

THE WORSHIP OF GOD  
DECEMBER 24, 2025  
CHRISTMAS EVE

SEVEN O’CLOCK

The moments before worship offer time for prayer and meditation.  
The chancel area is open for prayer before the service.

*\* Please stand as you are able.*

Gathering

Prelude O Holy Night Adam  
Margaret Dalton, soloist

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We’ve gathered—people of faith and no faith,  
people of hope and no hope, people of peace  
and no peace.

People: We gather with the longing to be made whole  
again if just for this time, here and now

Leader: We gather with a prayer, however vague and  
tenuous, that in spite of the absence of angels,  
wise men and shepherds, we might still be a  
witness to the birth of all love.

All: We gather as ready as we’ll ever be for this story  
of faith, the Messiah born to us as a child, to  
unfold. Let us worship the King will be, who is and  
is to come.

\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN UMH No. 234 O Come, All Ye Faithful  
(Stanzas 1, 2, 3, and 6) ADESTE FIDELES

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE John and Judy Pratt

Reader: Tonight, we gather to remember with the prophet  
Isaiah: *For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace. Great will be his authority, and there shall  
be endless peace for the throne of David and his  
kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and  
with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this (Isaiah 9:6-7).*

All: We gather to once again bask in the glory that visited  
a stable and a manger, shepherds watching their flocks,  
and a young couple cradling the newborn Messiah.

Reader: We light the Christ candle as a sign of the glory  
that came among us in unexpected places and to  
unexpected people, that we may be people who seek  
and follow the glory of the Christ child here and now.

*Light the candles of the Advent wreath.*

SUNG RESPONSE UMH No. 211 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
(Stanza 7) VENI EMMANUEL

\* GOSPEL LESSON Luke 2:8-20 NT Page 58

SERMON “Unwrapping His Name: Light of the World”  
Rev. Ray Warren

HYMN OF RESPONSE UMH No. 229 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly  
W ZLOBIE LEZY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY On Christmas Night  
arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

\* PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS LASST UNS ERFREUEN  
All Singing: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ,  
whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! UMH No. 94

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING  
The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.  
Lift up your hearts.  
We lift them up to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.  
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and  
everywhere to give thanks to you, almighty God, creator  
of heaven and earth. You created light out of darkness  
and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us into  
your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When  
our love failed and we turned away, your love remained  
steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made  
covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us  
through your prophets.

In the fullness of time, you sent your only Son Jesus Christ  
to be our Savior, Light from Light, True God from True God.  
At his birth you sent an angel bearing the message of your  
peace, saying, “Do not be afraid! Look! I bring good news  
to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your Savior  
is born today in David’s city. He is Christ the Lord.”

And so, with your people on earth and all the company  
of heaven we praise your name and join their unending  
hymn:

[singing] Gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Holy are you, and blessed is your child Jesus Christ. As  
Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem and  
there found no room, so Jesus went from Galilee to  
Jerusalem and was despised and rejected.

In the poverty of a stable Jesus was born, so by the  
baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave  
birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and

death, and made with us a new covenant by water and  
the Spirit.

So on the night in which he was betrayed, Jesus took  
bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his  
disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is  
broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the  
same way when the supper was over he took the cup,  
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples and said: “Drink  
from this all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus  
Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a  
holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for  
us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

[singing] Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come  
again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these  
gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body  
and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the  
body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make  
us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry  
to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we  
feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus  
Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and  
glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

[singing] Amen. Amen. Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

(Please feel comfortable praying the words of your tradition.)

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.

THE SHARING OF LOAF AND CUP

COMMUNION MUSIC Angels We Have Heard on High

POST-COMMUNION HYMN No. 239 Silent Night, Holy Night  
STILLE NACHT

\* THE PASSING OF THE LIGHT Daniel Polito

\* Closing HYMN UMH No. 246 Joy to the World ANTIOCH

POSTLUDE Go Tell It On the Mountain arr. Mark Hayes

“May you pass the light of Christ wherever you may go.”

**THE ALTAR GREENERY** is given to the glory of God and in memory of Nelson K. Reid by June Reid and family.

**MEMBERS OF THE ALTAR GUILD** serving in December are Mary Ellen Cross, Marie Crissman, Beth Kelley, and Margaret Pardue.

**WE THANK** the following for their service during our worship service:

Acolyte: Chase Ward

**CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING**

This year's Christmas Eve offering will go toward the general budget and missions.

**DECEMBER FOOD LIST FOR BACKPACK MINISTRY**

In December, we are collecting the following items: canned meat, fruit bars, peanut butter in plastic jars (16 oz.), peanut butter crackers, and soup. Please deposit donations on the bottom shelf of the Donation Center located in the Reading Area.

**OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

The church office will be closed **December 24-26** for Christmas and **January 1 and 2** for New Year's Day. Merry Christmas and happy new year!

**2025 CONTRIBUTION DEADLINE**

A friendly reminder from the Church Office: in order for contributions to be included as a contribution towards your 2024 statement, please have mail postmarked or dropped at the church office **NO LATER THAN December 31**. All contributions received after December 31 will be applied to your 2025 statement.

Please note: when you provide a check as payment, you authorize us either to use information from your check to make a one-time electronic fund transfer from your account or to process the payment as a check transaction.

**FAITHFUL FAMILIES**

Parents/guardians of children and youth are invited to join Faithful Families, a Sunday School Group aiming to build Christian community that takes seriously going deeper in our relationships with God and one another. Starting **February 8**, Faithful Families will gather in Room 301 from 9:45 a.m.-10:45a.m. on Sunday mornings. Children are invited to join Children's Sunday School or Nursery on the 3rd floor, while youth (6th-12th grade) are invited to Room 303 as they build Christian community together. Contact Daniel Polito with any questions!

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS**

The following dates are available to place flowers in the Sanctuary in honor or in memory of a loved one: **January 4, 18, and 25 and February 1, 8, 15, and 22**. Please contact Linda Paul at 336-543-5081 or kldrose4717@gmail.com for details or to sign up.

**LIVE-STREAMING**

We are pleased to be able to live-stream our 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship services each week for the benefit of those who are not able to be physically present. For those who would prefer to not be on camera, we endeavor to make the back half of the sanctuary a non-video zone. If you have any questions about this service, please feel free to speak with Pastor Ray or Pastor Stephan.

# FRONT STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Our Mission:**

*Knowing Christ • Growing in Christ • Sharing Christ*



**Pastors**  
Rev. Ray Warren  
Rev. Marshall Old, Interim

**Discipleship Minister**  
Daniel Polito

**Children's Minister**  
Melissa Miller

**Worship and Family Minister**  
Josh Abraham

**Youth Minister**  
Chris Huneycutt

**Visitation Minister**  
Leslie B. Peavy

**Director of Music Ministry**  
Dr. Matt Estes

PO Box 2597 Burlington, NC 27216 Church Office: (336)-227-6263  
www.frontstreetumc.org

Follow Us

