

 **Main Street**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 2, 2012

*Open hearts...Open minds...Open doors
The people of The United Methodist Church*

Prelude

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
In the Bleak Midwinter
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
Erin Knight, harp

13th c. plainsong, arr. Daniel Burton
Holst, arr. Daniel Burton
arr. Susan McDonald and Linda Wood

***Call to Worship**

Pastor Phil Thrailkill

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the King?

People: With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the Christ?

People: With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, evergreen.

Leader: How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Son of God?

People: By hearing again the words of the prophets, through spoken word and song.

Leader: For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.

People: Glory to God in the Highest!

*** Processional Carol**

O Come, All Ye Faithful
(verses 1,2,3, and verse 6 at bottom of page 3)

Adeste Fideles

*** Common Prayer**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us prayer together.

O God, our heavenly Father, the whole world rejoices at the coming of Your Son.

Everywhere around us we see signs of His coming.

As we gather in this evening hour, as your family, draw us closer to You;

fill our hearts with anticipation and longing for Your Son's return,

and make His Spirit very present in our hearts tonight.

May the life symbolized in the hanging of these greens tonight,

be a sign of the greater life we find in Him. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Carol

Wexford Carol
Chancel Choir, harp, violin
David Westberry, soloist

arr. Larry Finke

Good people all this Christmas time, consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done in sending His beloved Son.
With Mary holy we should pray to God with love this Christmas day;
In Bethlehem upon that morn there was a blessed Messiah born.

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;
To whom God's angels did appear, which put the shepherds in great fear.
"Prepare, go," the angels said, "to Bethlehem, be not afraid;
For there you'll find, this happy morn, a princely babe, sweet Jesus born."

With thankful heart and joyful mind, the shepherds went the babe to find,
And as God's angel had foretold, they did their Savior Christ behold.
Within a manger He was laid. And by His side the virgin maid,
attending on the Lord of all, so lowly laid in an ox'es stall.

Good people all this Christmas time, consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done in sending His beloved Son.

* Please stand as you are able

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri-um-phant, O
 1. *A - des - te, fi - de - les, lae - ti tri - um - phan - tes; ve -*
 2. True God of true God, Light from Light E - ter - nal,
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; O
 * 4. See how the shep-herds, sum-moned to his cra - dle,

come ye, O come ye, to Beth - le - hem.
ni - te, ve - ni - te in Beth - le - hem.
 lo, he shuns not the Vir - gin's womb;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!
 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
Na - tum vi - de - te Re - gem an - ge - lor - um.
 Son of the Fa - ther, be - got - ten, not cre - at - ed;
 Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;

Refrain
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,
Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.
ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, Do - mi - num.

6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
 Jesus to thee be all glory given.
 Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Refrain.*

Paraments

Carol *All My Heart Again Rejoices* arr. David Lasky
Chancel Choir and organ

All my heart again rejoices as I hear, far and near, sweetest angel voices;
"Christ is born," their choirs are singing, till the air everywhere now with joy is ringing.

Hark! A voice from yonder manger, softly thus calls to us, "Flee from woe and danger;
come and see; from all that grieves you, you are freed; all you need I will surely give you."

Come, then, let us hasten yonder; here let all, great and small, kneel in awe and wonder;
love him who with love is yearning; hail the star that from far bright with hope is burning.

Candles

Carol *Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella* arr. Robert Hobby
Chancel Choir and organ

Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella! Bring a torch, to the cradle run!
It is Jesus, good folk of the village; Christ is born and Mary's calling;
Ah! Ah! Beautiful is the mother! Ah! Ah! Beautiful is her Son!

It is wrong when the child is sleeping, it is wrong to talk so loud;
Silence, all, as you gather around, lest your noise should waken Jesus.
Hush! Hush! See how fast he slumbers; Hush! Hush! See how fast he sleeps.

Softly to the little stable, softly for a moment, come;
Look and see how charming is Jesus, how he is still, his eyelids closing.
Hush! Hush! See how the child is sleeping; Hush! Hush! See how he smiles in dreams.

The Advent Wreath

Carol *Holy Jesus Child* Mark Patterson
Celebration Singers and harp

Rest your head, go to sleep, we will worship at your feet.
Son of God, Prince of peace, holy Jesus child.
Christ awaits, come and see, come, behold the newborn King.
Love and joy to all he brings, holy Jesus child.

Angel choirs gladly sing songs of joy to welcome thee,
watching o'er you as while you dream, holy Jesus child.
Christ awaits, come and see, come, behold the newborn King.
Love and joy to all he brings, holy Jesus child.

Shepherds come, leave your sheep, all your worldly cares will keep,
see the babe here fast asleep, holy Jesus child.
Christ awaits, come and see, come, behold the newborn King.
Love and joy to all he brings, holy Jesus child.

Evergreen Wreaths and Poinsettias

Carol

A Stable Lamp Is Lighted
Chancel Choir and harp

Michael Larkin

A stable lamp is lighted whose glow shall wake the sky;
the stars shall bend their voices, and every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry, and straw like gold shall shine;
a barn shall harbor heaven, a stall become a shrine.

This child through David's city shall ride in triumph by;
the palm shall strew its branches, and every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry, though heavy, dull, and dumb,
and lie within the roadway to pave his kingdom come.

Yet he shall be forsaken, and yielded up to die;
the sky shall groan and darken, and every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry, for stony hearts of men:
God's blood upon the spearhead, God's love refused again.

But now, as at the ending, the low is lifted high;
the stars shall bend their voices, and every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry, in praises of the Child
by whose descent among us the worlds are reconciled.

Holly & Ivy

Carol

Saw You Never in the Twilight
Chancel Choir, harp, violin

arr. Tom Porter

Saw you never, in the twilight, when the sun had left the skies,
Up in heaven the clear stars shining through the gloom, like silver eyes?
So of old the wise men, watching, saw a little stranger star,
And they knew the King was given, and they followed it from far.

Heard you never of the story how they crossed the desert wild,
Journeyed on by plain and mountain, till they found the holy Child?
How they opened all their treasure, kneeling to that infant King;
Gave the gold and fragrant incense, gave the myrrh in offering?

Know ye not that lowly Baby was the bright and morning star?
He who came to light the Gentiles, and the darkened isles afar?
And we too, may seek His cradle; there our hearts' best treasures bring;
Love, and faith, and true devotion for our Savior, God and King.
Our Savior and King.

Chrismon Tree

Carol

Still, Still, Still
Chancel Choir, harp, violin

arr. Norman Luboff

Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow.
For all is hushed, the world is sleeping.
Holy star its vigil keeping.
Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.
The night is peaceful all around you,
close your eyes, let sleep surround you.
Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.

Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.
While guardian angels without number
watch you as you sweetly slumber.
Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.

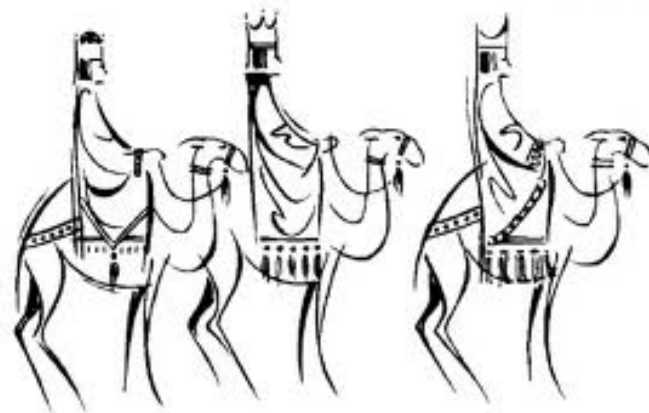
Gifts

Carol

We Three Kings

see page 7

During the singing of We Three Kings, you are invited to bring your gifts of blankets or food and place them under the Chrismon Tree. In the coming weeks these gifts will be distributed to those in our area who are in need of assistance.



We Three Kings

1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing
 2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
 3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense
 4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
 5. Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise; King and

gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
 bring to crown him a - gain, King for - ev - er,
 owns a De - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
 God and sac - ri - fice: Al - le - lu - ia,

moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
 voic - es rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God on high.
 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 Al - le - lu - ia, sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain

O star of won - der, star of light, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,

west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light.

The Nativity

Carol

Christmas Lullaby
Chancel Choir, harp, violin, flute

John Rutter

Clear in the darkness a light shines in Bethlehem:
Angels are singing their sound fills the air.
Wise men have journeyed to greet their Messiah;
But only a mother and baby lie there.

Ave Maria, Ave Maria: Hear the soft lullaby the angle hosts sing.
Ave Maria, Ave Maria, Maiden and mother of Jesus our King.

Where are his courtiers, and who are his people?
Why does he have neither scepter nor crown?
Shepherds his courtiers, the poor for his people,
With peace as his scepter and love for his crown.

Ave Maria, Ave Maria: Hear the soft lullaby the angle hosts sing.
Ave Maria, Ave Maria, Maiden and mother of Jesus our King.

What though your treasures are not gold or incense?
Lay them before him with hearts full of love.
Praise to the Christ child, and praise to his mother
Who bore us a Savior by grace from above.

Ave Maria, Ave Maria: Hear the soft lullaby the angle hosts sing.
Ave Maria, Ave Maria, Maiden and mother of Jesus our King.

The Christmas Story from The Gospel according to Luke

Pastor Phil Thrailkill

Carol

Angels We Have Heard on High
Chancel Choir, harp, violin, flute

Taylor Davis

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Deo!
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Deo!
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing:
Come adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

See him in the manger laid, whom the choirs of angles praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Deo!
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!

Collect For Advent (Unison)

Pastor Phil Thraikill

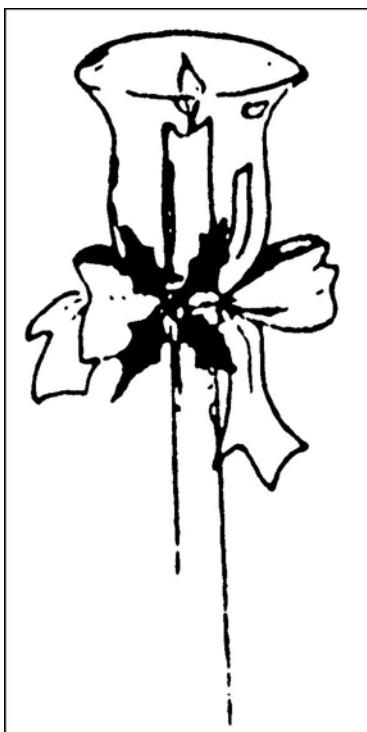
Gracious God, Your vision of peace and wholeness comes to us in sweeping revelations and in tiny signs of hope. Kindle our hearts that we may be a hopeful people. Keep us from growing weary of waiting lest we miss the glory of your appearing. Even so, come quickly, O God. Amen.

***Carol 218**

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

***Benediction**

***Postlude**



* Please stand as you are able

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Tonight marks the twenty-fifth Hanging of the Greens Service. Many people have contributed to the beauty of this service tonight and in the past. Main Street United Methodist Church is blessed by friends who lovingly share their gifts. From the beautifully handcrafted pew end candleholders to the graceful needlework and the delicately-crafted Chrismons, for the gifts of time and talent shared, we are thankful.

Greeters

Bob Bennett, Hazel Bennett, Ned and Mary Birchmore,
Chuck and Anne Drake, Wally Dorn, Evelyn Irwin, Mary Lynn Polk, Boo Warner

Reader: Kim Clark

The Hangers of The Greens

Josie Adams	Ashley Barnhart	
Scurry Charles	Abby Dent	Schuyler McGinnis
Nick Nickles	Sam Rice	Carly Rogers
Haley Rogers	Jacob Stockman	Herin Warner

Live Wreaths

The live wreaths on the outside doors are given by Steve and Cindy Skinner in loving honor of their granddaughters, ***Mary Margaret and Gabriella Rose***.

Poinsettias

The poinsettias in the chancel area are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of our ***'Gack' Libby Johnson and Grandpa Lyle Hartung*** by Andy, Sarah, Joe, and Libby Hartung.

Acolytes: Lucas Bassett, Bennett Charles

Crucifer: Joe Hartung

The Children

Ann Baker	Sam Crooks	Rachael Holder	Vivi Joy Pinckney
Haley Barnhart	Andrew Driver	Caroline Joseph	Madalin Radcliffe
Ella Bassett	Spence Hagood	Claire Leuthner	Sanders Rogers
Lucas Bassett	Libby Hartung	Rebekah Lomax	Olivia Rowland
Bennett Charles	Drew Hinton	Trace Meredith	William Rowland

Celebration Singers

Ann Baker	Bennett Charles	Libby Hartung	Trace Meredith
Haley Barnhart	Sam Crooks	Drew Hinton	Vivi Joy Pinckney
Ella Bassett	Spence Hagood	Rachel Holder	Madalin Radcliffe
Lucas Bassett		Rebekah Lomax	William Rowland

Instrumentalists

Erin Knight, harp
Amy Blackwood, violin
Rhonda McGinnis, flute
Joyce Nickles, organ

Chancel Choir

Larry Moore, Director

Alice Balentine	Keith Dover	Patricia Lindell	Joyce Nickles	Lee Robirds
Carol Blosser	Anne Farquhar	Jane Marshall	Ann Pendergrass	Lisa Smith
Dick Blosser	Pam Faulkner	Rhonda McGinnis	Pat Poole	Gladys Turner
Emmie Burns	Myra Greene	Dennis Moore	Pamela Poulin	Lou Walters
Brab Crooks	Bayard Lindell	Martha Moore	Tommy Rambo	David Westberry

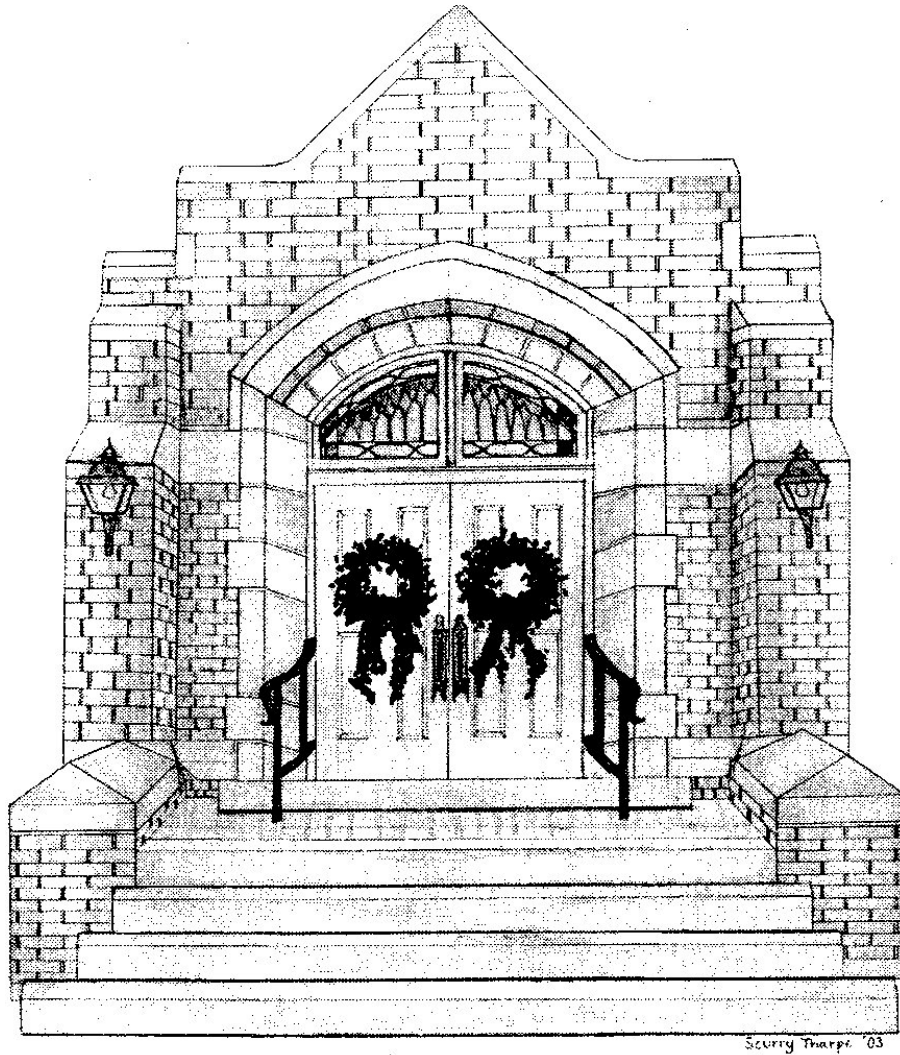
Reception Following the Service

All are invited for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service.

THE HANGING OF THE GREENS SERVICE

Through the centuries, Christians have observed a time of waiting and expectation before celebrating the birth of Jesus at Christmas. The celebration of Christmas for Christians is such an important part of the church calendar that it is easy to assume it has always been. But the major Christian festival for the early church was Easter. Around the fourth century, Christmas became part of the Christian calendar and by the year 336, December 25 was generally established as the date of Jesus' birth. Soon afterwards, church leaders began to feel the need for a period of preparation leading up to the actual celebration of the Christ Child's birth - thus we have the Advent season. The Advent season is a time for reflection and preparation, but its mood is joyful. One of the ways we mark the start of Advent and the new church year is with the Hanging of the Greens service.

The observance of the Hanging of the Greens is an old English custom of decorating one's home with evergreens and other festive trappings for Advent and Christmas. Many of the decorations and customs are derived from ancient customs and legends. It is the hope that putting these customs in the context of a worship service on the first Sunday in Advent will help set help the tone of your own personal worship and celebrations.



Main Street United Methodist Church

Established 1858
211 North Main Street
Greenwood, South Carolina

Open hearts...Open minds...Open doors
The people of The United Methodist Church



A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Main Street United Methodist Church Staff

Rev. Phil Thraikill, Senior Pastor
Larry Moore, Director of Music Ministries
Joyce Nickles, Organist
Kathy Kelly, Program Coordinator
Lee Robirds, RN, Congregational Nurse
Jessica Morris, Director of Youth Ministries

Emmie Burns, Church Secretary
Gail Carnes, Financial Secretary
Allison Wooten, Mud Pies Creative Learning Director
Bill White, Building Superintendent
Benny Lewis, Church Custodian
Shirley Wilson, Church Custodian

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