

**THE WORSHIP OF GOD**  
**December 22, 2019**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

*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    The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came**

**Tell Out My Soul**

Paul Manz

UMH No. 200

(1919-2009)

**\* OPENING PRAYER (IN UNISON)**

**Lord of all life and all seasons, help us open our hearts to hear the words of promise and love that you send to us. Like Joseph, may we trust in your abiding love and power. Prepare us to receive your gift of grace and peace. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.**

**\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 220**

**Angels from the Realms of Glory REGENT SQUARE**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES (RESPONSIVELY)**

† The Smith Family

†† The Evans Family

Tender God, the infant who lay on Mary's chest was one day crucified, killed because he was too strange, too loving, too merciful, because his light was too bright.

**Let your face shine that we may be saved.**

Tender God, when death could not overcome you, you rose from the dead, bearing your scars, a wounded healer among us.

**Let your face shine that we may be saved.**

Tender God, wounded healer, you are with us still, teaching us through children with special needs how to name as gift all those who are born to this world, delighting in the variety of bodies and abilities given to each person.

**Let your face shine that we may be saved.**

Tender God, in this season of Advent, like Joseph we pray that we would open our arms to all of your children, making space for parents who need support, believing as you do that all life is sacred and to be celebrated.

**Amen.**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore, in the light of Christ, let us confess our sins.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (IN UNISON)**

**Heavenly Father, you have poured upon us blessing after blessing, reminding us daily of your love and presence; yet we have chosen to jump onto this "greased slide" into Christmas. Give us patience. Slow us down. Remind us of the ways in which you are present with us—not just in the wrapped packages, or in the gift of delicious food, but in the love and compassion that is brought to all. Forgive us, we pray. Make us truly ready to receive your love and the gift of the Christ Child. Amen.**

**PERSONAL CONFESSION AND MEDITATION (IN SILENCE)**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Leader: The light of God's love shines upon each of us in the gift of God's love, Jesus Christ. Rejoice!  
 You are loved by God, now and forever.

**People: You are loved by God, now and forever.**

**All: Glory to God. Amen.**

**SUNG RESPONSE**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**GLORIA**

**\* PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

†† **TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES**

All children are invited to gather at the chancel steps. Children ages 4 – first grade may then depart for Children's Church in Room 304.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (IN UNISON)**

**Guide us, O God, by your Word and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

**Psalms 80:1-7**

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†† **ANTHEM**

**Call to Advent**  
 Chancel Choir

J. Jerome Williams  
 (b. 1938)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appears. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*-Latin hymn, trans. by John Mason Neale (1818-1866)*

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in His hand, Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

*-Liturgy of St. James*

**\* GOSPEL LESSON**

**Matthew 1:18-25**

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**SERMON**

**"Not Normal at All"**

Rev. Ross Carter

**CALL TO PRAYER**

Minister: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Minister: Let us pray.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY**

**Magnificat**      Randall Thompson  
**("My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord")**      (1899-1984)

Margaret Dalton, soprano

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation. He hath shewed strength with his arm, he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. He hath holpen his servant Israel in remembrance of his mercy; as he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed forever. Amen.

*-Luke 1:46-55*

**\* DOXOLOGY Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow OLD 100<sup>th</sup>**

**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)**

**Giver of all good gifts, bless the offering we make this morning, a small token compared to all the blessings you have poured down on us. Into this world, you gave the greatest gift of all: Emmanuel, your presence with us, in Jesus the Christ. Not just a presence, but an invitation: through him, to be your children and heirs to your Kingdom. May our gifts, hymns, prayers, and promises help us realize your Kingdom in our hearts and in our world. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen and Amen.**

**\* HYMN NO. 249**

**There's a Song in the Air CHRISTMAS SONG**

**\* PRONOUNCEMENT OF BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

**Fugue on the Magnificat, BWV 733**  
 (see back for musical excerpt)

J. S. Bach  
 (1685-1750)

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

	8:45	11:00
Lay Reader:	Susan Taylor	Sally Fox
Acolytes:	Hallie Smith	Kennedy Joyce & Patrick Wilson
Crucifer:	Will Stadler	Grey Metts

**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 Chris and Betsy Huneycutt.

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God and in memory of Nelson Reid by his family.

**MEMBERS OF THE ALTAR GUILD** serving in December are Mary Ellen Cross, Trisha Craig, Marie Crissman, 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 Lynn Collins and Becky Johnson, who will be in the Prayer Room on our behalf at noon to pray for requests given on the prayer request cards.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

Communion service at noon in the Sanctuary.  
Children's service at 5 p.m. in the Sanctuary.  
Candlelight communion service at 8:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. *There will be an extended musical prelude beginning at 7:30 p.m. by Amy Marsh (cello) and Matt Brittain (organ).*

**CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING**

A Christmas Eve offering will be taken at all three services. This year's Christmas offering for the noon and 8 p.m. services will be divided between missions and the church budget. The children's service offering will go towards the Eastlawn Backpack Ministry.

**OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

The church office will be closed **December 24, 25, and 26** for Christmas and **January 1** for New Year's Day. Merry Christmas and happy New Year!

**WORSHIP SERVICES ON DECEMBER 29**

Aldersgate service at 8:45 a.m. with breakfast.  
There will be **ONE** combined traditional worship service at **11:00 a.m.** No Sunday School for children or youth.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Offering envelopes are available for pick-up outside the church office. PLEASE pick yours up by **December 31**. This will help in reducing our mailing costs. Thank you.

**WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

Date	8:45	Aldersgate	11:00	Total
11/24	72	43	241	356
12/1	37	40	184	261
12/8	60	50	253	363
12/15	0	54	365	419

SEE BACK OF BULLETIN FOR MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 22, 2019**

**Sunday, December 22**

8:45	Worship Service	Sanctuary
8:45	Contemporary Worship Service	Aldersgate Hall
9:45	Sunday School	Classrooms
11:00	Worship Service	Sanctuary

**Tuesday, December 24**

12:00	Communion Service	Sanctuary
5:00	Children's Christmas Eve Service	Sanctuary
8:00	Candlelight Communion Service	Sanctuary

**Tuesday - Thursday, December 24-26 - Church Office Closed**

**Sunday, December 29**

8:45	Contemporary Worship Service	Aldersgate Hall
9:45	Sunday School	Classrooms
11:00	John Wesley Covenant Service	Sanctuary

**2019 CONTRIBUTION DEADLINE**

A friendly reminder from the Church Office: in order for contributions to be included as a contribution towards your 2019 statement, please have mail postmarked or dropped at the church office **NO LATER THAN December 31**. All contributions received after December 31 will be applied to your 2020 statement.

**ALTAR FLOWERS 2020**

The **2020** flower calendar is available in the Welcome Center. The following dates are available to place flowers in the Sanctuary in honor or in memory of a loved one: **January 5 and 26 and February 2 and 9**. Please contact Linda Paul at 336-543-5081 or kpaul5@triad.rr.com for details or to sign up.

**IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER**

In case of inclement weather, the church office will follow the delays and closures of the City of Burlington (not the Alamance-Burlington School System). For worship services, any cancellations will be publicized on Facebook, our website, FOX8, and WFMY News 2.

**LIVE-STREAMING**

We are pleased to be able to live-stream our 11:00 a.m. worship each week for the benefit of those who are not able to be physically present. For those who would prefer to not be on camera, we endeavor to make the back half of the Sanctuary a non-video zone. The balcony is also available for non-video seating. If you have any questions about this service, please feel free to speak with Pastor Ross.

**FUGUE ON THE MAGNIFICAT MUSICAL EXCERPT:**

Mei - ne See - le er - - - hebt den Her - ren,  
denn er hat die Nied - rig - keit sei - ner Magd an - ge - se - hen,  
und mein Geist freu - et sich Got - tes, mei - - nes Hei - lan - des,  
sie - he, von nun an wer - den mich se - lig prei - sen al - le Kin - des - kind,

# 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 J. Sam

**Director of Children's Ministries**

Marcella Z. McAdams

PO Box 2597 Burlington, NC 27216

Church Office: 336-227-6263

www.frontstreetumc.org