

Service of Worship
December 3, 2023 | 10AM
The First Sunday of Advent



First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Wilson, NC

First Christian Church at Worship

December 3, 2023

† *At this sign you are invited to rise in body or spirit.*

CH indicates Chalice Hymnal (red hymn book)

CP indicates Chalice Praise (purple hymn book)

Gathering in Spirit ***A Medieval Procession*** by Charles Peery Chalice Ringers
This arrangement quotes the Christmas carol, "Jesus, brother, kind and good."

Welcome and Announcements Theresa Mathis

Chiming of the Trinity

Sharing the Light of Christ

Prelude ***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*** arr. Raymond Haan
Kristina Roller, cello
Casey Childers, organ

† Call To Worship Tim Sharp

Leader: Hear us, Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead your people like a flock.

Response: **Restore us, O God; make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.**

† Opening Carol ***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*** CH #119

vs 1 - O come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

vs 2 - O Come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's deep shadows put to flight.
(refrain)

vs 3 - O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go.
(refrain)

vs 4 - O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
(refrain)

† Praying Together

led by Tim Sharp

As Advent calls us to worship today, may we be wholly with you. Center us in ways that will open our eyes to your love and to the gift of hope that you give us in the coming of the Christ Child. Help us to anticipate the promise of the coming of love into the world through his birth, for we pray this in his holy name, amen.

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Litany of the Advent Wreath

Tim Sharp

The Hope of God-With-Us does not come as guaranteed outcome, or predetermined plan, or promise of a happy ending. Hope cannot be imposed from on high. Hope cannot be commanded. The Hope of God-With-Us is courageous, risky, unfolding, indeterminate. The Hope of God-With-Us is collective, liberating us from deadly complacency. Hope is gestating in darkness; it comes unexpectedly. Hope invites our expectation, and demands our participation. Prepare the way, for hope with courage. May Hope be birthed among, within, and through us, this Advent. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Candle Lighters

Jack and Jackie Clifford

Hymn of Hope

One Candle Is Lit

CH #128 vs. 1

Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,
our hearts long to greet you, as roses, the light.
Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage.
One candle is lit for the hope of the age.

Children's Moment

Jeannette Etheridge

(Following the children's moment, children pre K—3rd grade are invited to attend Children's Sunday School in the Education Building)

Prayer Concerns

Tish Scott

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Michael McHarg

Preparing for God's Word

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

CH #134

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.

God with us, revealed in us, His name is called Emmanuel. (repeat once)

Scripture	Mark 13: 24-37	Tim Sharp
Sermon	“The Power of ‘With’”	Rev. McHarg
Music for Reflection	<i>Infant Holy, Infant Lowly</i> arr. Jefferey A. Hall	Chalice Ringers Kristina Roller, cello
Invitation to Offering		Rev. McHarg
	<i>After the invitation to offering, feel free to bring offerings as you are led and place them in the offering plates at the front or back of the sanctuary. Also, feel free to scan the QR code in the bulletin and give online!</i>	
Offertory	<i>West Indies Carol</i> arr. Sondra K. Tucker	Chalice Ringers
†Doxology	<i>Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	CH #46 TUNE: Old Hundreth
	Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below: Praise Him above, ye heavenly host! Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen!	
†Blessing of the Gifts		Rev. McHarg
Invitation to Communion		Rev. McHarg
Communion Prayer		Tish Scott
Music for Communion		Casey Childers, organ
Words of Institution		Rev. McHarg
†The Lord’s Prayer		led by Rev. McHarg
	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. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, and deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.	

†Hymn of Anticipation ***Come, O Long-Expected Jesus***

CH #125

Come, O long expected Jesus, born to set your people free.
From our fears and sins release us; Christ, in whom our rest shall be.
You, our strength and consolation, come salvation to impart;
dear desire of many a nation, joy of many a longing heart.

Born your people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, born your gracious realm to bring.

By your own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by your all sufficient merit raise us to your glorious throne.

†Benediction

Rev. McHarg

†Postlude

Casey Childers, organ

Wake, Awake for Night is Flying arr. Robert Hobby

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**COMMUNITY
CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

Christmas Day – December 25

First Christian Church
207 Tarboro Street NE
11:30 am – 1:30 pm

*Sponsored by
First United Methodist Church, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church,
St. James Christian Church & First Christian Church*

FREE EVENT



Special Christmas Offering

The Christmas Offering supports the regional ministry of North Carolina which provides nurture for ministers and congregations. Regional partnership with congregations support the work required to call a new minister. Our region also provides the ministry of Camp Caroline Conference Center at Arapahoe. Please give generously when we receive the Christmas offering on December 10 and 17th.

In Our Prayers

Vickie Balazsi (Kathy Sandifer's cousin); Jim Boswell; Donahue Bottoms, Jr. (Dalen Bottoms' son); Gena Carter; Win Craft; Allan Daniell; Bobbi Gregory; Nell Griffin; Dean Huiet (mission friend of Wendy Wingrove); LaRue Massey (Kathy Sandifer's friend); Gary Smith (friend of Leslie Kendall); Troy and Leigh Ann Tatum; Kristy Wisniewski (friend of Christy Proctor & Melissa Denton); Prayers for the family of Charlotte Wallace.

Homebound

Peggy Anderson; Jim Boswell; Dalen Bottoms; Sherry Brenner; Hazel Byers; Gena Carter; Gilbert Ferrell; Judy Harris; Doug Ramsey; Anne Sharpe; Lenore Smith; Alice Thomas; Kathleen Ujlaki; A.J. Walston.

Flowers in the Chancel

The flowers in the chancel are given to the glory of God and in memory of Charlotte McCloud Wallace by her family. Please keep her family in your prayers. This poem was read at the graveside; it was also read at Charlotte and Jim's wedding in 1945:



Life is a book of volumes three:
The past, the present, and the yet-to-be,
The past we have read and laid away,
The present we are reading day by day.
The third and the last of the volumes three,
Is hid from sight— God holds the key.

—Anonymous

Welcome to our Guest Minister

We are happy to have Rev. Michael McHarg, Minister of First Christian Church of Rocky Mt. as our guest minister this morning. Mike is no stranger to us and we consider him one of the family. Welcome!

Condolences

Our prayers are with Gracie and Griffin Brown in the passing of their maternal grandmother, Sandra Weaver on Saturday, November 25.

Church Calendar

Sunday, December 3—First Sunday of Advent

- 10:00am Worship—Rev. Michael McHarg, Guest Minister
11:00am Disciples Class
11:11am Sunday Morning Small Group

Monday, December 4

- 11:00am Mobile Music Ministry with Hazel Byers

Tuesday, December 5

- 11:00am Staff Meeting
2:00pm CWF in the Parlor
6:30pm Wilson Community Handbell rehearsal

Wednesday, December 6

- 12:00pm Advent Concert Series featuring Wilson Community Handbell
 Ensemble , Joyce Wolfe, Director
5:30pm Kids and Youth Programs
7:00pm Chancel Choir rehearsal

Sunday, December 10—Second Sunday of Advent

- 10:00am Worship—Rev. Scott Schieber
11:00am Disciples Class
11:11am Sunday Morning Small Group

First Christian Church

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Casey Childers *Organist and Minister of Music*

Charles Cauley *Interim Office Administrator*

Connie Farris *Financial Secretary*