

ANTHEM *CLIMB TO THE TOP OF THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN* **ARR. CAROLYN JENNINGS**
Youth Choir and Adult Ensemble

BLESSING OF THE CHRISMON TREES **JOHN BELL**

***SCRIPTURE LESSON** **MATTHEW 24:36-44**

SERMON *WATCH AND WAIT* **REV. JAY D. COOPER**

THE GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS **REV. JAY D. COOPER**

From the beginning of Christmas celebrations, gift giving has been a part of the season. The Wise Men gave out of their treasures, and the Shepherds gave of themselves. Both express the gift of God in giving Christ as the savior of the world. We invite you to bring forward your gifts for children in our community and place them under the Chrismon trees during the singing of the following carol.

***HYMN OF INVITATION** *I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT* **206**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND BLESSING** **REV. LUCAS S. TRIBBLE**
Dear Lord of us all, accept these gifts of decoration, and also our gifts of love and warmth and caring; and spread throughout all this wintry world the promise of recurring spring. **Amen.**

***POSTLUDE** *X. NOEL, GRAND JEU ET DUO* **LOUIS CLAUDE D'AQUIN**
**Please stand as you are able.*

The chancel arrangement is given to the glory of God by the Worship Committee and the Flower Guild for the month of December.

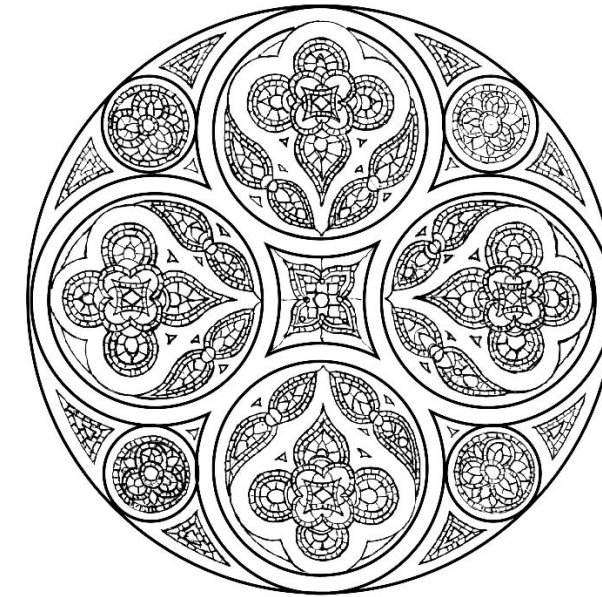
The wreath on the columbarium is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Joe F. Lassiter III by Clare and Bill Ward, Christine Lassiter, Emily Lassiter (Mary Jane and Camille), and Nancy and David Belser.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT FUMC MONTGOMERY!
We are delighted you are here!

If you would like to join our church family this morning, please come forward at the end of the service. For more information about joining, please contact Rev. Lucas Tribble at ltribble@fumcmontgomery.org.

LITURGICAL SEASON: ADVENT

The season of Advent starts the new Christian year. Advent is a season of four weeks, including four Sundays. Advent derives from the Latin word, adventus, which means "coming." The season proclaims the comings of Christ - whose birth we prepare to celebrate once again, who comes continually in Word and Spirit, and whose return in final victory we anticipate. Each year, Advent calls the community of faith to prepare for these comings, with each Sunday having a distinctive theme. The first Sunday of Advent focuses on Christ's coming in final victory. The liturgical color is purple.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

a Stephen Ministry Congregation

DECEMBER 1, 2019 HANGING OF THE GREENS

*Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world.*

Reverend Jay D. Cooper
Senior Minister

Reverend Lucas S. Tribble
Associate Minister

Reverend Gillian L. Walters
Associate Minister

Reverend G. Charles Kendall
Associate Minister

Reverend Ben A. McDavid
Associate Minister

Dr. C. Jason Borders
Theologian in Residence

Dr. Karl K. Stegall
Pastor Emeritus

Dr. James H. Seay
Director of Music

Bishop David W. Graves
Bishop Alabama-West Florida
Conference

Dr. Joshua H. Coble
Organist/Assistant Director of Music

Reverend Allen Newton
District Superintendent
Montgomery-Prattville District

THE HANGING OF THE GREENS

LITURGICAL COLOR: PURPLE

PRELUDE *O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL* MICHAEL BEDFORD

WELCOME AND PARISH NOTICES REV. JAY D. COOPER

This morning we begin the Season of Advent, a time of waiting and preparation, expectation and hope. Today we take one of the first steps in the preparation of our hearts and lives for the coming of the Christ Child. We will decorate our sanctuary, God's house, much as our ancestors have decorated their homes and places of worship for hundreds of years. Come, let us deck this sanctuary with the fragrant greens created by God's hand. Come, let us light candles in the expectation of the coming Light which has been given to us through the love of God.

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN *O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL* 211

*CALL TO WORSHIP DR. C. JASON BORDERS

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!**

*INVOCATION

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray together.

All: **Eternal God, in your providence you made all ages a preparation for the kingdom of your Son. Make ready our hearts for the brightness of your glory and the fullness of your blessing in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

ACT OF PRAISE (8:45) *THE BABY JESUS* MARIE POOLER

Joy Choir

Amber Andrews and Jayee Posee, Directors

Ruth Russell, Accompanist

COME AND SING WITH THE ANGELS PARADOWSKI/REEVES

Carol Choir

Hannah Thomas, Director

Jeanne Friesen, Accompanist

(11:00) *GOD'S GIFT TO US* GLENN AND SUSAN EERNISSE
IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER ARR. AUDREY SNYDER

Wesley and Agape Choirs

Sarah Fell, Director of Children's Choirs

Hannah Miller, Director

Rosemary Blackmon, Accompanist

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH (8:45) *THE CONNER FAMILY*
RICHARD, ASHLEY, MAMIE, PRUITT, AND LILLA
(11:00) *THE BERRY FAMILY*
AVERY AND KATE

RESPONSE *ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH* REFRAIN
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

CONCERNS OF A CARING FELLOWSHIP REV. GILLIAN L. WALTERS

PASTORAL AND LORD'S PRAYER REV. GILLIAN L. WALTERS
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. For ever. Amen.

OFFERTORY *O COME, EMMANUEL* ELAINE HAGENBERG
Adult Ensemble
Jan Gill, Cello

*PRESENTATION OF THE TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY VENI EMMANUEL
Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
praise Him, all creatures here below;
praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts;
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

INTRODUCTION TO THE HANGING OF THE GREENS

THE SANCTUARY EVERGREENS JOHN BELL

CAROL HYMN *COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS* 196

THE LIGHTING OF THE WINDOW CANDLES BRYNN MCGLAMERY, PASTORAL INTERN

ANTHEM *CAROL OF THE STAR* ARR. DONALD MOORE
Youth Choir
Meg Griffin, Director of Youth Choir

THE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA JOHN BELL

ANTHEM *LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING* MICHAEL PRAETORIUS
Adult Ensemble

THE CHRISMON TREES BRYNN MCGLAMERY, PASTORAL INTERN