



deck THE *halls*

WITH

Hope

DECEMBER 3, 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

1st Sunday of Advent | December 3, 2023 | 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

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland

J.S. Bach

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

Prepare Ye
Solo: Pato Aravena

Mark Robinson

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Let's deck the halls with hope of the coming King!

**All: We have come to worship believing that in this world's places and spaces of darkness,
Jesus promises to be our light.**

One: Even in times of uncertainty, we can witness God at work among us.

All: Let's deck the halls with hope!

*HYMN #206

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

HOUSTON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(moment of silent confessions)

One: Holy One, we give you thanks that you have heard our silent confessions and that you hear us now as we pray together:

All: Lord, we welcome you each and every time we come into this place. But we pray that today, more than ever before, our hearts will be open to your coming into our homes, our places of work, and our relationships to illumine every area of life with the light of your presence. We confess, Gracious God, that we have not always turned to you for guidance. So, today, we ask you to forgive us for allowing the world's fears to become our fears. Forgive us for our sins of hurriedness and impatience. Help us to see and trust in the light of hope and guidance you offer to us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

One: Hear the Good News, in the Name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

All: Glory to God. Amen.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING (TFWS) #2090 Verse 1

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

Beth Matthews

(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.)

OFFERTORY

Mary, Did You Know?

Mark Lowry

Solo: Emily Schlegel

(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.)

*DOXOLOGY #95

OLD 100th

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

HOMILY

Deck the Halls with Hope

Rev. Becky Shirley

Part One: Deck the Halls: Decorating Our Life with What Matters

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR ADVENT

THE GIVING AND RECEIVING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

*COMMUNION ANTHEM

The Yearning

Craig Courtney

There is a yearning in hearts weighed down by ancient grief and centuries of sorrow. There is a yearning in hearts that in the darkness hide and in the shades of death abide, a yearning for tomorrow. There is a yearning, a yearning for the promised One, the Firstborn of creation. There is a yearning for the Lord who visited His own, and by His death for sin atoned, to bring to us salvation. Emmanuel, Emmanuel within our hearts, the yearning. There is a yearning that fills the hearts of those who wait the day of His appearing. There is a yearning when all our sorrows are erased and we shall see the One who placed within our hearts the yearning. Emmanuel, Emmanuel within our hearts, the yearning

*HYMN: #196

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Improvisation

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

Reverend Becky J. Shirley
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Louis Shirer
Organist
louis@wsmethodist.org

Rick Frierson
Pianist

PRAYER THOUGHT

Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son. His name shall be called Emmanuel...God with us.

PRAYER LIST

Betsy Alexander	Nancy Epting	Jean Kanes	Genie & Ron Quinn
Karen Basso	Pat Griffin	Martha Helen King	Peggy Ward
Ann Bell	Betsy Halloren	Beverly McClanahan	Nancy Williams
Mickey Bell	Rev. Paul Harmon	Paul McClanahan	Our homebound
David Byrum	Karen Horne	Sharon McCullough	
Mickey Epting	Lisa Johnson	Shawn Powers	

ALTER FLOWERS

The large poinsettias in the sanctuary today are given to the honor and glory of God and in loving memory of George Markert.

SERVING TODAY

Director of Music	Catherine Nance
Organ	Louis Shirer
Piano	Rick Frierson
Acolyte	Rosemary Aravena
Ushers	Tommy Betenbaugh, Alan-Jon Zupan
Greeters	Shelley Stafford, Thomas Berry
Children's Moments	Beth Matthews
Sound/Video/Projection	Lynn Shirley,
	Grant Jackson
Visitor Cards	Suzanne Joye
Pew Maintenance	Jammie Watters
Children's Church	Heidi Ankey, Mary Lide
Nursery	McKenzie Powers, Olivia Rowland
Online Moderator	Ed McClain

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

As of 11-29-23

Church Budget: \$866,231

Church Actual	\$ 665,221
Soup Cellar	\$ 60,060
Foundation	\$ 14,594



Attendance on 11/26/23: 136 (in-person); 151 (online as of 12/1/23); TOTAL = 287

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