

## Order of Service 12.12.2021 Third Sunday of Advent

### Prelude

#### ***O Come All Ye Faithful***

Performed by The Bells of Praise  
-arr. Bridges

Acolyte—Eli Osborne

### Welcome

#### **Lighting of the Advent Candle—**

Kevin Osborne—Isaiah 9:6-7

### Call to Worship

#### ***Joy to the World***

UMH #246 (V1, V2, V4)

### Verse 1

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

### Verse 2

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks,  
hills, and plains,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

### Verse 4

He rules the world with truth and grace  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

### Opening Hymn

***O Little Town of Bethlehem*** (UMH 230) V1, V4

### Verse 1

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

### Verse 4

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray,  
cast out our sin and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel!

### Announcements

### Morning Prayer

**The Lord's Prayer—**UMH #895

### Choir Music Special

#### ***Come to the Water***

Composer: John Foley/Arranger: Jack Schrader

### Offering

#### ***Tithings of Great Joy***

Performed by The Bells of Praise  
-arr. Wagner

### Doxology UMH 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings  
flow, Praise God, all creatures here below:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of  
all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose  
power up-lifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

### Scripture Lesson

#### **Matthew 3:13-17**

*13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. 14 John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" 15 But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. 16 And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."*

### Sermon

#### **Baptism**

Brothers and sisters in Christ: Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy Church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

I present **Averie James Larson** for baptism

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

**I do.**

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

**I do.**

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

**I do.**

Will you nurture Averie in Christ's holy Church, that by your teaching and example she may be guided to accept God's grace for herself, to profess her faith openly, and to lead a Christian life?

**I will**

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

**We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these persons now before you in your care?

**With God's help, we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.**

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?  
**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe 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, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Eternal Father: When nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light. In the days of Noah you saved those on the ark through water. After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow. When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea. Their children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised.

**\*\*Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of God's mercy each day.**

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb. He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit. He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

**\*\*Declare Christ's works to the nations, his glory among all the people.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of water and those who receive it, to wash away their sin and clothe them in righteousness throughout their lives, that, dying and being raised with Christ, they may share in his final victory.

**\*\*All praise to you, Eternal Father, through your Son Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns forever. Amen.**

Averie, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Holy Spirit work within you, that being born through water and the Spirit, you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Now it is our joy to welcome our new sister in Christ.

**Through baptism you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit into God's new creation and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood. We are all one in Christ Jesus. With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you as member of the family of Christ.**

### Closing Hymn

***It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*** (UMH #218) V1

### Verse 1

It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
from heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.

### Benediction

### Postlude

***Angels We Have Heard on High*** -arr. Lau



United Methodist Church

Join us on **December 19, 2021** for KID Central Singing Sunday during our 10:00am worship time. Our KID Central children will be performing a mini music concert.

**\*\*\*We need ushers and greeters\*\*\***

Please see Joe Patterson, contact the church office at [central@cumckm.org](mailto:central@cumckm.org) or 704-739-2471 to volunteer.

We have **altar flower dates** available in 2022. Please contact the church office for dates.

**Hearing Assist System**

We now have a Hearing Assist System that will allow you to connect via a belt pack that the church provides or if you have a smartphone, you can use it with your own hearing aid when you download the WaveCAST Audio Receiver app. Please see an usher for assistance.

**Sunday School News**

Sunday School will meet at 8:45am and will be followed by Fellowship with coffee and snacks.

**Special Notice:**

*Please note masks are encouraged for all members and visitors until further notice 8.23.21*

**December Ushers:** Joe Patterson & Jimmy Warren  
**Greeter:** TBA

**Snack Servers:** Jim & Penny Larson



Welcome to  
Our Church

**Upcoming Events**

**Monday, 12/13/21 Finance Meeting, 6pm**

**\*\*NO Administrative Council**

**Friday, 12/24/21 Christmas Eve Service, 6:30pm**

**Sunday:** 4:30pm KID Central Music Practice

**Mondays:** Bells of Praise, 6:00pm

**Our Christmas Eve Service on  
December 24, 2021 will be at 6:30 pm.**

We are keeping up with the latest information about the COVID variant, and as a result our worship service location is subject to change.

The location will announced as we get closer to the date.

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

**ATTENDANCE**

(12/5) 10:00a Service.....115

Operating Fund

Contributions 12/5 \$ 19,959.95

Contributions YTD \$ 390,073.31

Capital Improvements Fund

Contributions 12/5 \$24,575.35

Contributions YTD \$25,200.35

*Thank you for your support!*

**PRAYER LIST: PRAISES AND CONCERNS**

*Praises and concerns will stay on this list for one month unless otherwise requested.*

**Members in Nursing Homes, Assisted Living and Homebound:** Peggy Ramey; Jane Edwards; Barbara Bridges; Ruth Wilson, John & Evelyn Eagle.

**Praise:** Bobby Childers and Darlene Combs on their engagement and upcoming spring wedding.

**Military Personnel:** SGT Tyler Dixon-Marines; SSGT Jonathan Brucker-Army; CAPT Alex Plonk-Air Force; S 1 Tyler Hellstrand-Navy; Abbey Wallace-Air Force (Afghanistan); SSG Colby Bailey—Army; LT Boone McDaniel, Navy; CAPT Wendell Bunch, Jr.—Army; CAPT Alex Young,—Air Force; SGT Joshua Brucker.

**Concerns (members/constituents/church-related concerns):** Guidance in developing new ministries; our college students; Community Kitchen Ministry; Judy Norwood 7.12.21; Sheila Gentry 10.25.21; Sheila Dixon on the passing of her mother, Imogene Rinehart 11.7.21; Bill Tinsley (death) 12.1.21.

**Concerns (friends/relatives/other concerns):** All children in need; Samuel Smith (cancer) 9.30.19; Nancy Radford 6.7.21; Allen Ware 6.14.21 (colon cancer/[www.caringbridge.org/visit/allenware](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/allenware)); Sherry Wilson 6.25.21; Sidney Bridges 8.9.21; Sidney Bridges (brain tumor) 9.19.21; Trent Hullender (Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma) 10.18.21; Jey Yokeley (nephew of Clyde & Faye Kerns); Ed Velky 12.9.21.