

Mount Olivet United Methodist Church

301 Mount Olivet Road Concord, NC 28025
Telephone: 704-782-8846 E-mail: mtolivet_1@windstream.net
www.mtochurch.com

Order of Worship

December 3, 2017

First Sunday of Advent

* Please stand if you are able.

We Gather to Worship

10:55 Greeting & Announcements

11:00 Worship

Prelude "The First Noel" Organist

Lighting of the Candles

Praise & Thanksgiving

*Call to Worship

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the King?

People: With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the eternal Christ?

People: With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of our Savior?

People: With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of his passion, death, and resurrection.

Leader: How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Son of God?

People: By hearing again the words of the prophets, who foretold the saving work of God.

Leader: For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.

People: Glory to God in the highest!

GOD WILL SEND A RIGHTEOUS KING Jeremiah 23:5-6

Joel & Jann Johnson

In ancient times the cedar was revered as the tree of royalty.

It also signified immortality and was used for purification.

We place this cedar branch as a sign of Christ,

who reigns as King forever,

and whose coming, in justice and righteousness, will purify our hearts.

*Hymn of Praise "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" UMH #196

THE PROPHET DECLARES A CHILD WILL BE BORN Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Eric Simmons

Because the needles of pine and fir trees appear not to die each season, the ancients saw them as signs of things that last forever. Isaiah tells us that there will be no end to the reign of the Messiah. Therefore, we hang this wreath of evergreens shaped in a circle, which itself has no end, to signify the eternal reign of Jesus, the Christ.

Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verses 5, 6 & 7) UMH #211

THE FOURTH SERVANT SONG Isaiah 53:1-6

Clarence Horton

For Christians, this passage from Isaiah reflects the sufferings of Jesus, who saved us from our sins by his death on the cross, and by his resurrection from the dead. In ancient times, holly and ivy were considered signs of Christ's passion. Their prickly leaves suggested the crown of thorns, the red berries the blood of the Savior, and the bitter bark the drink offered to Jesus on the cross. As we hang the holly and ivy, let us rejoice in the coming of Jesus, our Savior.

Hymn "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" UMH #203

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Jessica Palmer & Family

Leader: Christ came to bring us salvation and has promised to come again. Let us pray that we may always be ready to welcome him.

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: That the keeping of Advent may open our hearts to God's love,

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: That the light of Christ may penetrate the darkness of sin,

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: That this wreath may constantly remind us to prepare for the coming of Christ,

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: That the Christmas season may fill us with peace and joy as we strive to follow the example of Jesus,

People: Loving God, your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin. Pour forth your blessings upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May their light reflect the splendor of Christ, who is Lord, forever and ever. Amen.

Leader: As we light the first Advent candle, we wait—we wait for God's new age; we wait for Christ to be reborn in our hearts; we wait for our prayers to be answered.

Anthem "The Holly Carol" Chancel Choir

The Word Read & Proclaimed

Children's Time Pastor Cheryl

*THE MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION John 1:1-5, 9-14

Pastor Skinner

As we prepare for the coming of Jesus, the Light of the World, we light the Chrismon tree.

During this Advent, wherever you see a lighted Christmas tree, let it call to mind the One who brings light to our darkness, healing to our brokenness, and peace to all who receive him.

*Hymn "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" (verses 1, 2 & 3) UMH #206

Our Response to God's Word

Call to Confession

How can we stand in the presence of God? Let us confess those places where we need to grow to prepare for Christ to come to our lives.

Prayer of Confession

God of the loving heart, we confess before you those places in our hearts where we have refused you entrance: people we have refused to love; habits we never get around to changing; good things we have left undone; and ways in which we hurt you, ourselves, and others. Come to us in the light of your Christ. Shine on those places we have hidden from you. Show us new ways to live. Sweep clean the rooms of our hearts, that Christ may find home among us. Be known among us now and forever! Amen.

Words of Assurance

This is the good news in Jesus Christ. We can stand before God, both through our own goodness, but through God's great kindness to us. Rejoice and be glad, for God comes to you!

Passing the Peace

(You are invited to exchange signs of peace of love with those around you.)

Receiving of Our Gifts, Tithes, & Offerings

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Offertory "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" Organist

*Doxology "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH #94

Service of Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving UMH Page 13

The Lord's Prayer UMH #895

Receiving the Bread & the Cup

Prayer after Communion

Sent Forth to Serve

*Hymn of Sending Forth "People, Look East" UMH #202

*Benediction

*The Light of Christ Leads Us Into the World

*Sung Response " Christmas Blessings for You" Congregation

May Christmas Joy go with you,
Heavenly Peace surround you.

Let Angel warmth fill your Spirit this season.

We wish Christmas Blessings for you. (Repeat) Amen

Words and Music by Dana Jarrett

*Postlude "Joy to the World" Organist

Music & Video License - CVLI 503792200 CCLI 2307080

The flowers placed in the Sanctuary today are dedicated to the glory of God and in loving memory of Otis and Phyllis Rodgers. By Jeff & Suzan Rodgers

Immediate Prayer Concerns:

Please pray this week for... Angie Allison, Jim & Sadie Chewning, Bryant Cranford, Carolyn & Don Brafford, Carolyn Fink, Joan Hill, Marie Hunsucker, Kim Morton, Mickey Penninger, Diane Sansing, Kathy Simpson, Rosemary Ritchie, and Karen Wurtz.

Continuing Prayer Concerns:

Please continue to pray for...Henrietta Allen, Doris Barbee, Beam family, Ann Eudy, Bob Eudy, Betty Evans, Jeremy Hathaway, George & Joy Hipp, Arlin Dancy, Glen Julian, Misheck & Jennifer Kanake, Hope Lackey, David Marlow, Nancy Marlow, Grace McRorie, Michala Penninger, Connie Phillips, Cooper Pickens, Joy Purser, Virginia Rodgers, Betty Sethna, Cindy Simmons, June Snyder, Suzanne Storch, Debra & William Tallent, family of Faye West, Brice Williford, Glenn & Barbara Yow, military personnel and their families.

Our son Brian Cranford asked that we express to everyone how much their family appreciated the prayers that were lifted and the cards that were sent to Bryant. As we know, our prayers were answered and now we are all praising God for his goodness. Bryant asked his Dad if he was a "celebrity" when all the cards began arriving. Brian told him that he was a very special child of God and that this church was praying for him. He said, "then I must be really special". Brian said the prayer shawl was so comforting for he and Sara as well as Bryant, especially as they held onto it during the surgery. Ron and I do love each of you and thank you from our hearts for the loving support you have given us through this scare. As you have figured out by now, this family lives from crisis to crisis. May God Bless each of you. Ron & Judy Barnhardt

L  king Ahead 2017

Sunday, December 3, 2017 First Sunday in Advent

8:45 a.m. Early Service

9:15 a.m. Meet & Greet Parlor

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

5:00 p.m. UMYF

Monday, December 4, 2017

10:30 a.m. K Lee Scott Sharing Group

Tuesday, December 5, 2017

10:00 a.m. Prayers for Healing

6:00 p.m. Piedmont Singing Men

6:30 p.m. Ada Dayvault Circle

7:00 p.m. Staff Parish Relations (parlor)

Wednesday, December 6, 2017

7:30 p.m. Choir

Thursday, December 7, 2017

7:00 p.m. Adult Bell Choir

Friday, December 8, 2017

10 a.m. -2:00 p.m. Heavenly Hot Dogs

Saturday, December 9, 2017

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Santa's House at Ron & Judy Barnhardt's house

6:00 p.m. Kannapolis Christmas Parade

Sunday, December 10, 2017

8:45 a.m. Early Service

9:15 a.m. Meet & Greet Parlor

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

5:00 p.m. UMYF

6:00 p.m. Children's Program

**Honorariums
Kenya Team**

In Honor of
Diane Sansing

Given By
Linda Johnson

Mount Olivet Purpose Statement - Your Spiritual Connection to Jesus Christ

Work - Go into the World as Disciples

Witness - Share the Love of Jesus

Worship - Gather in Praise of God

Our Stewardship

“We will support Mount Olivet United Methodist Church with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.”

Our Prayers

Prayer Chain Requests - Betty Christie 704-932-2837

Email mtolivet_1@windstream.net or glbadb@me.com

Phone/Text- Angie 980-621-7407

Our Presence

Sunday, November 26, 2017

Sunday School 55 Worship 130

Our Gifts

General Budget - \$4,898; Weekly Amount Needed - \$5,839

Building Fund - \$185; Kenya Team - \$50; Biblesticks - \$100

The General Fund - which supports the daily operating budget and ministries.

The Building Fund - which is for the maintenance and upkeep of our **current** facilities.

The Future Fund - which is for any **new** buildings or **expansion**. Please make all checks to Mount Olivet UMC and **notate on them** which fund your gift is for.

Our Service today

Head Ushers – Jeff Rodgers, Ron Barnhardt

Arlin Dancy, Judy Barnhardt, Ralph Simmons, Dottie Simmons
Acolyte

Nursery- Infants - Open Toddlers - Open

Roving Hall Monitor - Padgett Goodman

Cooperative Christian Ministries (CCM)

sugar free items, low sodium items, sweet peas, canned beans, soup – any kind, canned fruit, breakfast items, paper towels, toilet paper

Mount Olivet Food Pantry (Money Accepted)

corn, green beans, green peas, whole potatoes, fruit, peanut butter, rice,
Ramen noodles (no condiments, please)

Pastor Cheryl Skinner

Secretary – Angela Barnhardt

Music Director – Alissa Deeter

Children's Music Director - Donna Childers

Organist/Bell Director – Dana Jarrett

Parish Nurse – Willie Foster - email - schoolnurse2@windstream.net

Sunday School Superintendent - Diana Starkey

Church office hours- Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

