



At First United Methodist Church we are each alive in Christ, united in nurturing fellowship, reaching out to share God’s boundless love.

December 14, 2025 11:00 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent: “Son of Mary”

Like the iconic figures gathered around the Christ Child in our nativity scenes, we gather together because we want to know Jesus more as we seek to bring his Reign of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love on earth.

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome Rev. Kirk Tutterow

Orchestral Voluntary - “O Little Town of Bethlehem” arr. by John Rutter

Advent Candle Lighting: Candle of Joy Elaine Cory & Nancy Roach

Sung Response

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?

Leader: We relight the candle of Hope for those who long for Good News.  
We relight the candle of Peace for those who yearn for God’s Shalom.  
Today we light the candle of Joy for those who need it most.

People: For all whose despair feels endless.

Leader: For all who find little joy in daily living.

People: For all whose disappointment runs deep.

Leader: Our question for today at the scene of the nativity is this:  
“How can we proclaim a deep joy  
‘in spite of’ hardship in our time?

People: What child IS this? This, this is the Son of Blessed Mary  
who reigns with joy forever.

Sung Response

This, this is Christ, the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing.  
Haste, haste to bring him laud  
the Babe, the Son of Mary!

Prayer for the Journey

Here, at the nativity of your birth,  
give us the courage to face this moment with uncanny joy.  
Open us to new understandings  
of the unfolding story of your presence among us.  
Show us how to praise you  
even when songs and carols feel empty.  
We pray these things in the name of the Child,  
the One who uplifts our hearts and lives. Amen.



Godly Play

All children are invited to come to the front of the sanctuary for a time just for them! Afterwards, children in kindergarten thru 2nd grade are invited to follow the leader to the Godly Play Room for Children’s Church.

\*We invite you to stand, as you are able, when invited by the music director.

\*Carol of Praise - “O Come, All Ye Faithful” arr. by John Rutter

Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come, ye, O come ye,  
to Bethlehem. Come and behold him, born the King of angels;  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

True God of true God, Light from light eternal, lo, he shuns not the  
Virgin’s womb; Son of the Father, begotten, not created;  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; O sing, all ye citizens of heaven  
above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest;  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer

We Worship with our Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

God of hope and peace,  
we offer these gifts so that they may be transformed  
into your good news for the sake of the world. Amen.

\*Carol of Presence - “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” by Charles Wesley  
arr. by John Rutter

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
with th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ by highest heaven adored; Christ the everlasting Lord;  
Late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th’ incarnate Deity,  
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Refrain

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Refrain

The First Reading - Isaiah 11:1-10 Rev. Cheryl Skinner

Anthem - “Noel” arr. by Brad Holmes  
Kelly Jackson, Torrey Jackson, Jacob Gordon, & June Bunce, soloists  
Sung in Kituba dialect

TRANSLATION  
Noel! Noel! Jesus has come to live with us.  
If you want to know the Child,  
You have to come kneel.

Anthem - “Glory to God in the Highest” by G. B. Pergolesi  
Dora Cardona & Torrey Jackson, soloists

Glory to God in the highest, to God in the highest,  
Glory, glory in the highest,  
Glory to God in the highest, to God in the highest,  
Glory, glory in the highest,  
Glory to God in the highest, to God in the highest,  
Glory, glory in the highest,  
Glory, glory, glory, glory in the highest,  
Glory, glory, glory, glory in the highest,  
Glory to God in the highest, to God in the highest,  
Glory, glory in the highest,  
Glory to God in the highest, to God in the highest,  
And on earth peace, on earth  
Peace, peace on earth, Goodwill, goodwill, goodwill toward men!  
Glory to God in the highest, to God in the highest,  
Glory, glory in the highest,  
Peace, Peace on earth.  
Glory, glory, glory,  
Glory to God in the highest, to God in the highest,  
Glory, glory in the highest, Glory.  
Peace on earth, Peace on earth,  
Goodwill, goodwill toward men! Peace! Peace!

Anthem - “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” arr. by Mack Wilberg

Infant Holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the Babe is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging angels singing, Nowells ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new  
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing free from sorrow, Praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the Babe was born for you.

The Second Reading - Luke 1:46-55

Anthem - “Ding! Dong! Merrily on High” arr. by Mack Wilberg

Ding! dong! merrily on high in heav’n the bells are ringing!  
Ding! dong! verily the sky is riv’n with angels singing!  
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis! Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!  
E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,  
And “I-o, i-o, i-o!”, by priest and people sungen!  
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis! Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!



Pray ye dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers!  
May ye beautifully rhyme your evetime song, ye singers!  
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis! Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

**Anthem - “Angels From The Realms of Glory”** *arr. by Dan Forrest*

Angels from the realms of glory wing your flight o’er all the earth  
Ye who sang creation’s story now proclaim Messiah’s birth.

**Refrain:**  
Come and worship, Come and worship,  
Worship Christ the newborn King!

Shepherds in the field abiding, Watching o’er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing, Yonder shines the infant light. **Refrain**

Sages, leave your contemplation, Sages, brighter visions beam afar.  
Seek the great Desire of Nations, Ye have seen His natural star. **Refrain**

All creation join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son.  
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One! **Refrain**

**The Third Reading - Isaiah 9:2-7**

**\*Carol of Joy - “Joy To the World”** *arr. by John Rutter*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

**Sending Forth**  
Leader: As we prepare to go into the world,  
let us ask and answer the question we came with.

**People: What child IS this?**  
Leader: This is the one born into a time when people longed for a  
Savior.

**People: What child IS this?**  
Leader: This is the one whose birth would stir the world from  
slumber and challenge us to live in right relationship with  
one another.

**People: What child IS this?**  
Leader: This, this is the “Son of Mary” who shows us the song of joy  
that is possible when we open our hearts and lives to God.

**Sung Response**

**This, this is Christ, the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing.  
Haste, haste to bring him laud  
the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

**Choral Benediction - “Three-Fold Amen”** *Danish*  
First UMC Chancel Choir and Orchestra

**Chiming of the Trinity**

**Postlude - “Toccatina on ‘God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen’”** *by Douglas Wagner*  
Phyllis Jones, organ

**Flowers**  
The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in memory of  
our parents, Helen & Charlie Hall and Elizabeth Baxter and Delbert  
McColley by Mike and Lauren Hall.


**Thank You Notes**  
To my church family, Thank you for your love & support, cards, phone  
calls, food, and most of all, your prayers. I could not have gotten this far  
in my recovery without those prayers.  
Sincerely, Peggy Everhart

Thank you for sharing your nativity sets to be displayed at the Fellowship  
Lunch last Sunday. Everyone is invited to drop by the fellowship hall to  
see some of the nativities that will remain on display throughout the  
season of Advent and Christmas. We appreciate your support and hope  
you will plan to join us for the exciting events coming in 2026.  
Sincerely, Evangelism & Hospitality Team

**A Note of Sympathy**  
Sympathy of the ministers and members of the congregation is extended  
to Lane (Wendy) Norris, Blake Norris, Claire (Ayden) Prevatte and family  
upon the occasion of the death of his mother, Cheryl Norris, on December  
10, 2025.

**Ways To Give** financially back to God through the ministries of First UMC.  
offerings in the plates provided at the back of the church.

**Mail** to First UMC, 310 S. Main Street, Lexington, NC 27292.

 **Online Giving for mobile device users**, the QR code on  
the right will take you to a secure mobile site for Online  
Giving from your smartphone or tablet. **On your first visit**,  
you will need to create a profile.

**Text to Give – 855-222-3109**—Text the amount you wish  
to give and follow the directions.

**United in Nurturing Fellowship**

**Sunday, December 14**  
8:45am Early Worship, Fellowship Hall  
9:45am Sunday School for ALL Ages  
**11:00am** **Carols with the Chancel Choir & Orchestra, Sanctuary**  
11:00am LIVE Stream on YouTube at First UMC Lexington NC  
**6:00pm** **Community Love Feast Candlelight Service** sponsored by Greater  
Lexington Alliance Ministerial Association, **First Reformed UCC**

**Monday, December 15**  
6:00pm Spruill Koinonia Fellowship Christmas Dinner,Yarborough’s Restaurant

**Tuesday, December 16**  
10:00am Companions in Christ, Conference Room  
12:00pm Prayer Warriors Lunch, B-B-Q Center  
5:45pm United Methodist Men provide evening meal, DC First Hope Ministries


**Wednesday, December 17**  
12:00pm Midday Prayer Service, Sanctuary  
7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

**Thursday, December 18**

**Friday, December 19**

**Saturday, December 20**

**Sunday, December 21**  
8:30am United Methodist Men, Fellowship Hall  
8:45am Early Worship, Sanctuary  
9:45am Sunday School for ALL Ages  
11:00am Morning Worship, Sanctuary  
11:00am LIVE Stream on YouTube at First UMC Lexington NC  
**7:00pm** **Carols and Love Feast, Sanctuary**



**Chancel Choir**

<b>Sopranos</b>	<b>Altos</b>	<b>Tenors</b>
Anita Bunce	June Bunce	Jacob Gordon
Kinsey Calderone	Elaine Cory	Wayne Olson
Dora Cardona	Becki Foust	Jack Tookey
Karen Coleman	Isabella Ellis	Kirk Tutterow
Ellen Crago	Jennifer Jackson	<b>Basses</b>
Debbie Hill	Torrey Jackson	Paul Crago
Charlotte Lankford	Cheri Murray	Asher Ellis
Nancy Roach	Vicki Olson	Kelly Jackson
Cheryl Skinner	Jacqueline Tookey	Randall Jackson



Gifts for the instrumentalists have been given  
to the glory of God and in memory of:

- ♦ Sonny Conrad by Nancy and the Conrad Family
- ♦ Gail & Joe Biesecker by the FUMC Biesecker Endowment

Gifts for the instrumentalists have been given  
to the glory of God:

- ♦ by J. M. Glover of Pleasant Hill, NC

<b>Violin</b>	<b>Flute</b>	<b>Trumpet</b>
Colleen Chenail	Debi Pivetta	Tyler Sessoms
Luci White	<b>Oboe</b>	Jack Kannan
Susan Gallimore	Lauren Derflinger	<b>Percussion</b>
Jorge Ochoa	<b>Clarinet</b>	Faye Moser
<b>Viola</b>	Adella Carlson	<b>Harp</b>
Marian Wilson	<b>French Horn</b>	Bethany Lancaster
<b>Cello</b>	Kai Summerlin	<b>Organ</b>
Alex Johnston	<b>Trombone</b>	Phyllis Jones
<b>Bass</b>	Jim Lane	
Mara Barker	Jared Mangrum	

