

*Our Deepest Sympathy
goes out to Susie Smith and her Son Jonathan Kepley in
the death of Susie's father Jack Poetzinger.*



**FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
IS AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION**

We welcome into the full life and ministry of the church all people, regardless of ability, age, education, ethnicity, family or marital status, gender identity or expression, income, nationality, political affiliation, race, sexual orientation, or any other distinction. At the baptismal font and at the communion table, from the nursery cribs to the church leadership, whether you were raised in a church or have never, before attended one, you are welcome here.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! If you are new here or have a prayer request, please fill out a Communication Card found in the back of the pew. Drop it into the offering plate so we can connect with you.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING

Liturgist: Cathy Browder

Acolyte & Bible Steward:

Joe and Cathy Browder

Ushers: Betty Barr, Eddie Yates

Sound Tech: John Gray

Media Tech: Jeremy Peterson

Nursery: Smithie Parrish & Kia Plummer

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Elizabeth Parker Horton, *Pastor*
elizabeth@frucc.org

Rev. June Grubb, *Minister of Pastoral Care*
june@frucc.org

Jackie Mock, *Church Administrator*
jackie@frucc.org

Ellen Peterson, *Choir Director*
ellen@frucc.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS Monday – Friday

9-1 Walk-ins Welcome

1 – 2pm Closed for Lunch

2 – 5pm Please call ahead or make an appointment

First Reformed United Church of Christ

104 East Center Street, Lexington NC 27292

Please visit our website: www.frucc.org

From Generation to Generation

♩ = 90

From gen-er-a-tion to gen-er-a-tion, we have shared the Christ-mas sto-ry

of a ba-by in a man-ger, who was born in Beth-le-hem.

Hope is wing-ing, Peace now ring-ing, Joy we're sing-ing, Love he's bring-ing.

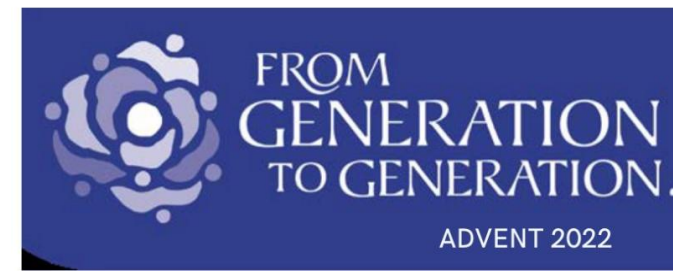
1. There is room for ev-'ry sto-ry. There is hope through God's great glory.
2. God will meet you in your fear. And bring peace both far and near.
3. We can choose a bet-ter way. And find joy in ev-'ry day.
4. We see God in one an-oth-er. As we learn to love each other.

Alternative Gift Giving

The holiday season is at our doorsteps and this is the time that we begin thinking about what to give our families and friends. Have you thought about giving to a local charity in their honor? You may donate to any of the church benevolences and send a card to the person to whom you would like to honor with your gift.

Forms can be picked up in the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings along with a donation envelope. These may also be picked up from the church office Monday - Friday. Return the form to the church along with your donation and pick up the number of acknowledgment cards you need. *(If you give on-line, stop by the office and collect your cards)*

This is such a meaningful way to honor someone on your gift list, benefit those in need, and help our church meet its benevolences for the year.



November 27, 2022

The Worship of God

First Sunday of Advent

*Stand as you are able

Prelude **Creator of the Stars of Night** (by Bruce Tippette) Bruce Tippette

***Chiming of the Hour**

Welcome Rev. Horton

***Call to Worship** Cathy Browder

As you enter this place, may you know that from generation to generation, you have been claimed and loved.
From generation to generation, God has been by our side.
From generation to generation, we are not alone.
The God of yesterday and the God of tomorrow knows us by name, and calls to us, saying, "Fear not, I have redeemed you and named you. You are mine."
Come, let us worship with thanks and praise.

***Hymn** **Come Thou long expected Jesus** pg. 3

Liturgy for the Advent Wreath *Lighting the Candle of Hope*
Joe and Cathy Browder

Sung Response **From Generation to Generation** back pg.

Prayer of Confession Cathy Browder

God of today and God of tomorrow,
you say, "Bring your full self. There's room for you here."
But we say, "Our lives are too messy."
You say, "Bring your hopes and your dreams. There's room for you here."
But we say, "It's too risky to hope."
You say, "Bring your grief and your prayers. There's room for you here."
But we say, "Some things are easier to forget."
God of today and God of tomorrow,
we know in our hearts that there's room for us here.
Forgive us for withholding our full selves from you.
Forgive us for giving only our Sunday best.
Help us remember, today and tomorrow,
There's room for every story. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness Rev. Horton

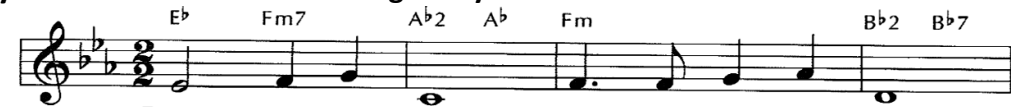
Young Disciples Rev. Horton

Old Testament Reading **Isaiah 2: 1-5** Cathy Browder

..."they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more."

***Hymn**

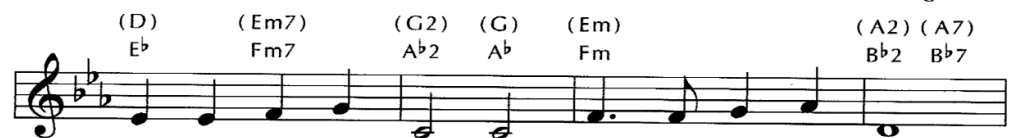
Bring Many Names



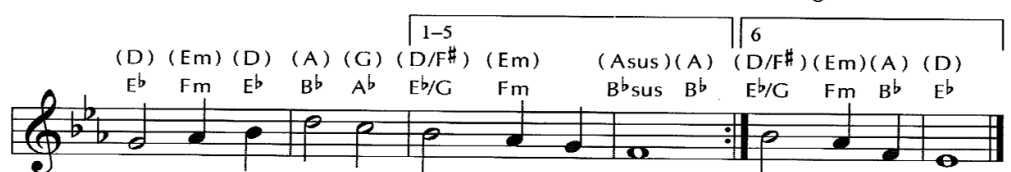
1 Bring man - y names, beau - ti - ful and good,
2 Strong moth - er God, work - ing night and day,
3 Warm fa - ther God, hug - ging ev - ery child,
4 Old, ach - ing God, gray with end - less care,
5 Young, grow - ing God, ea - ger, on the move,
6 Great, liv - ing God, nev - er ful - ly known,



cel - e - brate, in par - a - ble and sto - ry,
plan - ning all the won - ders of cre - a - tion,
feel - ing all the strains of hu - man liv - ing,
calm - ly pierc - ing e - vil's new dis - guis - es,
say - ing no to false - hood and un - kind - ness,
joy - ful dark - ness far be - yond our see - ing,



ho - li - ness in glo - ry, liv - ing, lov - ing God.
set - ting each e - qua - tion ge - ni - us at play:
car - ing and for - giv - ing till we're rec - on - ciled:
glad of good sur - pris - es, wis - er than de - spair:
cry - ing out for jus - tice, giv - ing all you have:
clos - er yet than breath - ing, ev - er - last - ing home:



Hail and Ho - san - na! Bring man - y names!
Hail and Ho - san - na, strong moth - er God!
Hail and Ho - san - na, warm fa - ther God!
Hail and Ho - san - na, old, ach - ing God!
Hail and Ho - san - na, young, grow - ing God!
Hail and Ho - san - na,

great, liv - ing God!

Affirmation of Faith

Rev. Horton

**We believe in a God who promised to Abraham,
who wrestled with Jacob, who walked with Ruth,
who spoke with Moses, who grieved with Bathsheba,
who danced with David, who dreamed with Joseph,
and who hoped like Mary.**

**We believe in a God who has been loving, inviting, transforming,
and challenging us from generation to generation.
And we believe that same God is here with us now,
saying, "Come on in; there's room for you here." Amen.**

Prayer of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Horton

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Anthem

Come Messiah! (Lloyd Larson)

Choir

New Testament Reading Matthew 1: 1-17

...So there were fourteen generations from Abraham to David,
fourteen generations from David to the exile to Babylon,
and fourteen generations from the exile to Babylon to the Christ.

Matthew 1: 17

Sermon

There is Room for Every Story

Rev. Horton

Invitation to Give and Serve

Rev. Horton

Offering is our chance to practice our faith in action, to share with others. We reinstate "Passing of the Plates" this Sunday or you can give online at www.frucc.org/give.

Offertory

Let Us Hope When Hope Seems Hopeless

Ellen Peterson

Prayer of Dedication

Cathy Browder

***Doxology**

OLD HUNDRETH

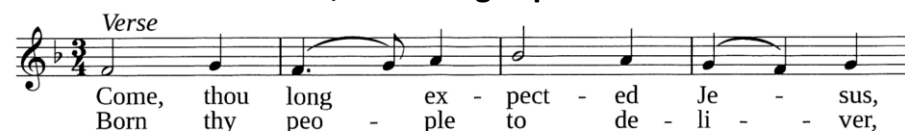
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly host. Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

***Benediction**

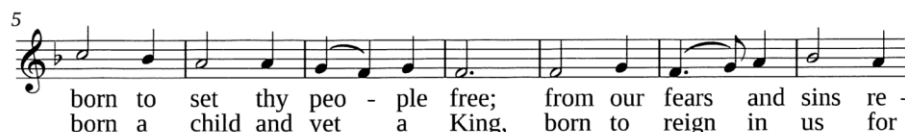
Postlude Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (by Bruce Tippette)

Bruce Tippette

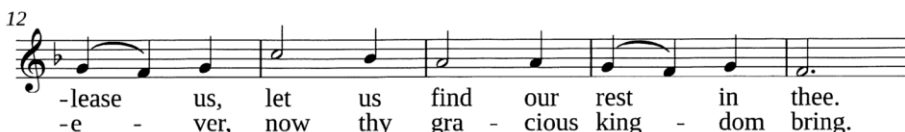
Come, Thou long expected Jesus



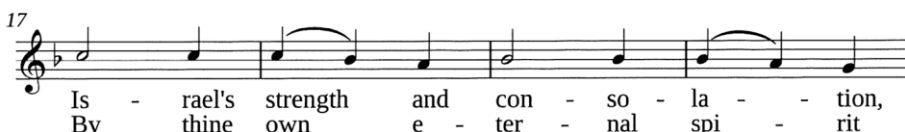
Come, thou long ex - spect - ed Je - sus,
Born thy peo - ple to de - li - ver,



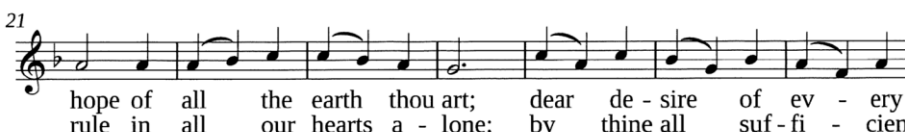
born to set thy peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re -
born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us for -



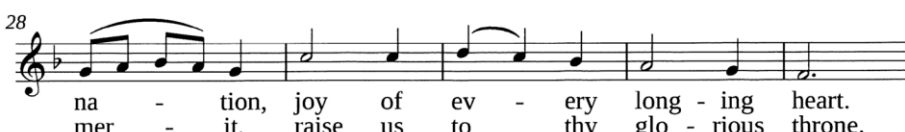
-lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
-e - ver, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion,
By thine own e - ter - nal spi - rit



hope of all the earth thou art; dear de - sire of ev - ery
rule in all our hearts a - lone; by thine all suf - fi - cient



na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Place an Angel on our Angel Tree

Place an angel on our Angel Tree in memory or in honor of someone.

To place an angel on the Angel Tree: Fill out the form that will be available on Sundays along with the donation envelope, or pick up both from the church office. Place form and donation in the envelop. These may be placed in the offering plate or returned to the church office. All donations for the Angel Tree need to be in by December, 21, 2022.

Acknowledgements will be sent from the office. Names for the "angels", along with names of those who donated, will be listed in the January 2023 Newsletter.

WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, 11/27 First Sunday in Advent - Advent Devotionals available

9:30amAdult Sunday School
10:30am..... Worship Service
12-1:30pm.....Grace Episcopal Church – Servers from FRUCC
(Jay & Cathy Whitley, Belinda & Eddie Yates, Camille Morgan)
4:30pm.....All ages Preparation: Gingerbread Houses & Advent Wreath making in Fellowship Hall. There will be food and fellowship!

Monday, 11/28

5:00pm.....FRUCC Clothes Ministry Open
5:00pm.....Open Hands Meal & Service in Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, 11/29

12:00pm.....2CFAR in Parlor
7:00pmBook Club via Zoom
7:00pm.....NAMI via Zoom

Wednesday, 11/30

3:00pm.....Pastor's Pantry picks up last of Corn

Thursday, 12/1

4-6:00pm.....Clothing Ministry Workday

Friday, 12/2

10:00am.....SWIRL Women's Christmas Party - Fellowship Hall

Saturday, 12/3

12:00pm.....Saturday Lunch Ministry
5:00pm.....Lexington Choral Society Concert - First United Methodist Church

Sunday, 12/4 – Second Sunday of Advent

9:30amAdult Sunday School
10:30am.....Worship Service - Communion
(Bring an ornament that tells a story about your family)

PRAYER CONCERNS

Sylvia Walser, Mary Jo Jessup

AT HOME: Lib & Jimbo Hinkle, J.W. Bates, Peggy Bates, Ruth Essick, Gerri Hill, Myrtle Latimer, Deanna Michael, Carolyn Spivey, John Potts & Janette Neal, Adena Wall

IN CARE FACILITIES: Vogen Everhart, Sherry Bonner, Marguerite Leonard, Patti Everhart

OUR FRIENDS: Sarah Lovell Biggers (Jerry & Patti Lovell's daughter), Ray White, (Step-father to Travis White), Rena Y. Curia (sister to Cheryl Walser), Charles Hines (Friend of Alane Holste), Carter Dorley (request from community), Diane Womack (Nina Smiths mother), John Ray Ward (Patti Lovell's, Brother in Law)