

We welcome you to worship the Living and Triune God. Jesus Christ is alive and with us in the power of the Holy Spirit. To schedule an appointment or become a member, speak to Pastor Phil. Prayer and counsel are available after the service. Silence your phones and give yourself to the holy work of worship! You are called to be a follower of the Lord, a member of his people, and a participant in his mission. It's our business as we serve the world from the center of Greenwood, SC. Open your heart to the Holy Spirit.

Sunday, December 9, 2012

Our website is www.msumc1.org

Our Christmas Eve Service Is Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 6:00pm

THE SUNDAY SERVICE

11:00 am

2nd Sunday of Advent

Color: Purple

*Stand as able

A nursery is provided

Large print hymnals, bulletins, and hearing devices are available from the ushers.

“All Jewish history was a preparation for the appearance of John, then Jesus.”

ENTRANCE

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

Pray as You Enter; Assume Silence at the Chiming

TRINITY CHIME

Cindy Skinner

PRELUDE

What Child is This? (arr. Derek Hakes)

Chancel Bells

WELCOME AND SILENCE

Phil Thraikill: Pastor

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Christ Beside Me

Tune of Morning Has Broken

**Christ beside me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me, King of my heart;
Christ within me, Christ below me, Christ above me, never to part.**

**Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,
Christ all around me, shield in the strife;
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising, light of my life.**

***GREETING**

Trinitarian Greeting, Luke 3:4-6/Isaiah 40:3-5

As the friends of God, let us bless the Lord.

Blessed be God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

“As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low,

and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways smooth;

and all flesh shall see the salvation of our God!”

***PROCESSION HYMN, NO. 209**

Blessed Be the God Of Israel

Crucifer: Cecilia McGinnis; Acolytes: Lucas Bassett, Ann Baker;

Advent Banner: Julia Baker; Bible Bearer: Joe Hartung.

THE DEDICATION OF A NEW PULPIT BIBLE (NRSV) *U.M. Book of Worship: 607-608*

In memory of Ernest C. and Phyllis S. McWatty by their children and grandchildren
Reading the Inscription of the Present Bible and its Retirement to the Archives
Presentation and Reception of the New Bible and its Placement on the Pulpit
*Song, No. 601 *Thy Word Is a Lamp*

***COMMON PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON** *Based on Luke 1:5-25*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray:

**Almighty God our heavenly Father,
your good purposes are sure and will surely come to pass.
You know how easily we lose our way
and how quickly we are led astray into the common habits of sin
that sap life from our souls and tangle our closest relationships.
We cannot turn back to you without constant divine aid.
We thank you for raising up prophets in every generation
to prick our consciences and point us back to the light,
who call for justice and show us the path to peace.
In the midst of the rush and distractions of this Christmas season
we ask for a gift from your right hand, the gift of deep repentance.
Turn the hearts of fathers to their children,
and the hearts of the foolish back to the wisdom of the elders.
Turn the hearts of all your people towards Jesus Christ,
who alone sets life on a firm foundation.
May your Holy Spirit illumine us and send down holy fire upon the Word.
Amen.** (All pray in silence. Pardon is announced.)

***ACT OF PRAISE, NO. 70** *Glory Be to the Father*

WELCOME VISITORS, REGISTER ATTENDANCE, CHURCH CONCERNS

PROCLAMATION AND PRAISE

THE ADVENT WREATH

Mark 1:4-8

Mac & Jean Bond

We light this candle as a symbol of Christ the Way.
May the Word sent from God through the prophets
lead us to the way of salvation.

O come, O Come, Emmanuel!

*Hymn No. 211 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Stanzas 1-2 Only

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Myra Greene, Extended session: Hunter Behrmann

ANTHEM

In the Bleak Midwinter (arr. Mark Schweizer)
Myra Greene: Soprano

UNITED METHODIST TEACHING ON REPENTANCE

Book of Discipline 2008: 62

The U.M. Articles of Religion XII: "Of Sin After Justification" (i.e. backsliding!)

"Not every sin willingly committed after justification is the sin against the Holy Ghost, and unpardonable. Wherefore, the grant of repentance is not to be denied to such as fall into sin after justification. After we have received the Holy Ghost, we may depart from grace given, and fall into sin, and, by the grace of God, rise again and amend our lives. And therefore they are to be condemned who say they can no more sin as long as they live here; or deny the place of forgiveness to such as truly repent." **You can come home again!**

SERMON LESSON

Gabriel's Annunciation to Zechariah

Luke 1:5-25

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

The Other Miracle Baby

Phil Thraikill: Pastor

Why is the ministry of John the prophet and his call to repentance so ignored in our day?
Is it not an act of kindness when the Lord enables us to change our ways?

RESPONSES TO THE WORD

*HYMN, NO. 717

Battle Hymn of the Republic

INVITATION, OFFERTORY

English Advent Carol

Chancel Choir

*DOXOLOGY, NO. 95 *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING, LORD'S PRAYER

*CONFESSING THE FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

Hymnal: 882

SENDING FORTH

*HYMN, No. 196

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Phil Thraikill: Pastor

*SUNG RESPONSE, NO. 666

Shalom to You

*POSTLUDE, TIME TO GREET A VISITOR!

Joyce Nickles: Organist

The flowers are given to the glory of God
in loving memory of Camille Wolfe from her family.