

**THE WORSHIP OF GOD**  
**December 8, 2019**  
**SECOND 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 Triptych and Pastorale on *Divinum Mysterium***  
Austin C. Lovelace

†† **VOLUNTARY O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** Laura J. Sam  
Wesley Ringers

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

**Patient and loving God, we so easily launch ourselves in  
preparation for the secular festival of giving and parties  
and the swirl of social events, but we forget that the true  
preparation is the readiness of our hearts to receive you.  
Help us look again at our lives, and turn them around so  
that they may be in tune with your will. We ask this in  
Jesus' name. Amen.**

\* **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 (RESPONSIVELY)**

† The Glick Family  
†† The Piatt Family

Welcoming God, as the child Jesus grew, he taught us  
that your heart beats for those on the outside looking in,  
the ones who most need food, warmth, safety, and  
community.

**Prepare us to make room.**

Welcoming God, on the day when his followers tried to  
build a wall around him, pushing away children who  
wanted to come near, Jesus made space, saying: let  
the children come to me.

**Prepare us to make room.**

Welcoming God, even now, your heart breaks for  
children who sit waiting, for those who are afraid, alone,  
and without basic necessities.

**Prepare us to make room.**

Welcoming God, in this season of Advent, teach our  
hearts to beat with yours, opening our mouths to speak  
Jesus' words of hospitality: let the children come.

**Amen.**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

God pours out his love for you, always. May we move  
closer to God by confessing our sin before him.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (IN UNISON)**

**We live far too much in darkness and fear. We have let  
those fears invade the very center of our lives and find  
ourselves changing, moving from your light to the  
darkness of despair. It seems that this world and its  
people are more pleased to fight and destroy than they  
are to have peace and harmony. We become part of  
that crowd when we wallow in anger, resentment,  
apathy, and greed. Forgive us, patient and merciful  
God. Through your Holy Spirit, give us courage and  
strength to change our lives, that your peace may  
become a reality in this world. We offer this prayer in the  
name of Jesus. Amen.**

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

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Leader: As we confess before God, the walls that  
separate us fall. In the name of Jesus Christ, you  
are forgiven!

People: **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

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

**SUNG RESPONSE**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**GLORIA**



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

†† **RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS** John, Susan, Lillian,  
and Blair Teachey

†† **ANTHEM O Come, Little Children** Ken Berg  
Children's Choir and Youth Choir

O come, little children, O come, one and all, come stand by the manger in  
Bethlehem's stall, and see with rejoicing this glorious sight our father in heaven  
has sent us this night. O, see in the manger, in holiest light a star throws its  
beams on the heavenly sight. In clean swaddling clothes lies the long-  
promised Child, more lovely than angels, this Baby so mild. And now, to the  
manger, what gift shall we bring to show our great love for our heavenly  
King? He cares for no treasure that earth could impart, O give Him devotion,  
O give Him your heart!

-Christoph von Schmid (1768-1854);  
trans. Herman H. Brueckner (1866-1942)

†† **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)**

**Gracious God, give us humble, teachable, and obedient  
hearts, that we may receive what you have revealed, and  
do what you have commanded. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON John 1:6-8** NT Page 91

†† **ANTHEM Comfort, Comfort You My People** Psalter (1551)  
Children's Choir, Youth Choir, and Chancel Choir

Jennifer Wells, hand drum

Comfort, comfort you my people, tell of peace, thus says our God; comfort those  
who sit in darkness bowed beneath oppression's load. Speak you to Jerusalem of  
the peace that waits for them; tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare  
now is over. For the herald's voice is calling in the desert far and near, bidding us  
to make repentance since the kingdom now is here. O that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God away; let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow  
down in greeting. Make you straight what long was crooked, make the rougher  
places plain; let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God's holy reign. For  
the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad; and all flesh shall see the  
token that God's word is never broken.

-Johannes Olearius (1611-1684); trans. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)

\* **GOSPEL LESSON Luke 3:1-6** NT Page 60

**SERMON "Waiting for Christmas"** 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 Chorale-Prelude on "Divinum Mysterium"**  
("Of the Father's Love Begotten") J. Blackburn

†† **OFFERTORY Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**  
Youth Bells Cathy Moglebust

\* **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)**

**Heavenly Father, as we wait for the gift of the Messiah, we  
offer all that we have and all that we are in worship of you.  
Receive the fullness of what we bring, and we pray that  
you will do with our gifts more than we could ever do or  
imagine. Amen.**

\* **HYMN No. 213 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates** **TRURO**

\* **PRONOUNCEMENT OF BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE Toccata-Prelude on 'Wachet auf'**  
Francis Jackson

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

	8:45	11:00
Lay Reader:	Jim Clark	Tim Laverty
Acolytes:	Liam Peterson	Abigale Robinson and Clay Thomas
Crucifer:	Evan Gilgo	Claire Piatt

**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 Steve and Betty Massey.

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God and in memory of DeWitt and Eleanor Horner Vaughan and Edward and Helen Truitt Hicklin by David Vaughan and Martha Vaughan Smith.

**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 Sam and Ruth Ann Stubblefield, 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.

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

Circle 5 will meet on **Tuesday, December 10** at 7:00 p.m. in the Heritage Center. All women are invited to join us. Contact Doris Jefferson at 336-228-0130 for additional information.

**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.

**A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS**

Join the Chancel Choir and Epworth Ringers on **Sunday, December 15** at **10:45 a.m.** for our annual service of Lessons and Carols. The service takes the form of the "Lessons and Carols" found in *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, which was drawn from sources ancient and modern by E. W. Benson, Bishop of Truro, in 1880. It tells the entire story of Christmas by weaving nine lessons with the singing of hymns and carols. **PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO 8:45 a.m. traditional worship service.**

**WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

Date	8:45	Aldersgate	11:00	Total
11/10	57	56	165	278
11/17	59	52	197	308
11/24	72	43	241	356
12/1	37	40	184	261

SEE BACK OF BULLETIN FOR MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 8, 2019**

**Sunday, December 8**

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

**Tuesday, December 10**

9:30	Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study	Room 305
6:15	Epworth Ringers	Bell Room
7:00	Circle 5	Heritage Center

**Wednesday, December 11**

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	Aldersgate Hall
7:00	Chancel Choir	Choir Room

**Saturday, December 14**

2:00	Azalea MHP Fellowship	Azalea MHP
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**Sunday, December 15**

8:45	Contemporary Worship Service	Aldersgate Hall
9:45	Sunday School	Classrooms
10:00	Breakfast with Mary and Joseph	Room 302
10:45	Service of Lessons and Carols	Sanctuary
12:00	Chancel Choir Christmas Party	Aldersgate Hall
6:00	UMYF Christmas Party/Confirmation	Huneycutt 's Home

**CHRIST OFFERING**

On **Sunday, December 15**, as we celebrate the season of Advent with a Service of Lessons and Carols in a combined service at 10:45 a.m., we will receive a special Christ offering. This offering assures that we not only meet our obligations for the year, but that we testify to the light, which is Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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](http://www.frontstreetumc.org) for additional information on each Tree of Love.

**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