



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of Sumter

December 3, 2023

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Sheep May Safely Graze

J. S. Bach

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WELCOME

Liza Cooper

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

Herb Leaird

* **LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE**

George & Brittney Cain, Liam, Kennedy & Holden

Leader: Advent is the near approach of the Son of God in the flesh, for which one must prepare oneself with greater watchfulness and with works of charity.

People: **It is the voice of the prophets announcing the Messiah who comes.**

Leader: Advent is the world awaiting its Redeemer, sighing as the parched ground for the dew of heaven. It is a season of hope, peace, joy, and love.

People: **It is the people of God yearning to live the faith with dedication and with hope.**

Leader: This morning we light the Advent candle of hope. And we pray that our faithful God, whose promises stand unshaken through all generations, would renew us in hope. May we be awake and alert, watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ.

People: **We will prepare the way of the Lord in our lives as we worship God with expectant hearts.**

* **HYMN OF PRAISE** 88 (V. 1 and 6) *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, you have made us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Forgive our sins and renew our lives. Give us purity of heart and strength of purpose that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, and no weakness keep us from doing it. May we not be weary in doing deeds of compassion, and may we not lose hope along the way. Heal us by your mercy, even as we bring our needs to you in prayer.

(Silent Reflection)

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The good news this Advent season is that God is more willing to forgive our sins than we are to acknowledge them. Our hope is in no other save in God. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven people.

People: **Heaven and earth are full of the glory of God now and forever. Amen.**

* **GLORIA** 113 (Congregation) *Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

GLORIA

* **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Jesus Loves Me!

Rev. Bob Brearley

Following the Children's Moment, children preschool through 2nd grade are invited to Children in Worship. Parents can pick up their children from the third floor after worship.

EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 5:1-5
(Pew Bible, pg. 155, New Testament)

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 13:24-37
(Pew Bible, pg. 50, New Testament)

SERMON

"Watching and Waiting"

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day, He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on 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 Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*** HYMN 92**

While We Are Waiting, Come

WAITING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Call to Giving

Offertory Anthem

My Soul in Stillness Waits

Setting by Marty Haugen

Choir and John Michael Osteen, Baritone Solo and Lauren Decker, Violin

*** Song of Dedication 144**

In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM

***What can I give Him, Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a Lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him: Give my heart.***

*** Offertory Prayer**

*** HYMN 93**

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

BENEDICTION

*** CLOSING VOLUNTARY**

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

Arr. by Benton Price

*** Please stand as you are able**

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WELCOME!

We especially welcome those of you who are guests today. We invite you to fill out a Welcome card found in the pew racks and place it in the offering plate as it is passed. We look forward to meeting you.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Elders: Liza Cooper, Bill Richardson
Assisting with Worship: Liza Cooper
Deacons: Gary Bratton, Paul Herrmann
Junior Ushers: Liam Cain, Adelaide McElveen

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

Elders: Linda Hogon, John James
Assisting with Worship: Linda Hogon
Deacons: Dee Dailey, Debbie Jackson
Junior Ushers: Caroline & Charlie Thames

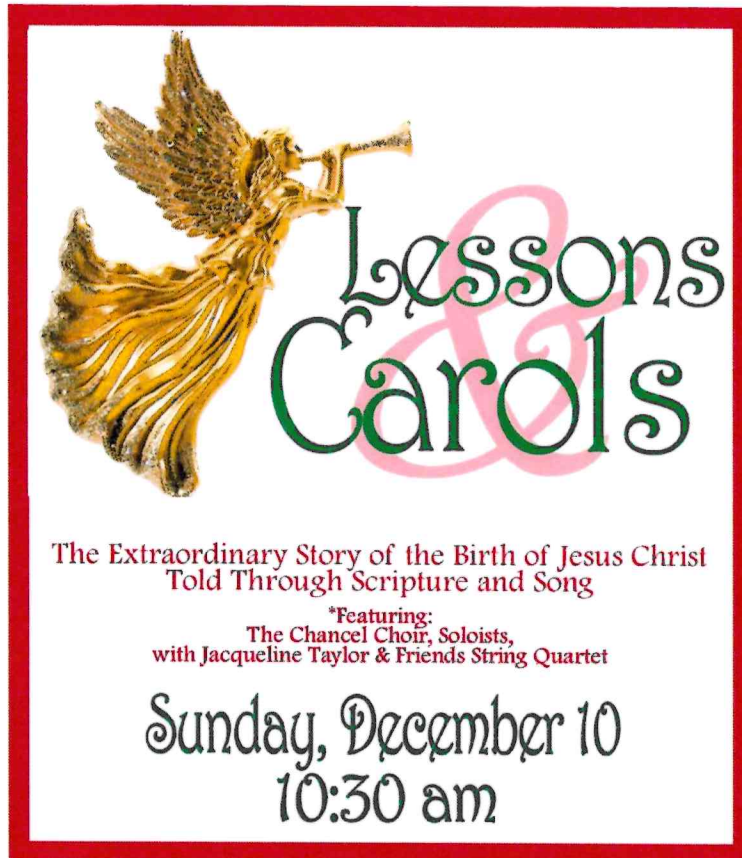
FESTIVAL OF CHOIRS

The Chancel Choir will participate in the annual Festival of Choirs held at Trinity United Methodist Church today at 3:00 p.m. Please join us for an afternoon of Advent and Christmas music.

CHRISTMAS CRECHE EXHIBIT

December 3-10 in the Fellowship Hall

Explore the beauty of Jesus' birth depicted in our collection of nativity scenes from around the world.



CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS FOR SUMTER UNITED MINISTRIES

Bells, which used to be angels, are now available for pickup in the Fellowship Hall! Please stop by and take as many as you would like and help brighten someone's Christmas. When you choose a "Bell," please remember to sign the sheets provided. Wrapped gifts must be returned to the Fellowship no later than Sunday, December 10. Please remember to tape the Bell to the top of the wrapped gift.

Gift cards should be enclosed in a sealed Christmas card/envelope with the "Bell" taped to the top of the envelope and placed in the special box in the Fellowship Hall. Please DO NOT wrap Gift cards as a present.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Home: Libba Blanding, Joe McElveen, Frankie McIntosh,
Isabel Gist, Beth Byce (Sibbie McFaddin's Daughter)

Charlie & Glenda Denny (Mailing Address: 700 DaVega Dr., Unit 48, Lexington SC 29073)

CONGRATULATIONS to . . .

- . . . Montgomery (Williams) and Ecton Green on the birth of a son, Chalmers Mason Green, who was born November 1, 2023. Proud big brother is Wills and proud grandparents are Debby and Ted Williams;
- . . . Rebekah and Will Richardson on the birth of a son, William Shepherd Richardson, who was born on November 20, 2023. Proud grandparents are Linn and Bill Richardson.