



**FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**
LEXINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA



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

December 24, 2025

5:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve: "The Babe"

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.

Welcome

Rev. Kirk Tutterow

Prelude - "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Phyllis Jones, piano

arr. by Michael Ware

Advent Candle Lighting: The Christ Candle

Ron & Karen Coleman

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?

Reader: We light these candles for those who need them most.

People: For all who need more Hope.

Reader: For all who yearn for Peace.

People: For all whose Joy lays dormant.

Reader: For all who need the salve of Love.

People: For all who need this Child of Possibility.

Reader: Our question for this night at the scene of the nativity is this:

"How do the messages of this child reverberate into our time, our lives, our world?"

People: What child IS this?

This, this, is Christ the King who reigns with Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love 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 humility and hope.

Open us to new understandings
of the unfolding story of your presence among us.
Show us how the true meaning of the kingdom on earth

as it is in heaven.

We pray in the name of the Child,
the One Who Reigns in our hearts and minds.

Amen.

***Carol of Invitation No. 234 -**

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" (verses 1, 2, 5 & 6)

John F. Wade

A Litany of Hope - A Responsive Reading Based on Isaiah 9:2-7

The people walking in darkness are seeing a brilliant light-
upon those who dwell in a land of deep shadows light is shining!

God, you have made the nations greater,
you have brought them abundant joy!

They celebrate in your presence as with the harvest
celebrations...

For a child is born to us, an heir is given us,
upon whose shoulders dominion will rest.

This One shall be called:

Wonderful Counselor, the Strength of God,
Eternal Protector, Champion of Peace.

This dominion, and this peace, will grow without end,
with David's throne and realm sustained with justice and fairness,
now and forever.

Anthem - "Only A Baby Came"

Karen Coleman, soloist

by Natalie Sleeth

A Time for the Child in All of Us

All children are invited to come to the front of the church at this time.

Rev. Amy Higgins

Carol of Joy No. 217 -

"Away in a Manger"

Anonymous

Gospel Reading - Luke 2:1-20

Rev. Cheryl Skinner

Prayer of Yearning

Source of Joy, you are the author of everlasting life.

Touch us with the wonder of that holy night

when your Son came into the world.

For we yearn to leave the shadows behind

to walk in darkness no more.

We long to behold your light shining in our lives,

as it shined in the stars above

on the night Love came down at Christmas.

Guide our steps to the manger,

and make us bearers of your Hope and Peace,

that the gift of your salvation

may reside in every corner of the globe.

We ask this in the name of our Wonderful Counselor,

Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Amen.

Invitation to Holy Communion

This communion setting uses the hymn tune, "In the Bleak Midwinter," with words by Amanda Udis-Kessler and Marcia McFee, woven throughout.

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The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is good, Holy One, to give thanks to you, always and everywhere.

You created us, you loved us into being,

you delivered us, and you spoke to us through prophets.

And then the time came for you to be with us, Emmanuel.

[sung response]

In a time of trouble, poverty, and pain,

Living was a struggle. Hoping was a strain.

Fear and desperation robbed the world of joy.

In a weary world, Mary had a boy.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

[sung response]
**Holy, Holy, Holy, God of pow'r and might.
Raise we now, "Hosanna," to the highest height.
Heav'n and earth proclaim it, in all time and space.
Blest are we to meet you, in this holy place.**

Mary's boy became a man, compassionate and kind.
He invited all to follow the ways of God,
inviting people to set aside division and rancor and strife.
Wherever he went,
he tended to those who suffered from poverty and illness.

[sung response]
**Teaching, feeding, healing, Jesus showed the way,
Sacred love revealing day by day by day,
Practicing resistance, cultivating care,
Centered in persistence, every act a prayer.**

His own suffering at the hands of the elite
gave birth to a movement of your Spirit, O God,
that would forge a new covenant of peace.
Jesus promised to be with us always,
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so,
in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

[sung response]
**Christ came to uplift us, by his life we give.
Christ gave up his lifeblood, by his death we live.
Christ comes to us now, still, as we gather here.
Christ will come again, so, nothing shall we fear.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
so that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.

**By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.**

[sung response]
**So, my friends and neighbors, now it's up to us.
May we welcome strangers, building faith and trust.
May we live like Jesus in our time and place
'Til the weary people know amazing grace.**

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

We will remain seated for "Silent Night" while the ushers come down the center aisle and light the candles of those sitting on the ends of the pews. As the light is passed, please hold your lit candle upright and let the person next to you tilt their unlit candle to light it from yours.

Carol of Peace - "Silent Night"

by Franz Gruber

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright;
round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake, at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

*Please stand as we sing "Joy to the World" together,
and on the last verse, raise your candles high!*

****Carol of Possibility - "Joy to the World"***

by Isaac Watts

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 sorrow 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

Benediction

Postlude - "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

arr. by Anna Laura Page

Phyllis Jones, piano

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

Thursday, December 25

Christmas Day
Church Office Closed

Friday, December 26

Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 27

Sunday, December 28

First Sunday after Christmas
11:00am Morning Worship, Sanctuary
11:00am LIVE Stream on YouTube at First UMC Lexington NC

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