



# *First United Methodist Church*

200 W. Lampkin Street  
Starkville, Mississippi  
[www.first-umc.com](http://www.first-umc.com)

December 4, 2022

On this second Sunday of Advent, we eagerly welcome all who have joined with us in anticipation of the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ. May this time of worship be encouraging and inspirational to all.

## **The Plant of Peace**

For most of us the mention of mistletoe probably brings kissing to mind. But that practice wasn't the first involving mistletoe.

Two thousand years before Christ, the ancient Celtic people living in Gaul considered mistletoe to be sacred and medicinal. Druids, the priests of the Celtic tribes, used it in religious ceremonies held in tree groves where mistletoe was found.

In ancient Scandinavia, enemies, who met by chance beneath mistletoe, laid down their weapons and held a truce until the next day. This practice eventually led to the tradition of kissing under the mistletoe, the "plant of peace."

The use of mistletoe has continued throughout the centuries during the Christmas season as a decoration and as a symbol of fun and joy. But its early religious roots and peacemaking qualities are even more significant.

**OUR SERVICE OF WORSHIP**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**  
**The Message of Peace**

Gathering      *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*      arr. Wagner

Chiming of the Trinity

Welcome

Prelude              *Fum, Fum, Fum*              arr. Nicholas Hanson

\*Opening Advent Carol #206    *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

Lighting of the Advent Candle - Peace

8:40 Mann, Mandy, Piper, & Sawyer Conrad & Tina Trac

11:00 Jonathan, Hayley, Paige & Eleanor Box

Advent Reading

The Lord's Highway

Isaiah 35:4-8a

Sung Response              *Hope, Peace, Joy and Love*              Baugh

**Hope, Peace, Joy and Love! These are gifts You bring from above. Jesus, Emmanuel, come to be light of Your hope, reflected in me.**

\*Greeting

A Time Mostly for Children

Instrumental Reflection    *The Blessed Angels Sing*    Helman

Morning Prayer / The Lord's Prayer

Advent Carol of Reflection #209    *Blessed Be the God of Israel*

Offertory Prayer

Offertory              *Huron Carol*              arr. Chris Morrison

\*Advent Doxology    *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

**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.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Gospel Lesson                      Matthew 11:2-15

Sermon                                Are You the One?

\*Advent Hymn of Response

*O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*                      ANTIOCH

**O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's  
praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of  
His grace, the triumphs of His grace, the triumphs, tri-  
umphs of His grace!**

**Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sor-  
rows cease; 'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and  
health, and peace, 'tis life, and health, and peace, 'tis life,  
'tis life, and health, and peace.**

**Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb, your loosened  
tongues employ; ye blind, behold your Savior come, and  
leap, ye lame, for joy, and leap, ye lame, for joy, and leap,  
and leap, ye lame for joy.**

**Glory to God, and praise and love be ever, ever given, by  
saints below and saints above, the church in earth and  
heaven, the church in earth and heaven, the church, the  
church in earth and heaven.**

\*Benediction

\*Postlude                      *Carol of the Bells*                      arr. Charles Evans

## **LEADING IN WORSHIP**

*Pastor: Jim Genesse, Charlie Harper*

*Assisting: Joey Wilkinson, Genny Fischer*

*Musicians: Michaelle Harrison, Handbell Choir  
Brass Ensemble*

*Acolytes: 8:40 Audrey King, Patton LaFleur*

*11:00 Wilkes Tagert, Lilly Thach*

**11:00 WORSHIP AT CONNECTION 12/4**  
**Rev. Charlie Harper**  
**Genesis 32:22-24, 28**  
**“Roots: Jesus Comes to Us from a People”**

**Connection: Contemporary worship in Connection building, 101 W. Lampkin St.**

Join us for our **Soup & Salad Fellowship Lunch** immediately following worship on **Sunday, Dec. 4th at noon.**

**BEAUTIFUL WORSHIP EXPERIENCES  
DURING ADVENT**

**Advent 2 - Sunday, December 4 PEACE**  
Handbell Choir and Brass Ensemble

**Advent 3 - Sunday, December 11 JOY**  
Chancel Choir and Guest String Musicians  
EMMANUEL Joy Has Dawned

**Advent 4 - Sunday, December 18 LOVE**  
Ladies' and Men's Ensembles

**Christmas Eve - Saturday, December 24**  
**4:00 and 6:00 p.m.**

Michaëlle Harrison, Brass, and Special Soloists  
Carols, Candlelight and Communion

**Christmas Day - Sunday, December 25**  
Grand and Glorious Christmas Carols  
Michaëlle Harrison

**\*Please note that the worship services on Christmas Day and also on January 1 will be at 11:00 only. There will be no Sunday School or other activities on these days. Connection will not meet these days.**

### **CANDLETREE GIFTS**

Our Candletree is now up in the fellowship hall loaded with “candles” containing needs and wishes for our adopted families this Christmas. Feel free to take one or more as you desire to purchase these gifts. We ask that you return your gift wrapped with the candle attached so that we will know the family the gift goes to. Gifts need to be purchased and returned to the church by **next Sunday, December 11. Don't lose that candle!** It is the only way we have of matching the gift with the person it goes to.

In addition to these gifts, families receive a generous food box to make their Christmas complete. Thank you so much for your help in making the holidays brighter for these families.

### **LIGHTS OF LOVE**

We will once again sponsor the Lights of Love to benefit the MSU Wesley Foundation. For a donation of \$10, you may purchase a light in honor or in memory of someone special to you. A card will be mailed to your designee informing them of your gift. Please look for the blue forms on the foyer tables or on the chest outside the church office to place your orders. Thanks!

The **Starkville Christmas Parade** will be rebroadcast on WOBV Channel 5 every Tuesday evening at 8:00 p.m. through New Year's Day. Thanks for tuning in.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Tuesday, December 13, 5:30 p.m.**

## **Starkville First College Ministry**

**Sunday School** for College students meets every Sunday morning at 10 am at Connection: 101 W. Lampkin St.

Our College Life Group that meets on Sunday nights will resume after the first of the year.

**Exam Slam:** Join us at our Connection building to study for your exams. Free food, wifi and plenty of coffee are provided. **Dec. 1-5 from 10am-10pm (1pm-10pm on Sunday Dec. 4)** Connection is located at 101 W. Lampkin Street

### **OUR SYMPATHY**

Our love and prayers are extended to Richard & Diane Hewlett in the death of their son, **Webb Hewlett**; and

To Van Miles and family in the death of his father, **Mr. Billy Miles** of Verona.

### **HOLIDAY CLOSINGS FOR CHURCH OFFICE**

Friday, December 23; Monday, December 26;  
Friday, December 30; Monday, January 2

### **HEADS UP ON GIVING**

Just a note to remind you if you want your giving to be credited to 2022, please have your gifts in to the church office by Friday, December 30. Anything received after that date will be credited to 2023.

Thank you for your faithfulness in giving and also for your gifts above and beyond for the “extra” programs we support in our church and community. You’re the best!