



**Order of Service 12.24.2023**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**Liturgical Color: Purple**

**Prelude**

*Gloria in Excelsis Deo*—arr. Wilson

**Acolyte**

**Greetings**—Kayla Potter Fuller  
Director of Children/Youth Ministries

**Welcome/Announcements**—  
Pastor Perry Hines

**Lighting of the Advent Candle**—Kathy Livsie  
*Advent IV We Wait with Love*  
*Responsive Reading: 1 John 4:9-10, 16*

LEADER: This is how God showed his love among us:  
**ALL:** He sent his one and only Son into the world that  
we might live through him.

LEADER: This is love: not that we loved God,  
**ALL:** But that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning  
sacrifice for our sins.

LEADER: And so we know and rely on the love God has  
for us.  
**ALL: God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and  
God in him.**

LEADER: That my heart may sing to you and not be silent.  
**ALL:** O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever.

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**Mother:** Kathy Livsie

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*LIGHTING RESPONSE AND PRAYER: Romans 15:13*

LEADER: The candle of love prepares us for Christ's  
coming.  
**ALL:** Our hearts glow with the light of love.

LEADER: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and  
peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with  
hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**ALL:** We wait with love. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

**Opening Worship**

*Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)* CCLI#5607039

**Verse 1**

Joy to the world the Lord is come  
Let earth receive her King  
Let ev'ry 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 world 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

**Chorus**

Joy unspeakable joy  
An overflowing well  
No tongue can tell  
Joy unspeakable joy  
It rises in my soul  
Never lets me go

**Verse 3**

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

**Morning Prayer**

*The Lord's Prayer* UMH 895

**Special Choir Music**

*Adore Him*—John Wade—performed by Melissa B.

**Offering**

*Little Drummer Boy* —arr. Parker

**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!

**Offertory Prayer**

**Sermon**— Perry Hines

**Sermon Title** “*Lost & Found*”

**Scripture Lesson**

**Luke 19:10 NKJV**

<sup>10</sup> *for the Son of Man has come to seek and to  
save that which was lost.*”

**John 9:35-38 NKJV**

<sup>35</sup> *Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and  
when He had found him, He said to him, “Do  
you believe in the Son of God?”* <sup>36</sup> *He answered  
and said, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in  
Him?”* <sup>37</sup> *And Jesus said to him, “You have both*

seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.”

<sup>38</sup> Then he said, “Lord, I believe!” And he worshiped Him.

**John 1:40-43 NKJV**

<sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. <sup>41</sup> He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). <sup>42</sup> And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, “You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas” (which is translated, <sup>1</sup>A Stone). <sup>43</sup> The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, “Follow Me.”

**Closing Hymn**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem* UMH #230

**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 2**

For Christ is born of Mary,  
and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars together,  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to all on earth!

**Verse 3**

How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given;  
so God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.

**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!

**Apostle's Creed (No. 881)**

*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 arose 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.*

**Benediction**

**Chiming of the Holy Trinity**

**Postlude**

*Fantasia on "The First Nowell"*

—Trad. English Melody/Hughes

*\*Responses in Bold*



**Come join us tonight  
for our Candlelight Christmas  
Eve Service at 7:00 pm.**

*Please note: On Christmas Eve at the 7:00 pm  
service there will be no nursery available.*

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**STEWARDSHIP REPORT  
ATTENDANCE**

(12/17) 10:00a Service.....117

Operating Fund 2023

Contributions	12/17	\$ 5,967.00
Contributions MTD		\$24,016.75

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**Ushers:** Joe Patterson, Jimmy Warren, Allan Propst

**Greeter:** Cecelia Meade

**Save the Date for the 2024 Methodist Women's Parade of Tables on Saturday, January 20!** If you would like to sponsor a table or purchase tickets, please see Marie Brinkley or Elaine Dixon. Proceeds for this event will benefit local charities. For more information, please contact the church office at 704-739-2471 or [central@cumkm.org](mailto:central@cumkm.org).

**Methodist Women of Kings Mountain Host: Mercy House Global "Share The Light" event on Saturday, February 10, 2024, in the CAC.** Mercy House Global exists to rescue girls and empower families so that we can redeem future generations in Jesus' name. We work with women around the world through partnerships and sustainable Fair Trade product development. Every purchase made in the Fair Trade online marketplace provides dignified work while also sustaining our two maternity homes in Kenya.

This will be an immersive Mercy House Global experience. With a powerful message from our founder, a Fair Trade Pop Up Shop, and a coinciding candle class and volunteer project, this event gives guests a unique glimpse into the work of MHG and how they can be a part of how God is empowering vulnerable families around the world! Tickets are \$25 each. More details will come soon; you do not want to miss this event! Contact Audrey Brooks 404-274-1758 for more information.

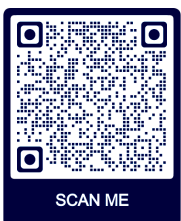
**2024 Ushers and Greeters Needed** We are looking for ushers and greeters for Sunday Morning Worship at Central. This is a ministry that can help our church grow, and we need your help. We are currently working on the usher and greeter calendar for the upcoming year, and we are in need of 4 volunteers each month. There are many spots available, so please consider volunteering. You can contact Joe Patterson or the church office at 704-739-2471 or [central@cmkm.org](mailto:central@cmkm.org) to let us know you are willing to serve. Thank you for your interest!

**Missions Day Senior's Winter Party at Summit Place Sunday, January 28, 2024 from 2:00-3:30 pm**—All church members are invited to attend and fellowship with the seniors. We will be having snacks, crafts, games, and prayer with the seniors at Summit Place. If you are planning on attending from the church we ask that you register so that we will know how much material/snacks to buy. Please call the church office 704-739-2471 to register.

**KIDS Central & Nursery News** Our **Nursery** is available starting at 9:00 am for ages 0-4 years old. We are in need of volunteers in the nursery to help support this ministry. Please see or contact Kayla Potter Fuller at [kayla@cmkm.org](mailto:kayla@cmkm.org) or 704-739-2471. **KID Central** is our church's church for K-5th and **check in is now at 9:00am** on Sundays. If you have any questions, please contact our Youth and Children's Ministries Director, Kayla Potter Fuller at [kayla@cmkm.org](mailto:kayla@cmkm.org).

**Central Youth** meets on Sunday evenings from 5:30-7:30pm. If you have any questions or would like to join/volunteer for youth events, please contact Kayla Potter Fuller at [kayla@cmkm.org](mailto:kayla@cmkm.org) or 704-739-2471.

You can reach **Pastor Perry Hines** at 828-768-5996.



**Welcome Visitors!**

Scan to get connected to Central, inquire about membership and for prayer requests.

**Year End Donations All 2023 Contributions must be postmarked by December 31, 2023 or received in the offering by December 31, 2023.**

**Church Office Holiday Schedule** The church office will be closed on 12/25/23, 12/26/23, 1/1/24 and 1/15/24.

## Sunday Morning Groups

### 1. Sunday Morning Group

- Leader: Mark Dixon
- Time and location: 8:30 am CAC, Sunday mornings
- Age: All ages

### 2. Daughters of Wesley Sunday morning Group

- Leader: Tim Miller
- Time and location: 9 am in the Parlor/Bride's room
- Leader: contact info: [tmnkm@bellsouth.net](mailto:tmnkm@bellsouth.net)  
704-473-9148

### 3. Pilgrim's Progress Study Sunday Morning Group (will resume in January 2024)

- Leaders: Clyde and Faye Kerns, Jimmy Warren, & Jim Larson
- Time & Location: 8:45am Upstairs in the Central Fellowship Room
- Leader: contact info: [clydekerns@att.net](mailto:clydekerns@att.net)

## Weekly Groups

### Men's Bible Study

- Leader: Tim Miller
- Time and location: Weekly on Tuesdays, 7:30 pm in the Asbury room
- Leader: contact info: [tmnkm@bellsouth.net](mailto:tmnkm@bellsouth.net)  
704-473-9148
- Description: We are an ongoing small group for men of all ages. Dedicated to studying God's word as it is shared to us in the Bible. We meet for fellowship and worship in a safe and non-judgmental environment. We recognize and appreciate that not everyone is at the same level in their Biblical study, and we work together to make God's word understood and relevant for each of us in our lives

### ●Mary's Breakfast Brunch

- Leader: Betty Masters
- Time and location: Meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month at 9:00 am. Location is Linwood Restaurant: 805 Cleveland Ave, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.
- Will resume meeting in **January 2024**
- Leader: contact info: 704-739-2653

### Weekly Prayer Partners

- Leader: Kayla Potter Fuller [kayla@cmkm.org](mailto:kayla@cmkm.org)
- Time and Location: Tuesday 12:30pm-1:15pm in the CAC
- This will be a time we will spend together in prayer for our church prayers requests, our community, global needs and for one another. Members will be given weekly prayer assignments.

We want to thank you all for your support of our small groups here at Central as well as our small group leader. We pray that this ministry has been a blessing to you. Our semester-based groups will be taking a brief break until the beginning of the new year. Further details for the start of the 1st 2024 semester are to come. In the meantime, please feel free to join any of our Ongoing small groups or Sunday morning small groups. You can find a list of these in your weekly bulletin. If you are interested in leading a small group during the 1st 2024 semester, please reach out to Kayla at [kayla@cmkm.org](mailto:kayla@cmkm.org).

## *Prayer List: Praises and Concerns*

*Please note names will stay on list for one month unless otherwise requested— Contact the church office at 704-739-2471 or [central@cmkm.org](mailto:central@cmkm.org) to have names added/or removed from the prayer list.*

**Members in Nursing Homes, Assisted Living and Homebound:** Jane Edwards; Barbara Bridges; John Eagle; Marilyn Hamrick.

**Military Personnel:** SSGT Tyler Dixon-Marines; SSGT Jonathan Brucker-Army; SSgt. Joshua Brucker; Army; CAPT Alex Plonk-Air Force; S 1 Tyler Hellstrand-Navy; SSG Colby Bailey—Army; CAPT Wendell Bunch, Jr.—Army; CAPT Alex Young,—Air Force; PFC Matthew Oliveira—Ft. Bliss, El Paso, TX.

**Praises:** The growth of our church; Birth of Ozzi Kate Styers, granddaughter of Vince & Jada Rees; daughter of Nash & Macey Styers on 12/3/23.

**Concerns: (members/constituents/church-related concerns):** Guidance in developing new ministries; our college students; Community Kitchen Ministry; Carol Brazzell (fall) 11.17.23; Marty Stallings (hospital) 12.12.23; Allen Dixon 12.18.23.

**Concerns: (friends/relatives/other concerns):** All children in need; Samuel Smith (cancer) 9.30.19; Tony Donadio (Uncle of Carol Velky) 8.29.23; Haley Judd (healing) 9.5.23.; Mary Donadio 10.3.23; Jamie Keever (chemo treatments), cousin of Audrey Brooks 8.29.23; Kathy Rogers (chemo treatments) 10.24.23; Tim Best (healing) Charlene Maxey 11.14.23; Travis 11.28.23; The Danner Family 11.28.23; Dan Dixon (death) brother of Greg Dixon & Teresa Williams 11.30.23; Keith Falls 12.7.23; Patsy Lunsford (healing); Jeff Hedden, (cancer) cousin of Clyde Kerns 12.22.23.