

THE WORSHIP OF GOD
December 29, 2019
WESLEY COVENANT SERVICE
HOLY COMMUNION

*Please stand as you are able.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK

GATHERING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTARY Laura Sam, piano

* **OPENING PRAYER (IN UNISON)**

O God, searcher of our hearts, you have formed us as a people and claimed us for your own. As we come to acknowledge your sovereignty and grace, and to enter into covenant with you, reveal any reluctance or falsehood within us.

Let your Spirit impress your truth on our inmost being, and receive us in mercy, for the sake of our Mediator, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

* **PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 224**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice IN DULCI JUBILO

* **PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

THE PROCLAMATION

God has given the Lord Jesus Christ as the only way and means of coming to God.

I do here renew my acceptance of Christ as the only new and living way, and sincerely join myself in covenant with him. O blessed Jesus, I come to you hungry, sinful, miserable, blind, and naked, unworthy to even wash the feet of your servants. I do here, with all my power, accept you as my Lord and Head. I renounce my own unworthiness, and vow that you are the Lord, my righteousness. I renounce my own wisdom, and take you for my only guide. I renounce my own will, and take you as my law.

Christ has told us that we must suffer with him.

I do hereby covenant with you, O Christ, to take my lot with you as it may fall. Through your grace, I promise that neither life nor death shall part me from you.

God has given holy laws as the rule for our lives.

I do here willingly put my neck under your yoke, to carry your burden. All your laws are holy, just, and good. I therefore take them as the rule for my words, thoughts, and actions, promising that I will strive to order myself as not to neglect anything I know to be my duty.

The almighty God searches and knows our hearts.

Almighty God, you know that I make this covenant with you today without guile and reservation. If any falsehood should be in it, guide me and help me to set it aright. And now, glory be to you, O God the Father, whom I, from this day forward, shall look upon as my God and Father. Glory be to you, O God the Son, who has loved me and washed me from my sins in your own blood, and now is my Savior and Redeemer. Glory be to you, O God the Holy Spirit, who by your almighty power has turned my heart from sin to God. Almighty God, the Lord Omnipotent, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you have now become my Covenant Friend.

* **HYMN NO. 221 In the Bleak Midwinter CRANHAM**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (IN UNISON)

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 63:7-9 OT Page 693

* **GOSPEL LESSON** Matthew 2:13-23 NT Page 2

THE INVITATION

Commit yourselves to Christ as his servants ... Let us therefore go to Christ and pray:

Let me be your servant, under your command.
I will no longer be my own.
I will give up myself to your will in all things.

Be satisfied that Christ shall be your place and work.

Lord, make me what you will.

I put myself into your hands:

put me to doing, put me to suffering,
let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you,
let me be full, let me be empty,
let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and with a willing heart give it all to your pleasure and disposal.

Christ will be the Savior to none but his servants ...

To make this covenant a reality in your life, listen to these admonitions:

First, set apart time ...

Second, be serious and in a spirit of holy awe and reverence..

Third, claim God's covenant ...

And last, be prepared to renew your covenant with the Lord. Bow in obedience, lift you heart to the Lord and open your minds to the Lord as we pray:

THE COVENANT PRAYER

O righteous God, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, see me as I bow before you. Forgive my unfaithfulness in not having done your will, for you have promised mercy to me if I turn to you with my whole heart.

God requires that we should put away all our idols.

I here from the bottom of my heart renounce them all, covenanting with you that no sin shall be allowed in my life. Against your will, I have turned my love toward the world. In your power, I will watch all temptations that will lead me away from you. For my own righteousness is riddled with sin, unable to stand before you.

Through Christ, God has offered to be our God again if we will let him.

Before heaven and earth, I here acknowledge you as my Lord and God. I take you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for my portion, and vow to give myself, body and soul, as your servant, to serve you in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life. And I, through your infinite grace, have become your covenant servant. So be it. And let the covenant I have made with you on earth be ratified in heaven. Amen.

OFFERTORY

Laura Sam, piano

* **DOXOLOGY**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

All Singing: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

UMH No. 94

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (IN UNISON)

Heavenly Father, thank you for the opportunity to dedicate our lives and resources to help share your good news with our neighbors. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

UMH No. 24

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

COMMUNION

Laura Sam, piano

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (IN UNISON)

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* **HYMN NO. 234**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

* **PRONOUNCEMENT OF BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

Laura Sam, piano

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

Communion Servers:	Marshall & Carol Old
Lay Reader:	Jim Brannock
Acolyte:	Adam Faircloth
Crucifer:	Jackson Faircloth

WELCOME! We're glad that you have chosen to worship with us today. Following this service, there is a gathering in the Heritage Center for fellowship and refreshments. Please join us. Our hosts this week are Gary and Marianna Harris.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. Paul and Nell Abernethy and his parents Vardy and Clara Abernethy by their children and grandchildren: Susan, Mac, Richard, and Mary Abernethy.

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 Mike and Margaret Mitchell, who will be in the Prayer Room on our behalf at noon to pray for requests given on the Prayer Request Cards.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

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

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 Tuesday, December 31.** All contributions received after December 31 will be applied to your 2020 statement.

JANUARY FOOD DRIVE

Front Street's Backpack Ministry supplies food for children at Eastlawn Elementary, who would otherwise go hungry over the weekend. In the month of January, we are asking for the following specific food items, which will be used to support our Backpack Ministry.

- pasta
- pasta sauce (no glass jars please)
- rice
- canned beans
- canned meat
- cans of corn or mixed vegetables
- cans of fruit
- snack packs (Jell-O or fruit cups)

Please deposit your donations in the Welcome Center. This collection will begin **January 5** and continue **through January 31.**

CEREAL SUNDAY

Don't forget that **January 5** is Cereal Sunday at FSUMC! Please deposit cereal or other canned/dry goods in the tubs in the cabinet in the Welcome Center. Thank you for helping stock the food pantry at the Salvation Army.

Worship Attendance

Date	8:45	9:00	11:00	Total
12/1	37	40	184	261
12/8	60	50	253	363
12/15	0	54	365	419
12/22	45	38	182	265

SEE BACK OF BULLETIN FOR MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 29, 2019

Sunday, December 29

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

Wednesday, January 1 - Office Closed

Sunday, January 5

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

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Circles 1, 2, and 4 will meet in the Heritage Center for fellowship and beverages at 10:00 a.m. on **Monday, January 6.** The general meeting will convene in the Chapel at 10:30 a.m. followed by individual circle meetings. Circle 5 will meet **Tuesday, January 14** at 7:00 p.m. in the Heritage Center. All women are invited to join us. For more information, please contact Doris Jefferson at 336-228-0130.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

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 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.

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