

*Your Friendly  
Community Church*



**December 3, 2023**

***First Sunday  
of Advent***

**Rev. Laurie Brandes**

Pastor

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# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## WE GATHER AT GOD'S INVITATION

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Felecia Boyce

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE**

Chad & Tiffany Phillips

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Christ shall come, God's gift to the world:

**People: that the desperate should find hope -**

Leader: that the persecuted shall find peace -

**People: that the lonely should find love -**

Leader: that the dejected should find joy.

**All: O Christ of the world, your time is now! We wait, we watch, we wonder! Come!**

**\*HYMN**

**UMH #206**

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, in times past we looked for you in heavenly eclipses. But now we know you will be found among us. You will not be seen in the glitter of a store but in a shelter for the homeless. You will come swaddled in the needs of the neglected. Open our mouths that we might shout the good news of the coming of the Lord! In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

Jane Massey

We invite any children present to participate.

## WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

**ANTHEM**

Lady Imperio

**\*PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

O God, open our eyes that we might witness the appearance of the angels. Open our ears that we might hear the testimony of the shepherds. Open our hearts that we might ponder the secrets of Mary. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

**\*GOSPEL LESSON** Mark 13:24-37

**NT #47**

**SERMON**

Rev. Laurie Brandes

"God's Waiting Room"

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### PRAYER

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

### OFFERING

#### OFFERTORY

Lady Imperio

#### \*DOXOLOGY

UMH #95

#### SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

UMH #12

## WE GO WITH GOD INTO THE WORLD

#### \*HYMN

UMH #196

"Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

#### \*BENEDICTION

#### \*AMEN RESPONSE

"Let the Church Say Amen"

#### \*POSTLUDE

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome you to our worship service this morning. If you are visiting, please complete a visitor's card located in your pew and place it in the offering plate.

Please join us on Tuesday, December 5, at 5:30 pm for a congregational gathering in the CLC. We will be discussing how we plan for the future as a church. We will celebrate the things we're doing and discuss the upcoming decisions that will shape our future. A meal will be served.

Please join us Saturday, December 9, in the CLC from 2-4 pm for a Birthday Party for Jesus.

You are invited to a free concert given by the Columbia Community Concert Band, conducted by B.J. Brazier, on Sunday, December 17, at 4 pm. The concert will be held at the Airport High School Auditorium, 1315 Boston Ave., West Columbia, SC 29170.

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday, December 4

6:00 UWF Christmas Gathering – CLC

6:30 UMM – CLC

Tuesday, December 5

5:30 Congregational Gathering w/meal - CLC

Wednesday, December 6

5:30 Choir Practice – Choir Room

Saturday, December 9

2:00 Birthday Party for Jesus - CLC

## SUNDAY SCHOOL INFORMATION

You are welcomed to attend one of our Sunday School classes:

**Crossroads SS Class** meets via Zoom at 9am  
Contact L.W. Smith for Zoom invite.

**Pathfinder SS Class** meets at 9:45 am in the  
parlor in the Education Building.

**Children's SS Class** meets at 9:45 am in the  
nursery in the Education building.

## HEARING DEVICES

If you would like to use a hearing assistance device, please see an usher for assistance.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please write your prayer requests in the book found on the podium located at the back of the sanctuary before the service begins. Your prayers will be lifted up.

## 2023 FINANCES

**2023 Budget = \$229,008.00**

**Need to Receive Weekly = \$4,404.00**

**Received for General Budget on 11/26/23=\$5,162.00**

**Received Year-To-Date (2023) = \$151,105.00**

We are excited to have you in our worship service today. We love that the walls of our building do not limit the impact of our ministry and have a wonderful community joining us today virtually. As such, we would like to remind all in attendance that your presence in our worship service indicates your approval that you and all minors you represent being recorded for our digital usage. This includes, but is not limited to, your image, name, and involvements in today's services.