

# deck THE halls

WITH

# Love

**December 24, 2023**



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.

PROUD MEMBER OF





WASHINGTON STREET  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## WASHINGTON STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4th Sunday of Advent | Dec. 24, 2023 | White

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

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

PRELUDE

*My Soul doth Magnify the Lord*

J.S. Bach

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

*Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light*

Bach

\*HYMN #250

*Once in Royal David's City*

IRBY

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR CHRISTMAS

*Adapted from the poem First Coming by Madeleine L'Engle.*

One: Christians, what do you believe?

**All: God did not wait till the world was ready, till nations were at peace. God came when the Heavens were unsteady and prisoners cried out for release.**

**God did not wait for the perfect time. God came when the need was deep and great.**

**God dined with sinners in all their grime, turned water into wine.**

**God did not wait till hearts were pure. In joy God came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt. To a world like ours, of anguished shame, God came and God's Light would not go out.**

**God came to a world which did not mesh; to heal its tangles, shield its scorn. In the the mystery of the Word made Flesh, the Maker of the stars was born.**

**We cannot wait till the world is sane to raise our songs with joyful voice, for to share our grief, to touch our pain, God came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!**

GLORIA PATRI #70

MEINEKE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Rev. Jim and Lois Ann Tuell

*Tomorrow, Christ Will Come*

Fred Kaan

Guitarist/Soloist: Jim Tuell

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

Rev. Becky Shirley

*(After Children's Moments, children 5 and under may go with the class leader to the 2-3's classroom located on the first floor past the elevator on the left. They may be picked up there, or they will be escorted back to the sanctuary prior to the benediction.)*

ANTHEM

*This Christmastide*

Donald Fraser

## PASTORAL PRAYER

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

### OFFERTORY

*Welcome to Our World*

Soloist: Pato Aravena

Tears are falling, hearts are breaking; How we need to hear from God.

You've been promised, we've been waiting; Welcome Holy Child  
Hope that You don't mind our manger; How I wish we could have known.

But long-awaited Holy Stranger; Make Yourself at home.

Bring Your peace into our violence; Bid our hungry souls be filled

Word now breaking Heaven's silence; Welcome to our world.

Fragile finger sent to heal us; Tender brow prepared for thorn;

Tiny heart whose blood will save us; Unto us is born.

So wrap our injured flesh around You; Breathe our air and walk our sod.

Rob our sins and make us holy; Perfect Son of God.

Welcome to our world.

*(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](http://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.)*

### \*DOXOLOGY

### THE FIRST NOEL

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Noel, noel, noel, noel!

Born is the King of Israel.

### \*HYMN #224

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

### IN DULCI JUBILO

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

### SERMON

"Deck the Halls with Love"

Rev. Becky Shirley

Part Three: Deck the Hall: Decorating Our Life with What Matters

### \*HYMN #218

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

### CAROL

### RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

### \*BENEDICTION

### \*CHORAL RESPONSE

### \*POSTLUDE

*Lord God, Now Be Glorified*

J.S. Bach

*\*Congregation standing. If standing is uncomfortable, please remain seated and continue your participation.*

*When our worship ends, our service begins!*

<b>Reverend Becky J. Shirley</b> Senior Pastor rjshirley@umcsc.org	<b>Felicia Yockel</b> Director of Child Development Center felicia@wsmethodist.org	<b>Jammie Watters</b> Administrative Assistant jammie@wsmethodist.org
<b>Reverend Alston Lippert</b> Associate Pastor for Nurture & Discipleship Development aflipper@umcsc.org	<b>Robbie Douglas</b> Business Manager rdouglas@wsmethodist.org	<b>Terrence Chisolm</b> Soup Cellar Manager tee_chisolm@yahoo.com
<b>Sarah-Kate Gravely</b> Director of Children & Youth Ministries sarahkate@wsmethodist.org	<b>Jane Peterson</b> Director of Communications jane@wsmethodist.org	<b>Louis Shirer</b> Organist louis@wsmethodist.org
<b>Catherine Nance</b> Director of Music catherine@wsmethodist.org	<b>Jerry Sumpter</b> Director of Maintenance jerry@wsmethodist.org	<b>Rick Frierson</b> Pianist

**PRAYER THOUGHT**

For unto us a child is born. Unto us a Son is given.

**PRAYER LIST**

Betsy Alexander	Nancy Epting	Lisa Johnson	Shawn Powers
Karen Basso	Carl Evans	Jean Kanes	Genie & Ron Quinn
Ann Bell	Pat Griffin	Martha Helen King	Tara Spires
Mickey Bell	Betsy Halloren	Beverly McClanahan	Peggy Ward
Ron Bowden	Rev. Paul Harmon	Paul McClanahan	Nancy Williams
Mickey Epting	Karen Horne	Sharon McCullough	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 the family of Mary Sutherland who died Friday, December 14, 2023.

**TODAY’S BAPTISM**

Today we celebrate the baptism of Scarlett Jane Hall, daughter of Stewart and Jessica Hall, and sister of Ellis and Vivian.

**SERVING TODAY**

Director of Music	Catherine Nance
Organ	Louis Shirer
Piano	Rick Frierson
Acolyte	Rosemary Aravena
Ushers	Tommy Betenbaugh, Alan-Jon Zupan
Greeter	Ute Wachsmann-Linnan, Jim Lane
Children’s Moment	Rev. Becky Shirley
Sound/Video/Projection	Jackson Grant, Lynn Shirley
Visitor Cards	Suzanne Joye
Pew Maintenance	Jammie Watters
Children’s Church	Sarah-Kate Gravely
Nursery	McKenzie Powers, Olivia Rowland
Online Moderator	Ed McClain

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

<b><u>As of 12-19-23</u></b>	
<b><u>Church Budget: \$866,231</u></b>	
Church Actual	\$ 727,928
Soup Cellar	\$ 70,262
Foundation	\$ 14,619



**SCAN TO  
GIVE**