

December 31, 2023

10:00 AM Worship

As a child, Jesus “grew and became strong, filled with wisdom” (Luke 2:40).

In the new year may we, too, grow and become stronger in faith,
filled with the wisdom that comes from God.



Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Sandra Horton

Hymn

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

UMH 234, vv. 1, 2, 5, 6

Doxology

UMH 95

The Bidding Prayer

Peggy Biggers

Beloved in Christ,

This Christmas season, it is our duty and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels,
and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore, let us hear again from Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our sin
until the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child;
and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise.

But first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus’ heart,
let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world, and all his people;
for peace upon the earth he came to save; for love and unity with the one Church he did build,
for goodwill among all peoples.

And particularly at this time, let us remember the poor, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed;
the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children;
and all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light,
that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh,
and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we forevermore are one.

These prayer and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven,
in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

**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.**

First Lesson

Genesis 3: 8-19

Vicki Overton

Carol

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

UMH 196

Second Lesson

Genesis 22: 15-18

Bev White

Carol

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (vv. 1, 4, 6, 7)

UMH 211

Third Lesson

Isaiah 11: 1-9

Chandra & Kaylee Rigda

Carol

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

UMH 230

Fourth Lesson

Luke 1: 26-38

Temple Walkowiak

Carol

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" (vv. 1, 4)

UMH 218

Fifth Lesson

Luke 2: 1-16

Linda Davenport

Carol

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

UMH 240

Benediction

Postlude

The flowers in worship today are given by Vicki Overton to the glory of God and in honor of her son Andrew's graduation from UNC-Charlotte and commissioning as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army National Guard.

Today's Greeters: Phil & Pat Fasone
Today's Sound System Operator: Mike Lamar

Next Week's CT Greeters: Tony & Sandra Horton
Next Week's CT Sound/PowerPoint Operator: Keith Walkowiak
Next Week's SW Greeters: Phil & Pat Fasone
Next Week's Sound Operator: Mike Lamar
Next Week's Altar Flowers: Joe & Judy Rhodes



Scan this code to give your offering online!

Rev. Dan Baer, Lead Pastor.....	dan@stjamesraleigh.org
Martha Brown, Office Manager.....	office@stjamesraleigh.org
LaTonia Tyner & Brenda Smith, Finance Office — Onsite Tuesdays only.....	finance@stjamesraleigh.org
Wanda Ramm, Music Director.....	music@stjamesraleigh.org
Jeff Bottoms, Organist/Accompanist.....	music@stjamesraleigh.org
Sue King, Assistant Organist.....	sue@stjamesraleigh.org
Bailey Martin, Youth Director.....	youth@stjamesraleigh.org

Church Office & Food Pantry Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Church Office: 919-876-5796

Pastor's Cell: 919-801-1647

Church Website:.....	www.stjamesraleigh.org
Church Office Administration email.....	office@stjamesraleigh.org
Children's Ministries email.....	kidsmin@stjamesraleigh.org
Prayer Requests email.....	prayerrequests@stjamesraleigh.org

What to know this week...

Calendar this week:

TODAY, 12/31 5th Sunday Combined service, 10AM in the Sanctuary
(no Discipleship; no Youth)
NA, 7PM in Saints Hall

Mon, 1/1/24 *Office Closed

Tues, 1/2 GS Troop 4491, 6:30PM in Montague Hall

Wed, 1/3 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30PM in the Sanctuary

Thurs, 1/4 New Hope Strummers, 6:15PM in Music Room
Common Thread Band Rehearsal, 7PM in Carson Hall

Sat, 1/6 GS Troop 1042, 10AM in Montague Hall

Sun, 1/7 Common Thread contemporary worship, 9:15AM in Carson Hall
Discipleship Hour, 10AM throughout campus
*Conference-Wide Leadership Training 2 sessions held virtually
*Christmas Un-decorating, 3PM throughout campus
*SJ Youth to Conference Refresh Event, 4-8PM at Millbrook UMC
*Trustees Meeting, 4PM in Room 12

***The church office will be closed Monday in honor of New Year's Day.** We'll be back to our regular office hours (9AM-2PM, Monday-Thursday) on Tuesday, January 3.

The 2024 Altar Flowers Signup is Available! If you'd like to provide altar flowers for the sanctuary in 2024, please visit the online signup page at www.tinyurl.com/2023AltarFlowers, sign up on the clipboard in the church lobby, or contact Martha Brown (919-876-5796; office@stjamesraleigh.org) for assistance.

2024 Calendar Reminder: Committee chairs and ministry/mission/program leaders: Please be sure to plan ahead and submit your 2023 Ministry Planning Sheets to get your events on the church calendar! Since there are several new faces on the Administrative Council this coming year, some meeting dates and times may change. Reserve your dates and spaces as soon as possible; all are first-come, first served. Planning sheets are available in the church office and on the Members page of the church website (stjumc.us).

***Conference-Wide Leadership Training:** The NC Conference of the UMC is hosting virtual trainings on Sunday, January 7 for all who serve in their local congregations in any of the following committees/roles: Lay Leaders, Administrative/Church Council, SPRC, Nominations, Finance, Trustees. Two sessions will be offered 2:00-3:30pm and 4:00-5:30pm. Please visit nccumc.org/leadership/event/leadership-training to get more information about the Zoom training sessions or to register.

***Un-decorating Christmas at St. James:** Altar Guild chair Kathi Doby is looking for volunteers to help take down and pack away the Christmas decorations from around the church and grounds. She plans to meet in Carson Hall at 3PM on January 7. Please contact her at kdoby77296@aol.com or 919-632-3552 if you would like to help or have questions.

***Youth REFRESH Event, January 7:** St. James Youth have been invited to the district REFRESH event at Millbrook UMC, 4-8PM on January 7. Please let Bailey know if you're attending!

The first 2024 **Trustees meeting** is scheduled for 4PM on January 7 in Room 12.

Rescheduled "100 Years Young" Party: Fulton Betts's 100th birthday party that was postponed in November has been rescheduled to Saturday, January 13, in Carson Hall. Feel free to drop by anytime 1-4PM to share congratulations, memories, food & fellowship with St. James' only centenarian!

Life Line Screening is coming January 24, 9AM-5PM: Life Line Screening, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings, will offer affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at Saint James UMC. A package of five screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions is offered for only \$159 and take 60-90 minutes to complete. If you register today, you will receive a \$10 member discount. Register by calling toll free 1-888-653-6450, visit <https://llsa.social/HC> or text the word "circle" to 797979.