

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of Sumter

December 4, 2022

OPENING VOLUNTARY

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Arr. by Jason Krug

Joy Ringers: Lauren Decker, Kelsie Decker, Norma Abbott, Joseph Bettinger, Gustavo Blum

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WELCOME

Ann Geddings

*** LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE** John, Anna, Caroline & Mary Taylor Moorman

Leader: A voice cries out: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

People: **We wait for a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells
forever and ever.**

Leader: Today we light the candle of Peace. We remember that Advent is a season of repentance as our God receives our confession of brokenness and makes us whole again. The promise is that one day swords shall be beaten into plows, and spears into pruning hooks, and we will not study violence anymore. The roughness shall cease, and peace shall blossom in all the world.

People: **We come to listen for words of hope and peace, promise and challenge as we follow
Jesus Christ, the prince of peace.**

Leader: The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.
May all people know our gentleness. Let us sing unto the Lord!

Choir, then congregation:

Christ, Be our light! Shine in our hearts, Shine in the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church gathered today.

*** HYMN 104**

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBAN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace, we have strayed from the ways of peace. We confess that we have not followed Christ in all our actions and all our words. We have been too harsh with one another, and we are sorry. We have separated ourselves from others and sought our safety more than anything else. Forgive us. Our selfishness does not please our God, and our divisions weaken our witness to the Lord of peace. We thank you for new beginnings during this Advent season. Help us to repent and to turn again to you for mercy and new life. Hear our prayers and be our peace.

(Silence for Personal Confession)

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The news this day is good. God in Jesus Christ lived to show us authentic life and died to save us from our sin. By God's mercy we are forgiven and released to live for others.

People: **Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving be to our God forever. Amen.**

*** GLORIA PATRI 113**

GLORIA

(Congregation) Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Jesus Loves Me!

Rev. Bob Brearley

(Children come forward during singing.)

*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.*

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 35:1-10

John Land

(Pew Bible, pg. 663, Old Testament)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 3:1-12

Rev. Bob Brearley

(Pew Bible, pg. 2, New Testament)

SERMON

"Get the Road Ready"

Rev. Bob Brearley

* 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 129

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN' ROS'

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

In the Bleak Midwinter

Arr. by Jason Krug

* Song of Dedication

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 88 (V. 1 and 7)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

* BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

VENI EMMANUEL

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Angels We Have Heard On High

Edward Broughton

* Please stand as you are able

All music is used with permission: OneLicense.net#A-711301.

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. If you have particular questions, please speak to Rev. Brearley.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

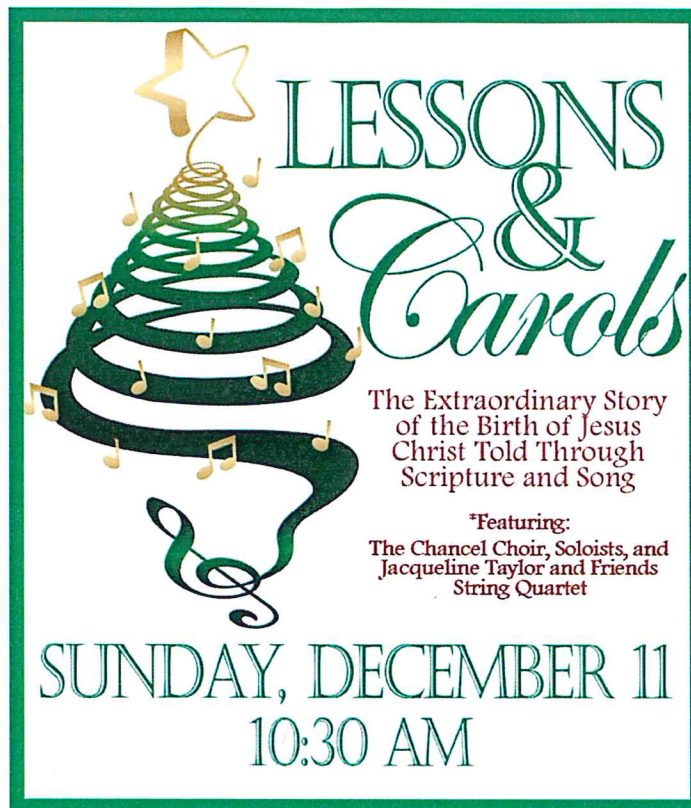
Elders: Ann Geddings, Gus Blum
Assisting in Worship: Ann Geddings
Deacons: Kimberly Land, Paul Herrmann
Youth Liturgist: John Land
Jr. Usher: Millie Davis

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

Elders: Gus Blum, Missy Coulter
Assisting in Worship: Gus Blum
Deacons: Katherine Brogdon, Debbie Jackson
Jr. Usher: Connor Thames

Festival of Choirs
Sunday, December 4, at 3:00 p.m.
Trinity United Methodist Church

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



HELP AN ANGEL FLY

Angels are now available for pickup on tables inside the Fellowship Hall. When choosing an angel, please remember to sign the sheets provided. Wrapped gifts must be returned to the church no later than **Monday, December 12**. Please be sure to tape the angel to the top of the wrapped gift. Gift cards should be enclosed in a sealed Christmas card envelope with the angel taped to the top of the envelope. Please do NOT wrap gift cards as a present. There is a special box in the Fellowship Hall for gift card envelopes.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Wednesday, December 7

Everyone is invited to meet at the West Building and leave at 3:45 pm. to start our singing at Covenant Place at 4 p.m. We will then return to the West Building to have a light meal and then go in designated groups to homes of church members who could use some Christmas cheer. A light dinner will be provided and hot chocolate and apple cider and yummy sweet treats will await our returning carolers. Please contact Ashley Blum (doodlebugblum@yahoo.com or 803-847-4406) or Debbie Jackson (debbiejackson1954@gmail.com or 803-775-4814) to sign up.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Woodbridge, Va: Melissa Boord (Joni Brown's Sister)
Home: Milo Abbott (Grandson of Norma Abbott), Wanda Casker,
Priscilla Dickey, Robert Stage II (Son of Marta Stage)

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the family of Carolyn McDowell, who died November 29.