



 **Main Street**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



WORSHIPPING



SERVING



BUILDING



WELCOMING

211 North Main Street
Greenwood, South Carolina 29646
(864) 229-7551
www.msumc1.org

December 24, 2021
Christmas Eve

Our Mission: "Following Christ from City Center"

Gathering in Worship

Prelude

Greeting

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you!

Leader: The light of Christ is with us.

People: Praise the Lord!

Opening Prayer

***Opening Hymn No. 224** *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

Crucifer: Josh Albon, Acolytes: Mary Margaret and Rosemary Skinner

Sharing the Good News

Lesson Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 A Child Is Born

Carol No. 218 *It Came upon the Midnight Clear* (verses 1 & 4)

Lesson Micah 5:2-5 A Ruler from Bethlehem

Carol No. 230 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (verses 1, 2, and 3)

Lesson Luke 1:26-35, 38 Gabriel Visits Mary

Carol No. 234 *O Come All Ye Faithful* (verses 1-2)

Advent Candle Lighting

Lighting of the Christ Candle Susan, Brian, Josh and Margaret Albon

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-7

We light the Advent wreath again tonight as we remember. The first Advent candle is one of Hope, and we begin the wait. This candle reminds us that the prophet Isaiah as well as the people in the early church were longing for God's presence. This candle is a symbol for our own longing for God to be with us.

The second candle is one of Peace and reminds us of our dreams for peace in the world and that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, is coming. This candle is a symbol of God's promise of peace, comfort, and strength.

The third candle is for Joy and to remind us that God wants us to rejoice, even when that feels hard to do. This candle is a symbol of the joy that comes when God is with us.

The fourth candle is one of Love and the circle is complete. It is a love that has no ending, that lives on in young and old, not just at Christmas, but throughout the year.

We light the center candle that reminds us that Jesus Christ is the Light of the World!

All: Blessed be our Savior!

All: Our time of waiting is almost over. May we as people of God proclaim God's greatness. May we see God in those who are weak, humble, poor, hungry, who come to God empty-handed and expect to be fed. May we pray for the Light of the World to shine into our lives, and then through our lives, into the darkness of the world. May the Word indeed become flesh and dwell among us. Amen.

Advent Candle Hymn *A Candle Is Burning* (tune of *Away in a Manger*)
***We honor Messiah with the Christ-Candle's flame;
Our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.
O come, all ye faithful, rejoice on this night,
As God comes among us, the Christian's true Light.***

Lesson Luke 2:8-16 The Shepherds Seek the Baby

Carol No. 245 *The First Noel* (verses 1 & 2)

Lesson Luke 2:17-20 Shepherds Return with Good News

Carol No. 238 *Angels We Have Heard on High* (verses 1, 2, and 3)

Lesson John 1:1-5 The Incarnation

***Carol No. 246** *Joy to the World*

Responding to God's Call

A Service of Word and Table Page 12

Sharing Candles and Communion

Holy Communion: The Great Thanksgiving Page 15

Departing to Serve

***Closing Hymn No. 239** *Silent Night, Holy Night*

***Benediction**

***Sung Response No. 251** *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* (Refrain)
***Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.***

*Please stand if you are able.



Main Street United Methodist Church Staff

Pastor 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

Debbie Tharpe, Administrative Assistant

Jo Patterson, Office Assistant

Linda Miller, Financial Secretary

David Weathers, Building Superintendent

Michael Fisher, Building Caretaker

Allison Wooten, Mud Pies Director