Bobbie Troutman with questions. All checks must be made out to Circle 2.

The **Annual Christmas Fund, Veterans of the Cross Offering** will be received on Sunday December 19 and 26. The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. Over the past 18 months, the emergency financial needs of many who serve the church increased dramatically. Many of our clergy continue to bear the consequences of lost or decreased income. These difficult times make the need for the Christmas Fund more urgent than ever. Thank you for supporting the Christmas Fund!

Christian Shuping will be collecting **Toys for Tots** again this year. Toys must be new and unwrapped for children 1-13 years old. Monetary gifts (checks) can be made to Rowan County Toys for Tots and directed to Patty Shuping. The date for collection will be December 8.

The Tech Crew is still looking for volunteers to help on Sundays. Contact Jeff, Leslie or Mark for more information.

A reminder that as we are offering hybrid worship services we encourage you to either mail in or use the online system for your offering. Donations may be made through PayPal. There is a link to donate on our website at www.1stucc.org. We continue to need your gifts even if you are not here in person.

Contributions with a notation for the **5-Alive Fund** are needed and appreciated at any time. Contributions to the 5-Alive Fund can also be made through PayPal or by following the link on our website. Giving to the 5-Alive Fund is used to help those in our church and within our community.

Little Red Wagon items for Rowan Helping Ministries will be collected each Sunday of the month for those attending worship. If you are not yet attending in-person worship, items can be dropped off at the Church during office hours.



For the 34th consecutive year, the Catawba College Music Department will present its annual Christmas Choral Concert, a Service of Lessons and Carols. Performances will be held November 29 and December 2 at in the Omwake-Dearborn Chapel on campus.

Prelude music will begin each night at 6:30 p.m. with the Service at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Kenneth Clapp, Senior Vice President and Chaplain and Dr. Phillip Burgess, Dean of the Shuford School of Performing Arts and Director of Choral Activities organized this the service this year.

The service is based on the famous ritual that originated at King's College in Cambridge, England in 1919 which weaves beautiful carols of the season with scriptures or lessons, relating to the story of Christmas from the prophecies to the mystery of the Holy Trinity. The first service was held on Christmas Eve at Truro Cathedral with 400 people in attendance.

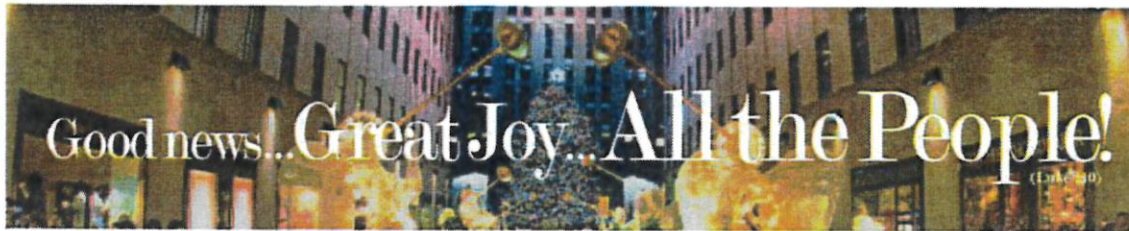
Catawba's Lessons and Carols is seven lessons with scripture readings by the President of the Student Body, a member of the Salisbury-Rowan community, a member of the college administration staff, two faculty members, the Provost, and the President of the College.

Some of the carols this year include "We Shall Light a Thousand Candles," "In Christ Alone," "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming," "O Come All Ye Faithful," "Who is He in Yonder Stall?", "What Strangers are These?", "The Word Was God," and "This Christmastide."

Participants in the service will include the Catawba Singers, the Catawba Men's Ensemble, the Catawba Women's Ensemble, and the Catawba Brass Ensemble directed by Dr. Stephen Eppers, Chair of the Department of Music and Director of Music Education.

Tickets are not required, but seating is limited and is available on a first come, first served basis. Audience members are required to wear masks and remain socially distanced. A shuttle service will operate from various campus parking lots, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Lessons and Carols is made possible through the generosity of the Salisbury-Rowan community who provide funding for the music and decorations.



“God is still speaking . . . to me!”

Every year, the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance receives dozens of letters, cards, emails, and phone calls saying “thank you” for much-needed financial assistance funded by your gifts to the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross.

Donations of any amount to the Christmas Fund truly do bring “great joy” to so many people, year after year. The assistance and connection provided by your gifts lets these servants of the church know that they are not forgotten. Here are excerpts from just a few of the notes of appreciation we have received:

From a retired pastor in Chicago . . .

I do not have words adequate to express my appreciation for the Christmas gift from the Christmas Fund. My prayer is that those who contributed to make this gift possible experience God’s manifold blessings.

From a retired pastor who received assistance to purchase hearing aids . . .

Thank you for the gift from the church. I had no idea such help was available, especially to that extent. It gladdens my heart to know the church still cares. Sometimes, we don’t always get that affirmation while in the midst of doing ministry. But, God is still speaking . . . to me. Thank you so much!

From a pastor’s spouse in North Carolina . . .

My husband and I thank you so very much for the ministerial assistance that was provided for us. It was so helpful and took a lot of stress from us, so we could concentrate on my husband’s medical care and treatments. We never thought we would need ministerial assistance, but believe me, we are thankful for our national church and all those who give.

In 2020, gifts to the Christmas Fund enabled:

- Monthly pension supplementation for 276 retired clergy and lay employees (\$1,180,187)
- Health benefits supplementation for 89 retired clergy and lay employees (\$274,008)
- Emergency grants for 96 individuals and families (\$214,649)
- Christmas “Thank You” gift checks to 504 retired clergy and lay employees (\$252,000)

The Christmas Fund

For the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund