



Welcome to Christ Church!

1221 Quarrier Street † Charleston, WV 25301

www.ccumwv.org

Christ Church United Methodist is a Welcoming Community of Faith, Hope and Love Serving our Neighbors and the World as the Hands of Christ.

Sunday, December 22, 2024

11:00am

4th Sunday of Advent

† - Those who are able, please stand

VOLUNTARY

"At the Manger".....Andrew Moore

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Timothy Bias

INTROIT

Chancel Choir

"Savior of the Nations, Come".....NUN KOMM DER HEIDEN HEILAND
Savior of the nations, come; Virgin's Son, make here thy home! Marvel now, O heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.

Text and tune are public domain

† LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

On this bright morning full of love,
we remember God's gift to us:

The gift of a child,

The gift of comfort,

The gift of presence,

And the gift of joy.

On this fourth Sunday in Advent,

we give thanks for the gift of the Christ Child.

Let us worship God.

(Four candles are lit on the Advent wreath.)

† PROCESSIONAL HYMN OF PRAISE #250

UM Hymnal

"Once In Royal David's City".....IRBY

† GATHERING PRAYER

Lord of Love and Light,

shine through our darkness, bringing us hope.

Open our hearts for the journey,

our eyes for the light,

our spirits for the peace which you bring.

Fill our mouths with laughter and speech,

with shouts of joy that we shall reveal

the love with which you surround us.

We offer this prayer

in the name of the One who is coming into the world

bringing your hope, love, peace, and joy, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. You have chosen to be a part of the Body of Christ that has been worshipping together for over 220 years. Welcome! We are glad you are here.

The 11:00am service is broadcast on 1240AM and 95.7FM. The livestream of our service can be found on the Christ Church Facebook page, which is also accessible from our church website: www.ccumwv.org.

All songbooks are located between the seats. Song texts will also be projected on the screens.

Congregational responses are in **bold italic**. Please see an usher if you need a hearing assist.

Today is the 4th Sunday in Advent. We continue in this liturgical year with the story of the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The liturgical color for Advent is royal blue.

WORSHIP NOTES

The cross standing behind the communion table is called a Tau Cross, which is also known as the Cross of St. Anthony of Egypt. It was used by early Christians because many believed that a Tau Cross was used at the crucifixion of Jesus. It is in the shape of the letter 'T', which is the final letter in the Hebrew alphabet and symbolizes the revealed word of God made manifest in Jesus Christ.

The Tau Cross is also a symbol of preparation and is often displayed during Advent. (Be sure to notice the empty manger at the base of the Tau Cross.) The three colors of our Tau Cross are red, representing the crucifixion of Jesus, purple, representing the season of Lent (another time of preparation) and blue for the preparatory season of Advent.

The use of the Advent wreath existed long before Christianity. However, it became popular in Christian communities beginning in the 16th century. The wreath is a circle that has no beginning or ending and represents a crown. Evergreens are used as a symbol of life during hard winter months. The Advent Wreath was first used in the United States in the 1930's and symbolizes the 4 weeks of waiting leading to Christmas Day. As the days get shorter, more light is added to the wreath in anticipation of the coming of Christ.

The text to the Processional Hymn #250 was written in 1848 by British author and poet, Cecil Frances Alexander, who has over 400 hymns to his credit, most were written for children. The music was composed in 1849 for these words by Henry J. Gauntlett, who was educated in both law and music and was an active church organist. Gauntlett has over 10,000 hymn tunes to his credit!

† THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us share in signs of reconciliation and peace.

† ADVENT RESPONSE AND GLORIA PATRI

REGENT SQUARE

***Lo! He comes with clouds descending, once for favored sinners slain;
Thousand, thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train.***

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! God appears on earth to reign.

***Glory be to God in heaven, songs of joy and peace we bring.
Thankful hearts and voices raising, to creation's Lord we sing:
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Father, Spirit, Christ our King!***

Text is public domain.

MOMENTS WITH THE CHILDREN

SHARING OF OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

ADVENT PREPARATION FOR PRAYER

"For You, My God, I Wait".....Adam Tice/David Ward



For you, my God, I wait with hope born



of the Word. Like sleep-less ones who long to



dream, I wait and call my Lord.

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SILENT PRAYER & PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

***Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.***

***Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.***

Give us this day our daily bread.

***And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.***

***And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.***

***For thine is the kingdom and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.***

WORSHIP NOTES

The text to the Advent Response was written in 1758 by Rev. Charles Wesley. It is a text that talks about the second coming of Christ, which is also a theme during the Advent season. The Gloria Patri is a hymn of praise and is Trinitarian in nature praising God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The tune, REGENT SQUARE, was composed by self-taught British musician, organist and composer, Henry Smart. Regent Square was the location of St. Philip's Presbyterian Church where Henry Smart was organist from 1839-1844. (The church was destroyed during the Blitz in World War II.)

The text to the anthem was written in 1872 by the intensely religious British poet, Christina Rossetti. The text is based on Luke 2: 8-14. In the poem, Rossetti imagines Christ's birth in the cold and snow of a British winter. The tune normally sung to this text (#221 in the Hymnal) was composed by British composer, Gustav Holst. In this arrangement, another popular British composer, Bob Chilcot, created a new tune for the text.

The Doxology is a hymn of praise to God that is Trinitarian in nature praising God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The text is an altered version of the original text from 1674 and was written in 1974 by Rev. Dr. Gilbert Vieira, United Methodist minister in the San Francisco Bay area of California. The tune is a German Catholic tune dating from 1623. The harmony was created in 1906 by the great British composer, Ralph Vaughan Williams.

The text and tune to Hymn #234 were written and composed in 1743 by John Wade, who was Roman Catholic. Wade left England and moved to France to escape the Jacobean Rebellion. Wade was a music teacher and copied music and plainchant as a living.

ANTHEM

"Mid-Winter".....Bob Chilcot
In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow, in the bleak mid-winter long ago. Our God, heaven cannot hold him nor earth sustain: heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign: In the bleak mid-winter a stable-place sufficed Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ. Angels and archangels may have gathered there, cherubim and seraphim thronged the air; but only his mother in her maiden bliss worshipped the beloved with a kiss. What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb; if I were a wiseman I would do my part; yet what I can I give him-give my heart.

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† GOSPEL LESSON - "Mary Visits Elizabeth"
Luke 1: 39-56

Bible, pg. 57

The Word of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON - "Accepting God's Promise"

Rev. Dr. Timothy Bias

OFFERING OF OUR TIME, TALENTS, GIFTS, SERVICE AND WITNESS

† OFFERTORY

"Welcome, Son of Mary".....arr. Christopher Uehlein

† DOXOLOGY #94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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† HYMN OF RESPONSE #234 (Verse 1-3)

UM Hymnal

"O Come, All Ye Faithful".....ADESTE FIDELES

† BENEDICTION

† CHORAL RESPONSE

"O Holy Child of Bethlehem".....ST. LOUIS
O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. We heart he Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us; abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel.

Text and tune are public domain

† VOLUNTARY

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers".....arr. Paul Manz

CHRIST CHURCH UNITED METHODIST

PRESENTS



FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2025
SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 2025
7:00PM

CHRIST CHURCH UNITED METHODIST

1221 QUARRIER STREET † CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25301 † WWW.CCUMWV.ORG

Tickets are \$10/person for general admission and can be purchased at the door the nights of the performances.