



Peace in the Midst of a Blue Christmas

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2022

The congregation of Washington Street UMC praises and serves God from the heart of the city in ways that reach our neighbors near and far. We welcome and affirm all who seek the love and mercy of Christ regardless of race, creed, age, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or economic status. We honor traditions as rooted in our history, our expression of worship, and our respect for theological curiosity. We nonetheless see vital change and ongoing renewal as essential for spiritual growth.



WASHINGTON
STREET

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PROUD MEMBER OF



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

WASHINGTON STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 4, 2022 | 2nd Sunday of Advent | Purple or Blue

(As our worship begins, please silence any electronic devices.

Portable hearing devices are available in the Narthex. Please ask an usher for assistance.)

PRELUDE

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In this season of bumper to bumper stress, with life more crowded than the stores,

All: God welcomes us to a feast of faithfulness, where we may sit in peace and gentleness.

One: In these times of rancorous rants and snide remarks, with people too busy to offer words of compassion,

All: Jesus whispers words of hope for broken hearts, and sings carols of justice for all the outsiders.

One: In these days of more and more time spent with devices, and fewer moments with those who could touch us with joy, the Spirit embraces us with peace and loves us with a passion beyond simple tweets and posts.

All: With thanksgiving and open hearts to receive God's gifts of peace and comfort, let us worship God with our prayers and songs of praise. Amen.

*HYMN #216

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN ROS

Words: Sts. 1-2, 15 cent. German; trans. by Theodore Baker, 1894;

st. 3 from *The Hymnal*, 1940 (Is. 35:1-2)

Music: *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599; harm. by Michael Praetorius, 1609

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Lisa & Vickie Voegli

OFFERTORY

I wonder as I wander

arr. John Jacob Niles

Soloist: Cody Lidge

(Giving is easy! Place your gift in the offering plate; text the word "CONNECTIONS" to the number 73256; donate through Realm Connect; visit us online at wsmethodist.org/giving; mail a check to WSUMC, 1401 Washington St., Columbia, SC 29201; or scan the QR code on the back of the bulletin.)

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

Dane Waund

(After the Children's Moments, children 2 yrs. to first grade may be dismissed to Children's Church.)

ANTHEM

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

arr. Jill Friedersdorf &
Melissa Malvar-Keylock

*DOXOLOGY #95

OLD 100th

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674

Music: Attr. to Louis Bourgeois, 1551

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 40:28-31

HOMILY

"Peace in the Midst of a Blue Christmas

Rev. Becky Shirley

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Let us pray: Dear God of Christmas Peace, we give you thanks that your love never ends.

All: We are thirsty for your grace. You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our foolishness, we go astray. We hide our eyes from your presence. We do not listen to your word. We are lifeless when we ought to dance and speechless when we ought to sing. Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace to our fearful hearts, strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees as we seek to follow in your holy way.

One: Hear now our silent words of confession:

(silence is kept)

One: We give you thanks O God that you have heard our prayers of confession. Help us now to receive your gift of forgiveness and peace as we pray to you for one another in our need, for all everywhere who mourn

this day, this season, this year. Comfort us in our suffering and make us whole. Where there is loneliness, surround us with your love; where there is pain and suffering, grant your peace; where there is darkness, shine your light of joy; where we are lost, offer hope. In the name of the Prince of Peace, we offer this prayer. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PARDON

One: Hear the Good News, In the Name of Jesus Christ, You are Forgiven.

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, You are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: Let us pray: It is right, and a good and joyful thing,...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

All: Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

One: We give thanks to you, O God, ... 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.

All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

One: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, ...all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

One: And now, with the confidence that we are the children of God, let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught us to pray: **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.**

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

We will be participating in continuous communion today with the ushers directing the congregation to the chancel area to receive communion. After you have received the elements, you are invited to either kneel at the chancel rail in prayer as long as you would like or you may simply return to your pew to engage in silent prayer and reflection.

*HYMN #247

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

WIE SCHON LEUCHTET
DER MORGENSTERN

Words: Phillip Nicolai, 1599; trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863;
trans. st. 3 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978

Music: Phillip Nicolai 1599, harm. by J. S. Bach, ca. 1731

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

**Congregation standing. If standing is uncomfortable, please remain seated and continue your participation.
When our worship ends, our service begins!*

Reverend Becky J. Shirley
Senior Pastor
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Reverend Alston Lippert
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Louis Shirer
Organist
louis@wsmethodist.org

Rick Frierson
Pianist

PRAYER THOUGHT

This Christmas, we ask God to hear us, heal us, help us and be born anew in us.

PRAYER LIST

Betsy Alexander
Martha Boynton
David Byrum
Laura Collins
Dr. Walter Dean
Mickey Epting

Pat Griffin
Rev. Paul Harmon
Karen Horne
Lisa Johnson
Debby Joyner
Martha Helen King

Mike LeFever
Paul McClanahan
David Middleton
Shawn Powers
Genie & Ron Quinn
Rick Rowe

Sarah Threatt
Edee Vaughan
Paula Walters
Nancy Williams
Our homebound

IN SYMPATHY

Rev. Becky Shirley joins the entire staff and Washington Street Church family in expressing our deepest sympathy and Christian love to Janelle Beamer and family on the passing of her father, Bob Beamer, on Monday, November 28. Also to Sally Christian and family in the death of her husband, James "Yoder" Christian, on Monday, Nov. 28, 2022.

SERVING TODAY

Director of Music	Nicholas Todd Shumate
Piano	Dr. Rick Frierson
Ushers	Tommy Betenbaugh, Alan-Jon Zupan
Acolyte	Alma Louise Aravena
Sound/Video	Spencer Stevens/Keth Murphy
Visitor Cards	Suzanne Joye
Pew Maintenance	Jammie Watters
Nursery	McKenzie Powers/Molly Grochoski
Online Service Moderator	Ed McClain

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

(YTD as of 12-1-22):

Church Budget: \$865,000

Church Actual	\$519,109
Soup Cellar	\$67,224
Foundation	\$23,910

SCAN TO GIVE



Attendance on 11/27/22: 115 (in-person); 156 (online as of 12/1/22); TOTAL = 271

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