

Service of Worship
December 17, 2023 | 10AM
The Third Sunday of Advent



First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Wilson, NC

First Christian Church at Worship

December 17, 2023

The Third Sunday of Advent

† *At this sign you are invited to rise in body or spirit.*

CH indicates *Chalice Hymnal* (red hymn book)

CP indicates *Chalice Praise* (purple hymn book)

Gathering in Spirit

Welcome and Announcements

Theresa Mathis

Chiming of the Trinity

Sharing the Light of Christ

Prelude

O Come, All Ye Faithful arr. Dallas Blair

Joe Brinson, trumpet
Casey Childers, organ

† Call To Worship

Christy Webb

Leader:

Our souls glorify God and rejoice in our Savior,

Response:

**for the Mighty One has done great things for us:
holy is God's name.**

† Opening Carol

O Come, All Ye Faithful

CH #148

O 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.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
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.

Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
we would embrace thee, with love and awe;
who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord we greet thee, born for our salvation,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

†Praying Together

led by Christy Webb

May love be the theme of our lives, O God, as we continue in this Advent journey. May we remember Mary's love for your Son, and may she be an example to us of how to live in your ways, in your Son's holy name we ask this, amen.

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Litany of the Advent Wreath

Christy Webb

The Joy of God-With-Us does not come as naïve optimism, or surface level feel-good-ness. Joy cannot be imposed from on high. Joy cannot be commanded. The Joy of God-With-Us is mingled with grief, exists side by side with mourning, knows that pain and death are all too real, but do not have the final word. This joy tends tenderly to beauty, and softness, and the gladness that comes from paying attention to what matters. The Joy of God-With-Us is collective, liberating us from deadly despair. Joy is gestating in darkness; it comes unexpectedly. Joy invites our expectation, and demands our participation. Prepare the way, for joy with sorrow. May Joy be birthed among, within, and through us, this Advent. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel...

Candle Lighters

Allan and Libby Daniell

Hymn of Hope

One Candle Is Lit

CH #128 vs. 3

Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth,
join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.
Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise.
One candle is lit for the joy of these days.

Children's Moment

Jeannette Etheridge

*(Following the children's moment, children pre K—3rd grade are invited
to attend Children's Sunday School in the Education Building)*

Prayer Concerns

Wanda Brown

Pastoral Prayer

Alysun Skinner

Preparing for God's Word

Sussex Carol arr. Young

Chancel Choir

On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring,
On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring,
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.

When sin departs before His grace,
Then life and health come in its place;
When sin departs before His grace,
Then life and health come in its place;
Angels and men with joy may sing,
All for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light
which made the angels sing this night,
All out of darkness we have light
which made the angels sing this night,
"Glory to God and peace to men,
Now and for evermore, Amen!"

Scripture and Response

Luke 1: 45b-55

Christy Webb

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Making Room (for Joy)

Alysun Skinner

Hymn of Response

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

CH #149 - vs 1,2 & 4

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King.

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending, here among us shall appear:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King.

Invitation to Offering

Alysun Skinner

*After the invitation to offering, feel free to bring offerings as you are led
and place them in the offering plates at the front or back of the sanctuary.
Also, feel free to scan the QR code in the bulletin and give online!*

Offertory

It's Christmas by Chris Tomlin

Encounter

Stephanie Pridgen, cajon

†Doxology

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

CH #46

TUNE: Old Hundreth

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below:
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host!
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen!

†Blessing of the Gifts

Alysun Skinner

Invitation to Communion

Alysun Skinner

Communion Prayer

Wanda Brown

Music for Communion

Joe Brinson, trumpet

Words of Institution

Alysun Skinner

†The Lord's Prayer

led by Alysun Skinner

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. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, and deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

†Hymn of Anticipation **Angels We Have Heard on High** CH #155

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

(Refrain) Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? (Refrain)

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ, who comes in lowly birth.
Come, adore on bended knee, Jesus, joy of heav'n and Earth. (Refrain)

See within a manger laid, Christ, whom choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise. (Refrain)

†Benediction Alysun Skinner

†Postlude Joe Brinson, trumpet
Casey Childers, organ

Ding Dong, Merrily on High arr. John Carter

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In Our Prayers

Vickie Balazsi (Kathy Sandifer's cousin); Jim Boswell; Donahue Bottoms, Jr. (Dalen Bottoms' son); Gena Carter; Win Craft; Allan Daniell; Mary Louise Gray; Bobbi Gregory; Nell Griffin; Tina Hensley; Dean Huiet (mission friend of Wendy Wingrove); LaRue Massey (Kathy Sandifer's friend); June McNair (Mary Louise Gray's niece); Katyhy Piner (Mary Louise Gray's friend); Gary Smith (friend of Leslie Kendall); Troy and Leigh Ann Tatum; Kristy Wisniewski (friend of Christy Proctor & Melissa Denton).

Homebound

Peggy Anderson; Jim Boswell; Dalen Bottoms; Sherry Brenner; Hazel Byers; Gena Carter; Gilbert Ferrell; Judy Harris; Doug Ramsey; Anne Sharpe; Lenore Smith; Alice Thomas; Kathleen Ujlaki; A.J. Walston.

Tithes and Offerings are received with thanks and gratitude into the ministry of FCC! These gifts may be left in the offering trays or may be sent to:

First Christian Church of Wilson
PO Box 2702, Wilson, NC 27894
Online: www.fccwilson.org/giving-options
Text FCCWILSON to 73256



Visiting? Welcome!



We are an open and inclusive Disciples of Christ congregation who welcomes all to God's table and service. Let us know you are with us! We will hopefully get a connection card to you, but if we miss you, they are located in the back of the church! Also, feel free to scan the QR code and share info there. We love saying 'welcome' around here!

Welcome to our Guest Minister

Many thanks to Alysun Skinner for stepping in to be our Guest Minister this morning. Alysun is the Chaplain at Barton College. We are very fortunate to also have her as a member of our congregation.

Church Calendar

Sunday, December 17—Third Sunday of Advent

- 10:00am Worship—Alysun Skinner, Guest Minister
11:00am Disciples Class
11:11am Sunday Morning Small Group
3:30pm Caroling (All Church)

Monday, December 18

- 11:00am Mobile Music Ministry

Tuesday, December 19

- 11:00am Staff Meeting
6:30pm Music Ministry Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 20

- 11:30am Young At Heart at Something Different Café & Restaurant
12:00pm Advent Concert Series featuring Jake Mauk, tenor
5:30pm Kids and Youth programs
7:00pm Chancel Choir rehearsal

Thursday, December 21

- 7:00pm The Longest Night Service

Saturday, December 23

- 10:00am Set up tables and chairs for Community Christmas luncheon
11:00am Decorate tables for Community Christmas luncheon
12:00pm Assemble gift bags for Community Christmas luncheon

Sunday, December 24—Christmas Eve, Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 5:00pm Christmas Eve Service

Monday, December 25—Christmas Day

- 11:30am-1:30pm Community Christmas Luncheon

First Christian Church

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Website: www.fccwilson.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/FCCWilson

Casey Childers *Organist and Minister of Music*

Charles Cauley *Interim Office Administrator*

Connie Farris *Financial Secretary*