

 **Main Street**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 1, 2019

Prelude

The Holly and the Ivy
Rodney Cleveland

arr. Sumison

'Veni, Veni'
Instrumental ensemble

arr. Davis

***Call to Worship**

Pastor James McCoy-Bruce

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, ever-green.

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 No. 234** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*
(Verses 1, 2, 3, and 6)

***Common Prayer**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray 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 be a sign of the greater life we find in Him. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Preparation Jeff Smith

Anthem *Advent Grace* arr. Larson
Chancel Choir and piano
Rhonda McGinnis, flute

Paraments Jeff Smith

Anthem *O Come, Divine Messiah* arr. Helvey
Chancel Choir and organ



Candles Jeff Smith

Anthem *Advent Song* Andrea and James Barnard
Celebration Singers and piano

The Advent Wreath Jeff Smith

Anthem *Come, Jesus, Prince of Peace* arr. Nix
Chancel Choir, violin, and organ

Evergreen Wreaths and Poinsettias Jeff Smith

Anthem *Light in the Heart of Winter* arr. Larson
Chancel Choir and piano



Holly and Ivy Jeff Smith

Anthem *Hark the Glad Sound* arr. Shaw
Chancel Choir

Chrismon Tree Jeff Smith

Anthem *An Advent Reflection* Ruth Elaine Schram
Chancel Choir, piano, flute, and cello

The Nativity Jeff Smith

Anthem *Advent Proclamation* Denglev
Chancel Choir and organ

The Christmas Story from The Gospel according to Luke
Pastor James McCoy-Bruce

Anthem *Emmanuel* arr. Mauldin
Chancel Choir, piano, strings

***Collect For Advent (Unison)** Pastor James McCoy-Bruce
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 No. 223** *Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light*

***Blessing** Pastor James McCoy-Bruce

***Postlude**

****Please stand as you are able***

Reception Following the Service

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

Acknowledgements

Tonight marks the thirty-second 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 delicately-crafted Chrismons, and for the gifts of time and talent shared, we are thankful. Additional thanks to Debbie Tharpe, Hanging of the Greens Chairperson, and team.

Offering

A special offering will not be taken, but collection plates will be placed at the exits of the Sanctuary for donations to help defray the cost of the service.

Greeters

Brenda and Ed Munnerlyn, Martha and William Culbertson,
Barbara and Phil Gates, David and Jeanie Patterson

Poinsettias

The poinsettias are given to the glory of God by the Williams family
in loving memory of Jackie Williams.

The Hangers of The Greens

Lucas Bassett	Ann Baker
Bennett Charles	Rachel Holder
Sam Crooks	Libby Hartung
Spence Hagood	Viviana Joy Pinckney
Gabriel McKee	Madalin Radcliffe
Ryan Sprouse	Olivia Rowland

The Children

Gibson Askew*	Annabelle Chappell*	Katherine Funderburk*+
Ben Funderburk*+	Peyton Larkins*+	Ryder Larkins+
Caroline Leopard*	Coleson Marino*	Quinn Marino*
Mary Margaret Skinner*+	Rosemary Skinner*+	Benjo Smith*
Hudson Smith*	Holden Styron*	Grayson Tharpe*
Alice Wooten*+	Kepler Wooten+	
Nativity Scene*	Celebration Singers+	

Instrumentalists

Demaine Cunningham, bass	Sarah Dean, cello
Rhonda McGinnis, flute	Paul Peart, II, violin
Jenna Suebarian, viola	Jarvernique Tinsley, violin

Main Street UMC Chancel Choir

John McFadden, Director of Music Ministries

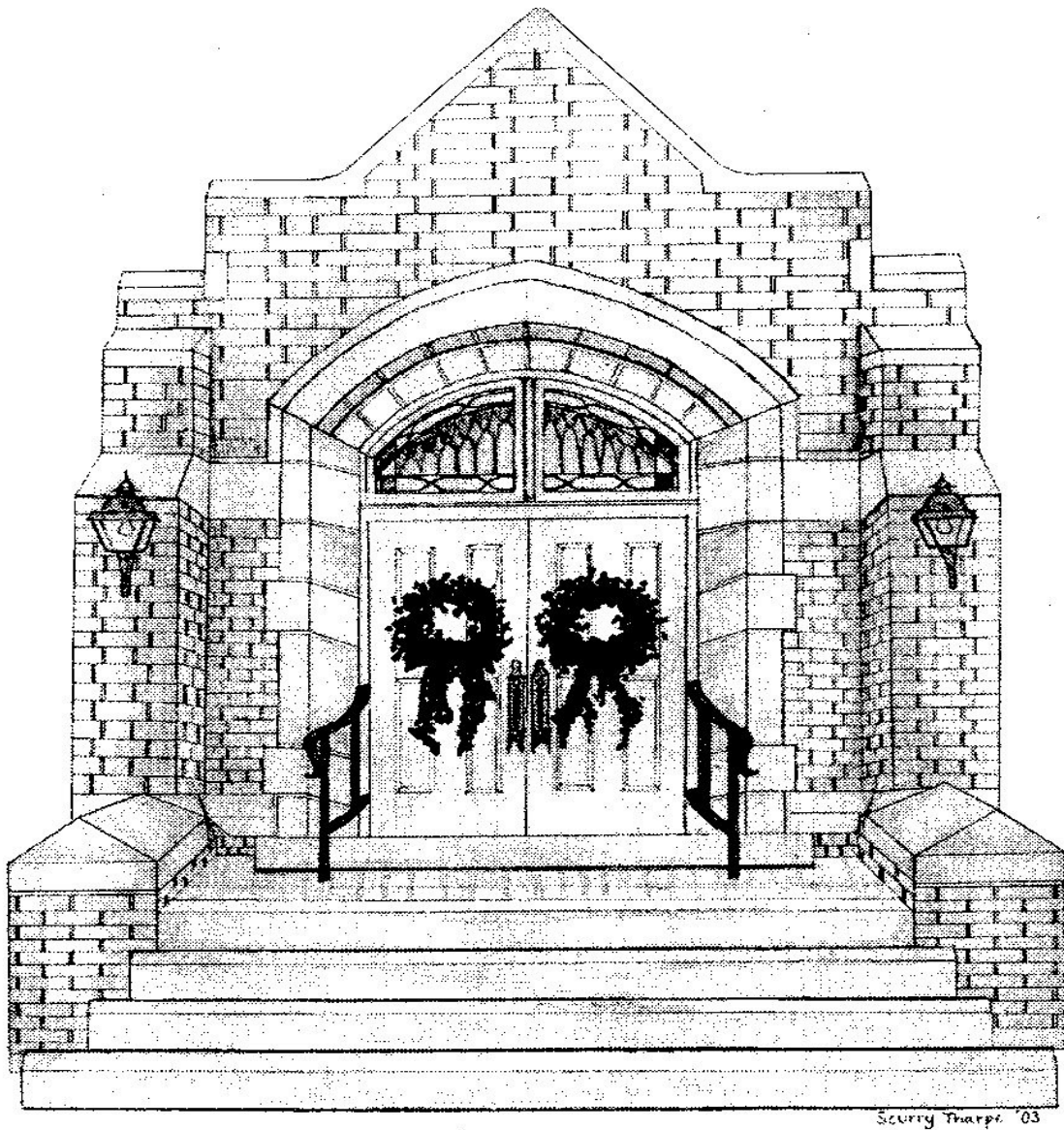
Rodney Cleveland, Organist and Pianist

Kim Burns	Brab Crooks	Anne Farquhar
Pam Faulkner	Gary Funderburk	Myra Greene
Ann Landis	Angela McCall	Debbie McFadden
Rhonda McGinnis	Dennis Moore	Woody Nivens
Joey Plyler	Tommy Rambo	Lee Robirds
Lisa Smith	Gladys Turner	Lou Walters
Steve Wilkie	Allison Wooten	Linda Zigos

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.

Following Christ from City Center



Main Street United Methodist Church Staff

Reverend James McCoy-Bruce, Senior Pastor

Gray Stallworth, Pastor of Discipleship
John McFadden, Director of Music Ministries
Rodney Cleveland, Organist
Josie Shirley, Children's Program Coordinator
Preston Goforth, Director of Youth & Student Ministries
Allison Wooten, Mud Pies Director

Linda Miller, Financial Secretary
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