

 **Main Street**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November 28, 2021

Prelude

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Silent Night
Away in a Manger
String Quintet

arr. Michael O. Shaw
arr. Douglas Wattson
arr. Sarah James

Aria - Prepare yourself, Zion
Rodney Cleveland, Organ
Thomas McCoy-Bruce, Clarinet
Rhonda McGinnis, Flute

Bach

***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, and 3)

Common Prayer

Pastor James McCoy-Bruce

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 Amy Young

Anthem *Emmanuel, Expected Jesus* Ruth Elaine Schram
Chancel Choir
Dr. Richard Thomas, Cello

Paraments Amy Young

Anthem *Hodie* Edmund Hughes
Chancel Choir

Today Christ is born: Glory to God in the highest.
Today the Savior appeared:
Today on Earth the Angels sing, Glory to God in the highest.
Today the righteous rejoice, saying: Alleluia.

Candles Amy Young

Anthem *Who But the Lord* Craig Courney
Chancel Choir



The Advent Wreath Amy Young

Anthem *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* Jay Rouse
Chancel Choir
Dr. Richard Thomas, Cello

Evergreen Wreaths and Poinsettias Amy Young

Anthem *What Child is This* arr. Tim Cais
String Quintet



Holly and the Ivy

Amy Young

Anthem

The Holly and the Ivy
Rodney Cleveland, Organ
Josh Harrington, Piano

arr. Lani Smith

Chrismon Tree

Amy Young

Anthem

Angels from the Realms of Glory
Chancel Choir
Paul Peart II, Violin
Johnathan LaGroon, Percussion

arr. Dan Forrest

The Nativity

Amy Young

Anthem

The Shepherd's Lamb
Chancel Choir
Thomas McCoy-Bruce, Clarinet
Rhonda McGinnis, Flute

Dan Forrest

The Christmas Story from The Gospel according to Luke

Pastor James McCoy-Bruce

Anthem

While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks
Chancel Choir
String Quintet

arr. Dan Forrest

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. 218**

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

***Blessing**

Pastor James McCoy-Bruce

***Postlude**

Chorale Prelude on 'In dulci júbilo'

Bach

***Please stand as you are able**

Acknowledgements

Tonight marks the thirty-fourth 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, Pam Dawes, Judy Roberts, and Lindsay Burns.

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

Jeanie and David Patterson, Martha and William Culbertson,
Lori and Jon Bassett, Susan and Brian Albon

Reception Following the Service

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

The Hangers of The Greens

Joshua Albon	Lillie Askew
Nash Bowen	Ella Bassett
Andrew Driver	Hannah Crooks
Spence Hagood	Vivi Joy Pinckney
William Rowland	Madalin Radcliffe
Jarratt Smith	Sanders Rogers

The Children

Annabelle Chappell	Cole D'Alessandro	Cori D'Alessandro
Lena Fields	Ben Funderburk	Katie Funderburk
Abbott Hall	Peyton Larkins	Ryder Larkins
Caroline Leopard	Coleson Marino	Quinn Marino
Addilyn Scott	Emma Grace Scott	Maggie Shirley
Rosemary Skinner	Mary Margaret Skinner	Hudson Smith
Laney Smith	Campbell Smith	Benjo Smith

Instrumentalists

DeMaine Cunningham, bass	Paul Peart II, violin
Jenna Seubarran, viola	Dr. Richard Thomas, cello
Jarvernique Tinsley, violin	

Rodney Cleveland, organ/piano	Josh Harrington, piano
Johnathan LaGroon, percussion	Thomas McCoy-Bruce, clarinet
Rhonda McGinnis, flute	

Main Street UMC Chancel Choir

Gina Jolly, Director of Music Ministries

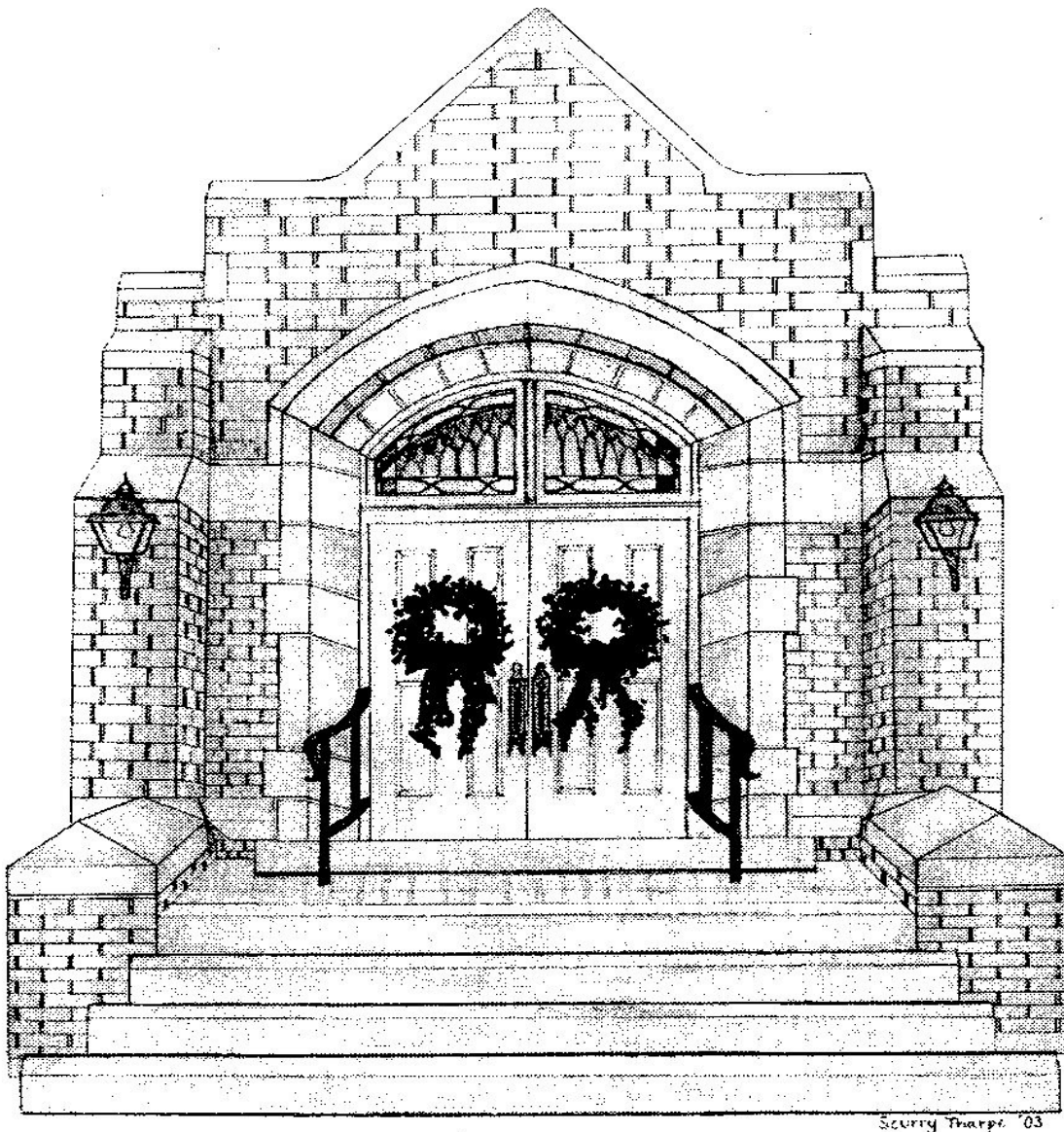
Rodney Cleveland, Organist and Pianist

Kathy Bailey	Brab Crooks	Anne Farquhar
Pam Faulkner	Brittany Fields	Gary Funderburk
Myra Greene	Josh Harrington	Rachel Jolly
Ann Landis	Thomas McCoy-Bruce	Rhonda McGinnis
Zoe Moore	Cathy Painter	Joey Plyler
Tommy Rambo	Logan Robinson	Jenna Seubarran
Caroline Smith	Lisa Smith	Cindee Stewart

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
Gina Jolly, Director of Music Ministries
Rodney Cleveland, Organist
Melissa Scott, Children's Program Coordinator
Preston Goforth, Director of Youth & Student Ministries
Allison Wooten, Mud Pies Director

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