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.

#### 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.

### THANK YOU FOR SERVING

Liturgist: Dave Fulton Advent Candle Lighting: Camill & Casey Ball Ushers: Betty Barr, Ted Smith, Doris Sink, Casey Ball Sound Tech: James Gray Media Tech: Jeremy Peterson Nursery: Lisa Nelson, Cathy Browder

### **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

**Bruce Tippette, Organist** 

### **First Reformed United Church of Christ** 104 East Center Street, Lexington NC 27292 Please visit our website: www.frucc.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS Monday – Friday

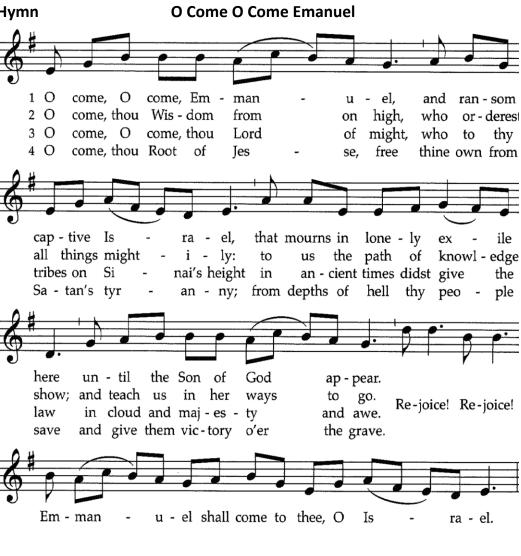
Walk-ins Welcome 9-1 Closed for Lunch 1 – 2pm 2 – 5pm Please call ahead or make an appointment



Prelude

\*Chiming of the Hour

\*Call to Worship









# Lighting the Candle of Joy

### Sung Response

December 11, 2022 The Worship of God

## Third Sunday of Advent

\*Stand as you are

Bruce Tippette

Nightfall (by Nancy Faber)

Rev. Horton

Camill & Casey Ball

### From Generation to Generation

From generation to generation, we have shared the Christmas story Of a baby in the manger, who was born in Bethlehem.

Hope is winging, Peace now ringing, Joy we're singing, Love he's bringing. We can choose a better way. And find joy in every day.

Old Testament Reading	Isaiah 35:1-7
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The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water;

Young Disciples	Rev. Horton
Mission Moment	Jay Whitley
Prayer of Confession	Dave Fulton

God of mercy,

a million times a day we have the opportunity to be gracious,

to assume the best in others, to give the benefit of the doubt.

But Instead, fear and greed kick in. Assumptions and insecurities take over.

Forgive us, O Lord for acting Selfish.

Give us the courage to love even bigger than before,

and the wisdom to choose a better way. Amen.

### Words of Forgiveness

Rev. Horton

Rev. Horton

**Dave Fulton** 

### **Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in a God who offers second chances and does not hold grudges.

We believe in a God who opens the door to new life

and leaves the porch light on for us when we get lost.

We believe in a God who believes in us - believes that we can make a

difference, that we can choose grace over comparison,

love over hate, peace over war.

And so, we strive to live our lives in love.

We strive to listen as Joseph listened,

and to be the people that God calls us to be.

This we believe. Amen.

\*Hymn Angels We Have Heard on High

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Horton

Pg. 3

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.

Choir Anthem	A Silent Night Brings New Light	t (R. Kevin Boesige
New Testament R "When Joseph awo	<b>Luke 1: 26-38</b> oke from sleep, he did as the angel of th	e Lord commanded him
Sermon	From generation to generation: We can choose a better Way	Rev. Horto
Invitation to Give You are invited to g	and Serve give your offerings in person or online a	at: <u>www.frucc.org/give</u>
Prayer of Dedicat	ion	Dave Fulto
*Doxology		OLD HUNDRET
Praise God abo	whom all blessings flow, Praise God al ve ye heavenly host. Creator, Christ, a	
*Benediction		
Postlude	Veni, Veni Emmanuel	Bruce Tippet
	Angels We Have Heard on High	
	Angels We Have Heard on High	I
<b>2</b> - <b>b a</b> - <b>-</b>	Angels We Have Heard on High	
	Angels We Have Heard on High	
2 Shep-he	els, from the realms of glo - ry, ards, in the fields a - bid - ing,	wing your flight o'er watch-ing o'er your
2 Shep-he 3 Sag - e	els, from the realms of glo - ry, erds, in the fields a - bid - ing, es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions;	wing your flight o'er watch-ing o'er your bright - er vi - sions
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# WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, 12/11 Third Sunday in Advent
9:30amAdult Sunday School
10:30am Worship Service
Consistory following worship
3:00pmCenter Street Saxophone Quartet
Christmas Concert (Sanctuary)
Monday, 12/12
5:00pmFRUCC Clothes Ministry Open
5:00pmOpen Hands Meal & Service (Fellowship Hall)
Tuesday, 12/13
12:00pm2CFAR (Parlor)
7:00pmNAMI (Zoom)
Wednesday, 12/14
11:30pmWomen's Fellowship
(Yarboroughs Restaurant)
7:15pmChoir Practice
Thursday, 12/15
4-6:00pmClothing Ministry Workday
6:00pmLongest Night Service
Friday, 12/16
10:00amFRUCC Fellowship Hall in Use
Saturday, 12/17
12:00pmSaturday Lunch Ministry
Sunday, 12/18 – Fourth Sunday of Advent
9:30amAdult Sunday School
10:30amWorship Service
.Celebration of Nativity

# **PRAYER CONCERNS**

Kalyssa Hutchens, DeeJay Huffman, Sylvia Walser

<u>AT HOME</u>: Lib & Jimbo Hinkle, J.W. Bates, Peggy Bates, Ruth Essick, Gerri Hill, Myrtle Latimer, Deanna Michael, Carolyn Spivey, John Potts & Janette Neal, Adena Wall, Merle Hodges, Eulene Shepherd

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),