

THE WORSHIP OF GOD
December 1, 2019
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
HOLY COMMUNION

Welcome: It's time to celebrate, we are in the presence of God. We invite you to joyfully prepare your hearts to receive God's love and to feel connected to the Body of Christ this day. Please take a moment to sign the pew pads. We'd like to keep you informed of what we are doing, so please give us your email, too.

* Please stand as you are able.

† 8:45 Worship Only †† 11:00 Worship Only

EIGHT FORTY-FIVE

ELEVEN O'CLOCK

GATHERING AND COMMUNITY CONCERNS

VOLUNTARY **Wachet auf, ruff uns die Stimme, BWV 645**
("Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying") J. S. Bach

*** CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVELY)**

Leader: How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news,

People: Who publish peace, who bring good tidings, who publish salvation, and proclaim, "Your God reigns!"

Leader: For God will judge among many peoples,

People: And they shall beat their swords into plowshares and nation shall not lift up sword against nation: neither shall they learn war anymore.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

*** PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 196**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus **HYFRYDOL**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (RESPONSIVELY)

† The Huneycutt Family

†† The Sanders Family

Unexpected God, you came to us as a baby, wrapped in Mary's womb, born in a tucked away Middle-eastern town.
Thank you for coming near.

Unexpected God, that child grew up, in the midst of the violence of an occupying force, yet he learned to play, to praise, to share your stories, to love your people.
Thank you for coming near.

Unexpected God, still today children are born in that land, and they experience violence. And they still long to play and praise in safety, they long to share your stories, and learn to love your people.
Thank you for coming near.

Unexpected God, in this season of Advent, draw our hearts near to children in places of war. Awaken us to their stories and lead us to hope and work for the day when war is learned no more.
Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

God invites us to confess our sins, so that we might understand ourselves as forgiven and set free in Christ to live in ways that bring his light into the darkness of our hurting world. And so let us pray together, that our own darkness may be dispelled.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (IN UNISON)

God of hope, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have sinned both by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have lived without the urgency to serve and the mercy of heart that you desire, and we have loved the cover of night more than the clarity of your redeeming light. Forgive us, we pray. Draw us into the hope of Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

PERSONAL CONFESSION AND MEDITATION (IN SILENCE)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (IN RESPONSE TO CONFESSION)

Leader: Hear the good news: salvation is near. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, we have been brought near to God and given hope beyond hope that all manner of things shall be well. Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

People: We are forgiven through Jesus Christ. Let us walk in the light of the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE **Gloria in excelsis Deo!** **GLORIA**



*** PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Children ages 4–first grade may depart for Children's Church in Room 304.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (IN UNISON)

Holy Spirit, we pray that through the reading and proclaiming of the Scriptures, your holy light will break forth and dispel the darkness around and within us, so that we might live to proclaim the salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON **Isaiah 2:1-5** OT Page 631

*** GOSPEL LESSON** **Matthew 24:36-44** NT Page 27

SERMON **"The Way of Peace"** Rev. Patrick Murphy

CALL TO PRAYER

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Let us pray.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

† **OFFERTORY** **Prepare Thyself, Zion** J. S. Bach
 Jennifer Wells, soprano

Prepare thyself, Zion, with tender affection, the purest, the fairest, this day to receive. Thou must greet him with a heart with love o'erflowing! Haste then, with ardor the Bridegroom to welcome. -para. J. Troutbeck (1832-1899)

†† **OFFERTORY** **Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates, Op. 44, No. 2**

Chancel Choir William Mathias

Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up ye everlasting doors, and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates, even lift them up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory. -Psalm 24:7-10

*** DOXOLOGY** **Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow** **OLD 100th**

All Singing: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

UMH No. 95

*** PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (IN UNISON)**

Almighty God, giver of every good and perfect gift, teach us to render to you all that we have and all that we are, that we may praise you, not only with our lips but also with our lives, turning the duties, the sorrows, and the joys of our days into a holy and living sacrifice to you; through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

† **SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION** **UMH No. 17**

†† **SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION** **UMH No. 24**

The Great Thanksgiving
The Lord's Prayer
The Sharing of Bread and Cup

After sharing communion, you are invited to take a December prayer card to use in your daily prayer life.

† **COMMUNION** **Of the Father's Love Begotten** Gerald Near

†† **COMMUNION** **Prepare Thyself, Zion** J. S. Bach
 Jennifer Wells, soprano

Prepare thyself, Zion, with tender affection, the purest, the fairest, this day to receive. Thou must greet him with a heart with love o'erflowing! Haste then, with ardor the Bridegroom to welcome. -para. J. Troutbeck (1832-1899)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (IN UNISON)

Bountiful God, we give thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*** HYMN NO. 203** **Hail to the Lord's Anointed** **ELLACOMBE**

*** PRONOUNCEMENT OF BLESSING**

POSTLUDE **Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying** John Ferguson

We thank the following for their service during our worship service:

	8:45	11:00
Communion Servers:	Gary Harris	Jim and Martha Brannock
Lay Reader:	Gary Harris	David Hedgecock
Acolytes:	Ella Kate Porfilio	Sadie & Savannah Sanders
Crucifer:	Mary Elizabeth Huneycutt	Amelia Pardue

WELCOME! We're glad that you have chosen to worship with us today. Following the 11:00 a.m. service, there is a gathering in the Heritage Center for fellowship and refreshments. Please join us. Our hosts this week are Adam and Trisha Craig.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in honor of our grandparents on the occasion of the 110th anniversary of the birth of Juanita Ephland Steele by Tom and Kim Steele.

MEMBERS OF THE ALTAR GUILD serving in December are Mary Ellen Cross, Trisha Craig, Marie Crissman, Helen Ellington, Sarah Folckomer, and Beth Kelley.

THE PRAYER REQUEST CARDS in the pews may be placed in the offering or in the Prayer Request Boxes in the Reading Area and the Narthex Area, or you may email the Prayer Ministry Team at prayer@frontstreetumc.org. We thank team members Sandra Hughey and Betty Huneycutt, who will be in the Prayer Room on our behalf at noon to pray for requests given on the Prayer Request Cards.

UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

Today your generous gifts to the United Methodist Student Day offering help deserving United Methodist students continue their education and their faith journeys as they strive to make a difference in the world and discern what God has called them to do. Offering envelopes are provided for your gift.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Circles 1, 2, and 4 will meet in the chapel **tomorrow** at 10:30 a.m. A musical program will be presented for the holiday season. All women are invited to join us for this special program and then for the luncheon afterwards. Contact Doris Jefferson at 336-228-0130 for additional information.

BEL CANTO CONCERT

Bel Canto Company (Greensboro, NC) will present their Christmas concert, *Candle, Star, Joyous Light*, **tomorrow evening** at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY

The next quarterly **Membership Sunday** is **December 8**. If you would like to join Front Street at any of the worship services that Sunday, please contact the church office to complete the information needed for the church roll. We look forward to having you as part of the Front Street Family.

BOXED LUNCH FUNDRAISER – DECEMBER 8

Support our adult mission team by purchasing a boxed lunch containing delicious soup, sandwich (your choice of turkey & cheese or roast beef & cheese), chips, and a cookie. Lunches are \$10 a box. Quarts of soup (chicken & vegetable with a tomato base) are also available for \$7.50. Place your order by **December 6** at www.frontstreetumc.org, and pick up your lunch following 11:00 a.m. worship on **December 8**. Paper forms are also available in the Welcome Center.

BREAKFAST WITH MARY AND JOSEPH

Join us on **Sunday, December 15** at 10:00 a.m. for breakfast and conversation with Mary & Joseph as they journey to Bethlehem. Hear the Christmas story from their perspective, and ask questions. Interactive and hands-on Christmas experience for children K-5 (all ages are welcome to participate). Gather in Room 302.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Date	8:45	Aldersgate	11:00	Total
11/3	0	59	228	287
11/10	57	56	165	278
11/17	59	52	197	308
11/24	72	43	241	356

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 1, 2019

Sunday, December 1

8:45	Worship Service	Sanctuary
8:45	Contemporary Worship Service	Aldersgate Hall
9:45	Family Life Ministry Team Meeting	Room 405
9:45	Sunday School	Classrooms
11:00	Worship Service	Sanctuary
1:30	Front Street Travelers	NC Symphony
4:00	Children's Choir	Sanctuary
4:00	Youth Choir	Choir Room
5:00	Wesley Ringers	Room 406
5:00	Youth Bells	Bell Room
6:00	UMYF/Confirmation	Aldersgate Hall

Monday, December 2

10:30	UMW	Heritage Center
7:30	Bel Canto Concert	Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 3

7:30	Men's Breakfast Bible Study/Christmas	Reading Area
9:30	Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study	Room 305
6:15	Epworth Ringers	Bell Room
7:00	Stewardship Committee Meeting	John Wesley Room

Wednesday, December 4

7:15	Youth Breakfast Club/Junior High	Dr. Cecil's Office
7:30	Youth Breakfast Club/Senior High	1711 Sykes St.
6:00	Aldersgate Praise Band Rehearsal	Aldersgate Hall
6:00	Permanent Endowment Committee Meeting	John Wesley Room
7:00	Chancel Choir	Choir Room

Thursday, December 5

9:30	Prayer and Meditation	Prayer Room
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Sunday, December 8

8:45	Worship Service	Sanctuary
8:45	Contemporary Worship Service	Aldersgate
9:45	Sunday School	Classrooms
11:00	Worship Service	Sanctuary
12:00	Haiti Takeout Lunch Fundraiser	Aldersgate Hall
6:00	UMYF/Confirmation	Aldersgate Hall

TREES OF LOVE

Adorn our Trees of Love with the spirit of giving! Please return all items (unwrapped) to the trees by **Wednesday, December 18**. Note: if you are donating money or gift cards, please return to the church office. Visit www.frontstreetumc.org for additional information on each Tree of Love.

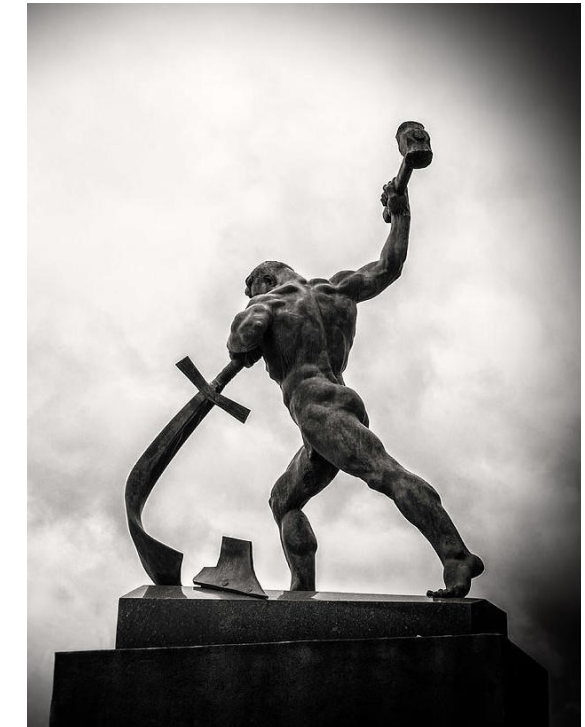
SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The **2020 flower calendar is available** in the Welcome Center. If you are interested in placing flowers in the Sanctuary in honor or in memory of a loved one, please write your name on the Sunday you wish to put flowers in the church. Please contact Linda Paul at 336-543-5081 (cell) or kpaul5@triad.rr.com (email) for details or to sign up.

FRONT STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Our Mission:

Knowing Christ • Growing in Christ • Sharing Christ



Pastors
Rev. Ross Carter
Rev. Patrick Murphy

Youth Minister
Chris Huneycutt

Organist/Director of Music
Dr. Matt Brittain

Choirmaster
Laura Sam

Director of Children's Ministries
Marcella McAdams