

Union United Methodist Church

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Rev. Randy Perdue

Norma Jean Harbin, Organist

Bulletin – December 15, 2024

Presence

**Come, Let Us Adore Him Worship Series
Advent – Week 3 (Gaudette Sunday)**

Welcome and Announcements

**** Classical Christmas Concert @ Union
UMC, 8935 Shallowford Road, Lewisville,
NC 27023 @ 4:00 pm today ****



Opening Prayer

Advent Candle Lighting (Joy) – Week 3

Reader: No matter what troubles overwhelm us today, Isaiah reminds us that in all of our preparation and passionate pursuit of God’s coming kin-dom, we must not forget that God’s salvation has come and is coming. “With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation”. With joy you will remember that God’s salvation is already present among us.

Congregation: Faced with the troubles and the suffering of the world, we choose to live in joyful presence to God and one another. We will not turn away from the pain and the hurt in our world, and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose salvation fills us to overflowing that God’s love might flow through us and flood our troubled world with hope, peace, and joy.

Reader: We light this candle of joy (pink) as a sign of our commitment to be present to ourselves, our friends, our families, and our neighbors that in sharing our vulnerable lives we might share in the glorious joy of God’s salvation together.

Call to Worship

**** P – Pastor Bold – C: Congregation Responds ****

P: Children of God, our world is full of the fruit of humanity's greed, apathy, and neglect for the love of God, neighbor, self, and all creation.

C: What, then, should we do?

P: Our world is also full of the fruit of God's love that wells up all around us, sustaining us, saving us, reviving us to live as the people of God.

C: What, then, should we do?

P: God encircles us on every side, Love divine present with us in creation, in community, and in the anticipated arrival of the infant Emmanuel. What then, children of God, should you do?

C: We will live in joyful presence with God and neighbor, turning away from sin and toward a life with God and one another marked by joy, justice, and mercy. Amen.

Our Statement of Faith – The Apostles Creed p. 881 UMH

**** All to recite in unison ****

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our
Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin
Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and
buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into
heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection
of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen!

The Gloria Patri p. 70 UMH

*Glory be to the Father
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.*

Opening Hymn – Hark The Herald Angles Sing p. 240 UMH

Sharing Our Praises & Prayers

Pastoral Prayer & Lord’s Prayer

Offering – Ushers come forward

Doxology p. 95 UMH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav’nly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Old Testament Lesson – Isaiah 12:2-6 (NRSVue)

**** Reader Only ****

² Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and will not be afraid, for
the Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my
salvation.” ³ With joy you will draw water from the wells of
salvation. ⁴ And you will say on that day: “Give thanks to the Lord;
call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations;

proclaim that his name is exalted. ⁵ Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. ⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

Special Music – Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Carolyn Perdue, Soloist

New Testament Reading – Luke 3:7-18 (NRSVue)

⁷ John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.” ¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, “What, then, should we do?” ¹¹ In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³ He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.” ¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you

with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸ So with many other exhortations he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Sermon – Presence

Closing Hymn – O Little Town of Bethlehem p. 230 UMH

Benediction & Commission

Advent invites each of us into a new way of living in a world to which the kin-dom of God has come and is yet coming. Go, now, blessed with the gift of togetherness, for it is only in being truly present with God and one another that we live as followers of the coming Messiah. Amen!

Lectionary Readings for the week beginning December 16th:

- Micah 5:2-5a
- Psalm 80
- Hebrews 10:5-10
- Luke 1:39-55



Announcements

- Union United Methodist Church presents *A Classical Christmas* today at 4 PM in the sanctuary. Elegant Ensembles' string quartet will perform Christmas music favorites. Canned good donations will be collected to benefit those in need in our community. This promises to be a great

program. Please invite your neighbors, friends, and acquaintances to hear this beautiful music and showcase our great church.

- The link to donate to the relief fund efforts provided by and supported by UMCOR and the Western North Carolina Conference of the UMC is <https://wnc-reg.brapp.com/br/HurricaneReliefDonations2018>.

If you prefer to pay by check, you can make the check payable To **WNCC Treasurer**, note Disaster Response in the memo line and mail to: Western North Carolina Conference

P.O. Box 2757
Huntersville, NC 28070-2757
Attn: Carol Bateman

Prayer List

Military / Missionary

Steve and Lena Gough

All who are serving our country at home and abroad

Church Family

Wayne Bumgardner

Frank Dalton

Sherry Doub

Frances V. Gough

Wanda Needham

Barbara Perryman

Frances Sisk

Church Friend / Extended Family

Tommy Bost

Tammy Seats Boyd

Jimmy & Deborah Branch

Jane Bullin

Leisha Carpenter

Glenna Culler

Joe Dean

Amanda Doub

Ruby Driver

Mack Edwards

Joanne Everhart

Mary File

Eddie Haire

Garry Harbin

Kathy Harbin

Lynda Harper

Ronald Howell

Amber Lambert

Jeannette Lanier

Kevin McBride

Kevin McDaniel

Mark Megela

Dawn Proctor

Jay D. Prevetie

Vivian Royal

Mary Ellen Smith

Kim Triplette

Mark Wall

Ann Wallace

Robert and Susan Warren

December Birthdays

John Hogg 3

Gabriel Pitts 4

Monica Keaton 15

Cameron Hogg 19

Glenna Thompson 22

Nicholas Lineberry 26

Glenna Culler 28

Glenna Culler 28

Will Disher 29

Michael Williard 30

Wesley Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee, or brought low for thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen!