



St. James United Methodist Church
Mailing Address: PO Box 40100, Raleigh, NC 27629
Physical Address: 3808 St. James Church Road, Raleigh, NC 27604
919-876-5796
office@stjamesraleigh.org



FOURTH SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

December 18, 2022
11:00 AM Sanctuary Worship

“... and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us” (Matthew 1:23, NRSV). What message is more comforting and praiseworthy? Welcome to worship!

Prelude *Savior of the Nations, Come* arr. Susan T. Nelson ©2013 From the Top Music
Michael Glasgow, Mike Hast, Amber Hitchcock, Frank Sparks, Linda Sparks

Advent Reading

Prince & Gloria Jones

Leader: God wants us to experience God’s presence, even when we think we can handle life on our own. God sends us signs of God’s presence with us; all we need to do is keep our eyes open and look. "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, “God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus (Matthew 1:23-25 NRSV).

We light these candles — the candle of hope, of peace, of joy, and today of presence that speaks of love— as a sign that no matter our circumstance, we know we are not alone.

ALL: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Hymn – *Emmanuel, Emmanuel* (sing twice)

UMH 204

Doxology

During Advent, our Doxology text will be sung to the tune of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

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.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Reception of New Members

Sonia Jarrett, Linda Sparks

UMH p. 38

Prayer Time and Lord’s Prayer

(Please use the prayer cards in the pews to share your prayer concerns. You may place prayer cards in the prayer box near the altar rail.)

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.

Scripture Reading – Isaiah 7:10-16

NRSV pew Bible, p.598 (OT)

Anthem – *Mary, Did You Know?*

Sheila DeBastiani & Yani Anwar

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you delivered will soon deliver you...

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would calm a storm with his hand?
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod,
and when you kiss your little baby, you've kissed the face of God?

Mary, did you know...?
The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again.
The lame will leap, the mute will speak the praises of the Lamb!

Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy was heaven's perfect Lamb,
And the sleeping child you're holding is the Great "I AM?"

Mark Lowry & Buddy Greene; arr. Sheila DeBastiani ©1991 Word Music, Inc. and Rufus Music

Gospel Reading – Matthew 1: 18-25

NRSV pew Bible, p.1 (NT)

Message –A Father's Love

Pastor Dan Baer

Hymn – *What Child Is This?*

UMH 219

Blessing & Sending Out to Serve in the World

Calendar this week:

TODAY, 12/18 Living Nativity, 4PM in parking lots
NA, 7PM in Saints Hall*

*Tues, 12/20 Staff Meeting, 10AM in Room 12
GS Troop 4491, 6:30PM in Montague Hall*

*Thurs, 12/22 Beginning Ukulele (grades 2-6), 5:45PM in Music Room
Beginning Ukulele (grade 7-adult), 6:15PM in Music Room
Common Thread Band Rehearsal, 7PM in Carson Hall*

Sat, 12/24 Common Thread Christmas Eve Worship, 5PM in Carson Hall
Traditional Christmas Eve Worship, 7PM in the Sanctuary**

*Sunday, 12/25 Merry Christmas!
Combined Worship, 10AM in the Sanctuary*
(no discipleship classes or evening meetings)*

*12/26 & 12/27 Office Closed**

What to know this week...

***Living Nativity this evening, 4-6PM:** We still need some volunteers to help clean up after tonight's Living Nativity event. Please invite your friends, family and neighbors to come out and experience the wonder of Bethlehem at Christmas!

Last Call for Luminaries! The deadline to order Christmas Eve luminaries from the United Women in Faith (UMW) is TODAY. These luminaries will brighten St. James' walkways 4:30-8:30PM on Christmas Eve. Luminaries cost \$3 each and may be purchased in honor or in memory of loved ones. Order forms are available in the weekly email, on the Welcome Center counter, and in the back of both worship spaces. Completed orders can be dropped into worship offering plates or the office door-drop with payment made to UMW.

Christmas Eve Special Offering: This year our Christmas Eve special offering will benefit the Methodist Home for Children. Please note MHC on your Christmas Eve offering.

***Christmas Eve Worship Times:** We will offer 2 Christmas Eve worship services: the 5PM Common Thread service will be held in Carson Hall, with options to sit in cars or on the patio (weather permitting) for those who choose to do so. The 7PM traditional service will be held in the sanctuary. Both services will feature Holy Communion and candle-lighting. Nursery will not be available so that children can worship together with their families.

***Christmas Day Worship:** On Christmas Day, we will offer one combined service at 10AM in the sanctuary, with no discipleship classes meeting that Sunday. Dress is casual and children may bring one quiet toy to share. Nursery will not be available so that children can worship together with their families.

***Office Closing for Christmas:** Our office hours will be shortened over the holidays to allow our staff to spend time with their families. The office will be closed on December 26-27 and January 2. The office will be open on December 28-29, and on regular hours (9am-2pm Monday-Thursday) beginning January 3.

Church contributions for 2022 must be postmarked, made online, or brought to the church by Saturday, December 31, 2022 to be included on 2022 giving statements. Offerings made on January 1 should be clearly dated for either 2022 or 2023.

New Year's Day Worship: On New Year's Day, we will continue our Christmas celebration with a service of Lessons and Carols. This will be in a church-wide combined service at 10AM in Carson Hall, with no discipleship classes or nursery meeting that Sunday.

Bread Ministry location: We've officially moved the bread to the hallway counter behind Carson Hall on Sunday mornings. Please use gloves to take whatever you like, and leave your donations in the marked box on the counter. Thanks for supporting the Bread Ministry!