

**THE WORSHIP OF GOD**  
**December 23, 2018**  
**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**

<b>VOLUNTARY</b>	<b>Greensleeves</b>	Samuel Milligan (b. 1932)
	<b>Still, Still, Still</b>	Daniel Burton (b. 1944)
	Alicia Reid, harp	

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVELY)**

Leader: God's mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

**People: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

Leader: God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly.

**People: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

Leader: God has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

**All: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

**\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 211 (Stanzas 1, 4, 6, and 7)**

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel VENI EMMANUEL**

†† -Children's and Youth Choirs only on Stanza 4-

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

† **THE JIM AND AMY PIATT FAMILY**  
†† **THE STEVE AND JENNIFER SMITH FAMILY**

We light this candle as a symbol of the joy to be found in God's Kingdom on earth. For the Lord elevates the lowly, releases the captive, and brings sight to the blind. We rejoice in his justice and mercy, faithful to all generations. Come, Lord Jesus, come!

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

God draws near to us in Jesus, to be with us, to hear us, to heal us. Let us now draw close to God so that we may confess our sins together, and receive the gift of mercy that is Jesus Christ.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (IN UNISON)**

**Incaruate God, we confess we are not the people you hope us to be. The very ones you favor, we too often ignore or ridicule. The ones you knock off their pedestals, we admire and emulate. Heal our sight and our intentions, so that we might see as you see and live as you live in Christ. God of abundance, in this season of excess and having more, we risk being sent away empty. Forgive us for the times that we have been happy to hear the gospel without truly living it, and for failing to embody mercy and grace to others. This we ask in Christ's name. Amen.**

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

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Leader: Almighty God, have mercy on us through our Lord Jesus Christ; strengthen us in all goodness; and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep us in eternal life.

**People: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**SUNG RESPONSE**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**GLORIA**



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

†† **RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS** Jim and Alliene Johnson  
John and Kara Kolls  
Tim Laverty  
Beth McPhaul

†† **THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM** Owen Henry Kolls      Insert

†† **ANTHEM** **Lullaby for the Christ Child** Ruth Henderson  
Children's Choir, Youth Choir, (b. 1932)  
and Chancel Choir

Hush little baby, don't you cry, I'm going to sing you a lullaby. Lullay. Sweet little Jesus, with your birth you bring salvation to all the earth. Lullay. Fair prince of peace, Lord of all, we humbly kneel by your manger stall. Lullay. God in his mercy on us has smiled, he sends his love through this tiny child. Lullay. Let us sing praises to our King, in glad thanksgiving our voices shall ring. Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
-Ruth Watson Henderson

†† **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)**

**Holy Spirit, you who inspire prophets and give life to the world, break open the Scriptures to us this day, that we may receive, reflect, and live your will. Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** Micah 5:2-5a      OT Page 865

**\* GOSPEL LESSON** Luke 1:39-55      NT Page 57

**SERMON** "Fearful Blessedness"  
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 AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

† **OFFERTORY** **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** Gerald Near  
(b. 1942)

†† **OFFERTORY** **Angels' Carol** John Rutter  
Chancel Choir (b. 1945)  
Alicia Reid, harp

Have you heard the sound of the angel voices ringing out so sweetly, ringing out so clear? Have you seen the star shining out so brightly as a sign from God that Christ the Lord is here? Have you heard the news that they bring from heaven to the humble shepherds who have waited long? Gloria in excelsis Deo! Hear the angels sing their joyful song. He is come in peace in the winter's stillness, like a gentle snowfall in the gentle night; he is come in joy like the sun at morning filling all the world with radiance and with light. He is come in love as the child of Mary; in a simple stable we have seen his birth: Gloria in excelsis Deo! Hear the angels singing "Peace on earth." He will bring new light to a world in darkness, like a bright star shining in the skies above; he will bring new hope to the waiting nations when he comes to reign in purity and love. Let the earth rejoice at the Savior's coming; let the heavens answer with the joyful morn: Gloria in excelsis Deo! Hear the angels singing "Christ is born."  
-John Rutter

**\* 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)**

**Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you did not withhold yourself from the world but came to be deeply a part of it in Jesus. Teach us generosity in all things, so that your will may be done in and through us. Receive also these gifts that we offer with praise and thanksgiving. May this meager sacrifice of love be employed for the sake of this same Jesus whose coming shows us how to live. It is in His name that we pray. Amen.**

**\* HYMN (SEE INSERT) Canticle of the Turning** **STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN**  
†† -Children's and Youth Choirs only on Stanza 2-

**\* PRONOUNCEMENT OF BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE** **Christmas Carol Trilogy** Glenn L. Rudolph

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

	8:45	11:00
Call to Worship	Nancy Bell	Sidney Lee Robinson
Lay Reader:	Maddie Mills	Fred Glassford
Acolytes:	Claire Piatt	Abigale Robinson & Hallie Smith
Crucifer:		Grey Metts

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

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

**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](mailto:prayer@frontstreetumc.org). We thank team member Kathy Cecil, 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**

Please join us for one of our Christmas Eve services as we celebrate the birth of our Lord:

- A Christmas Eve Service for Children: 5 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
- Communion Service: 8 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

A Christmas Eve offering will be taken at both services. This year's Christmas offering will be divided between Allied Churches of Alamance County and the church budget.

**OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

The Church Office will be closed on **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 30**

Aldersgate service at 9 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 **Sunday, December 30**. This will help in reducing our mailing costs.

**2018 CONTRIBUTION DEADLINE**

A friendly reminder from the Church Office: in order for contributions to be included as a contribution towards your 2018 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 2019 statement.

**WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

Date	8:45	9:00	11:00	Online	Total
11/25	49	45	199	10	303
12/2	59	58	210	9	336
12/9	0	0	0	0	Snow
12/16	0	59	319	19	397

SEE BACK OF BULLETIN FOR MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 23, 2018**

**Sunday, December 23**

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

**Monday, December 24 - Church Office Closed**

5:00	Christmas Eve Service for Children	Sanctuary
8:00	Candlelight Communion Service	Sanctuary

**Tuesday, December 25 & Wednesday, December 26 - Church Office Closed**

**Sunday, December 30**

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

**FAMILY LIFE/MINISTRY TEAM**

Carol Sineath (in her retirement) plans to revive our Family/Life Ministries, and is seeking individuals to join this ministry team. The vision for this team is to offer both inter-generational and generational opportunities for our church family. The possibilities are limited only by our ability to envision! If you would like to be a part of this ministry team, please contact Carol at [cwsineath@gmail.com](mailto:cwsineath@gmail.com) or 336-263-2495.

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

Circles 1, 2, and 4 will meet in the Heritage Center for fellowship and refreshments at 10 a.m. on **Monday, January 7**. The General Meeting will convene in the Chapel at 10:30 a.m. Our speaker will be Rev. Jaye White, Director of Outreach Ministry, North Carolina Conference of the UMC. Circle 5 will meet on **Tuesday, January 8** at 7 p.m. in the Heritage Center. All women are invited to join us. Contact Doris Jefferson at 336-228-0130 for additional information.

**YOU'RE INVITED TO A RECEPTION HONORING CAROL SINEATH**

Carol Sineath has been engaged in wonderful ministry for our congregation as Minister of Congregational Care for the last 5 years. As we announced earlier, after much prayer and conversation, Carol has decided that she would like to step down from the Front Street staff at the end of 2018.

On **Sunday, January 13**, we will celebrate her ministry during the Fellowship Time in the Reading Area following the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS**

The **2019** flower calendar is on the bulletin board 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 6 and February 10, 17, and 24**. Please contact Linda Paul at 336-543-5081 or [kpaul5@triad.rr.com](mailto: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 ON FACEBOOK**

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.

# 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

**Coordinator of Congregational Care**

Carol W. Sineath

**Director of Children's Ministries**

Marcella Z. McAdams

PO Box 2597 Burlington, NC 27216

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