

First United Methodist Church
Sunday, December 1, 2024



Strengthening and sharing our Christian
faith through fellowship and service

December 1 ~ The First Sunday of Advent

Enter to Worship

This is a Time of Silence as We Prepare for Worship.

Prelude

Welcome

† Opening Hymn, No. 196 Come Thou Long Expected Jesus
*Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins
release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the
earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.*

† Call to Worship

One: The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill my promise to my people.

All: Justice and righteousness will fill the land and all will live in peace and safety.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Keep awake! Be watchful!

The Son of Man is coming with power and great glory.

Hold your heads high,

for your salvation is near.

We light the first Advent candle, reminding us how God's promised Messiah will break into our time and space to show us the way of salvation.

May we stay alert for his coming.

Light the candle.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Holy One, you have promised us that the day of our salvation is near. Keep us faithful in love and watchful in prayer, so that we may stand with confidence and joy at the coming of Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.

Call to Confession

Jesus said, Do not let your hearts be weighed down by the sins and worries of this life, but watch and pray for the grace of God, who will save you in your time of trial. With confidence in God's mercy, may we confess our sins.

Prayer of Confession

Lord, have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming. We live in sin, as though there was no justice. We live in fear, as though there were no grace. Forgive us, Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love. Lead us in your truth, and teach us your paths, for you are the God of our salvation. Amen.

Prayers of Confession May be Made in Silence.

Friends, believe the good news: In Christ Jesus you are forgiven. ***Thanks be to God!***

Prayer for Illumination

God our salvation, there is wisdom, peace, and joy for those who keep your Word. By the power of your Holy Spirit, lead us in your truth and teach us to do your will; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Old Testament Lesson

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalter No. 756

Psalms 25:1-10, Response 1

Epistle Lesson

1Thessalonians 3:9-13

† Gospel Lesson

Luke 21:25-36

The Word of God for the People of God. ***Thanks be to God.***

Sermon

Anthem

† Affirmation of Faith for Advent

***We believe that God has come to us;
that God brought us into being,
that this God gave us breath and purpose,
that we have been blessed to be a blessing to others,
that we have fallen short of this commandment
but that God has nevertheless loved us despite our brokenness.***

***We believe that God is coming to us;
that God is not happy to leave us alone,
that this God will come to us as a particular human being,
that God will be made known to us in flesh and bone like ours,
that Mary will soon give birth and Joseph will soon clap his hands in
joy, that Jesus Christ will be born and our salvation made complete.***

We believe that God will come to us;

*that God will have the final word and that Word will be good,
that this God will give us the presence of the Spirit to continue our work,
that we are called to be disciples to all the corners of the earth,
that the day is coming when tears and pain will be no more,
and all will gather at the Table to sing an endless and perfect "Alleluia!"*

~ By Rev. Stephen M. Fearing

† Hymn, No. 206

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus. In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Prayers of Intercession

A time of silence follows each petition.

May we pray to the Lord, saying, in your mercy, Lord, save us.

Merciful God, you call us to goodness and lead us on right paths. You encourage us with signs of your coming and urge us to keep watch, that we might greet you with heads raised high when you come to restore all creation. Watching and waiting, we pray for this world that needs your saving power.

For nations at war, in your mercy, **Lord, save us.**

For all who suffer from violence, in the streets or in their homes, in your mercy, **Lord, save us.**

For all who live in worry or fear, in your mercy, **Lord, save us.**

For those who have forgotten the ways of righteousness, in your mercy, **Lord, save us.**

For those who have never heard of your rescuing love, in your mercy, **Lord, save us.**

For all those who have lost hope, or never had it at all, in your mercy, **Lord, save us.**

We pray, too, for your church in the world, that we may increase in ardor for you and your children, and work in confidence for your coming reign. Now by the power of your Holy Spirit, make us ever more faithful, that we may greet you in confidence and joy on that great day; through Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of righteousness, you have saved us from the worst the world can do and have promised to redeem the whole creation when Christ comes again. In faith and hope we offer our gifts of money and self, that we may be part of what you are doing in the world even now, as we watch for Christ's coming in glory. **Amen.**

† Hymn of Preparation, No. 395

Take Time to Be Holy

Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord; abide in him always, and feed on his word. Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak, forgetting in nothing his blessings to seek.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

How can we thank you, O God? For sun and moon and stars, for breath and life and all things good, for your steadfast promise and your faithful love, for the day that is surely coming when all things will be made new.

With saints, with angels, and with the whole creation, we join the ancient and eternal hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

We give you thanks, Holy God, for Jesus, who came to by your living Word, to baptize us with Spirit and fire, to feed the hungry, to humble the mighty, and to announce the good news of your coming realm.

With thanksgiving, we remember how, when the hour had come, Jesus took his place at the table with the apostles.

He said to them, I will not eat this Passover again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

Then Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them saying, This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

After supper, he took a cup, saying, This cup that is poured out for you in the new covenant in my blood. I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.

With thanks and praise we offer ourselves to you, sharing this holy meal, remembering Christ's dying and rising, and praying: Come Lord Jesus!

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us – this bread, this cup, these people – Christ's body and blood, given in love for the world. Make us one in the Spirit, one in the church, and one with Christ our Lord.

Make us gentle, joyful, thankful people, serving our neighbors, worshiping you alone. Keep us in the peace of Christ until you gather us at your table in glory.

Even now, a voice is crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord!

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. ***Amen.***

The Breaking and the Sharing

† Closing Hymn, No. 549

Where Charity and Love Prevail
Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found; brought here together by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.

† Prayer for the Renewal of Christ's Church

Christ has no body now, but yours.

No hands, no feet on earth, but yours.

Yours are the eyes through which Christ looks compassion into the world.

Yours are the feet with which Christ walks to do good.

Yours are the hands with which Christ blesses the world.

~ St. Teresa of Avila

† Charge to the Congregation and Blessing

Go in peace, live in love, and seek to be holy in all that you do.

May the God of mercy keep you, the Holy Spirit cheer you, and Christ in glory greet you, now and at the day of his coming. ***Amen.***

Please remain in silence until the Postlude has concluded and all have been dismissed.

† Please stand as you are able.

Words in ***bold & italic*** are to be spoken by the congregation.

*Flowers on the altar are given by Pastor Elizabeth Lutz
to the Glory of God for in honor of*

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11

LEADING OUR WORSHIP

Lay Reader: Dianne Harwood
Ushers: MEN'S TEAM

TO BE REMEMBERED

Prayers for Healing

Members: A.Y. Cooper, Yvonne Edwards, Sibyl French, Phyllis Kirts, Cindy Loving, Rita Potter, Jane Preston, Cathy Price, Lynda Rainey, Norman Shields, Nancy Vincent, Sally Walker, Barbara Yost

Friends: Phyllis Earley

December Birthdays for the week:

12/02 Jim Bush

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Cantata—Breath of Heaven. Sunday, December 8, at 4:00 pm. Cover dish following the music. Come and be inspired during this joyous season. Bring your family and friends.

CARING FOR GOD'S CREATION— Buying clothes for Christmas gifts read the labels. Choose items made of natural fibers (cotton, linen, wool, silk) or recycled fibers as a gift also to marine life. Fossil-fuel based polyester, nylon, acrylic, spandex, lycra when washed, release micro plastics into water systems and then the food chain, harming sea creatures and humans.

FOOD CLOSET NEEDS! As the shelves continue to be sparse at the food-bank, help our closet by bringing these items: **canned fruit, spaghetti & sauce, soups, and mac & cheese.** Thanks for your support.

All church members are invited to participate in this mission. Menchville House was established in Newport News in 1998 to assist women and their children. Please keep the families at Menchville House in your prayers. Circle 5 is collecting a Christmas gift for the children at Menchville House. We are collecting fleece throws and children's books to be given out at Christmas. You may participate by bringing a throw, a children's book, a large Christmas gift bag, or all three. There will be a hamper in the narthex to place your contribution. The final date to participate is **December 15th.**

THIS WEEK

Sun, December 1

9 am — Sunday School
10 am — Worship
11 am — Choir Practice
11:45 am—Hand bell Choir

Mon, December 2

10:45 am—Bible Study

Wed, December 3

10 am—Chapel
6pm Bible Study

Sat, December 7

12-1:30 Christmas Cantata
Dress Rehearsal

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First United Methodist Preschool:

www.facebook.com/FUMPreschool

Instagram: www.instagram.com/firstumcpreschool

TITHES & OFFERING REPORT— November 25, 2024

Date	Budget Need	Offerings	Deficit
November	\$20,080.00	\$21,358.01	-\$70,809.74
Year To Date	\$235,940.00	\$165,130.26	-\$70,809.74

First United Methodist Church

Sunday Services: 9 am Sunday School; 10 am Worship Service

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Church Office Email: administrativeasst@firstumcnewportnews.com

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs, 9:30 am-2:30 pm •Website: www.firstumcnewportnews.com

Pastor Elizabeth: pastor@firstumcnewportnews.com •Phone: Mobile: (757) 335-2649