

ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Sunday in Advent
December 2, 2018

Gathering

As the congregation gathers, please take a moment to speak to people sitting around you whom you may not know. Hebrews 13:2 (KJV) says, "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers; for thereby some have entertained angels unaware."

Prelude

Holly Slice, pianist

As the prelude begins let us turn our thoughts and hearts to God in prayer and preparation for worship.

Welcome to Worship

Greeting

*Opening Hymn

UM Hymnal No. 211

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Special Music During the Living Christmas Story Presentation

Joy Has Dawned

by Keith and Kristyn Getty

Invitation to Communion

Prayer of Confession (pray in unison)

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pardon

Minister: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: *In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!*

All: *Glory to God. Amen*

The Offertory

*Presentation of Tithes, Gifts & Offerings

*Doxology

UM Hymnal No. 95

The Scripture Lesson

Mark 13:24-37

Minister: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon "Jesus Through the Centuries"

Dr. Jo Locklair

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(Congregation, please follow along in your hymnal on page 13)

Breaking of the Bread and Taking of the Cup

The Giving

(The ushers will direct the congregation to the table.)

Prayer after Receiving

*Hymn of Dedication

UM Hymnal No. 196

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

*Benediction

*Postlude

* Please stand

Announcements

The Living Christmas Story

The Living Christmas Story will be held Dec. 6 from 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Dec. 7 from 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. and Dec. 8 from 6:30 p.m.-8:30 pm. Volunteers are still needed for set-up, food, traffic, security, props and of course, casting and final clean up. Please prayerfully consider signing up in one or more areas.

Advent Worship Services and Wednesday Night Activities

Each Wednesday during Advent a worship service will be held at 6:15 p.m. in Spell Chapel.

On Dec. 5, Communion will be held at The Living Christmas Story manger at the conclusion of worship. Please bring a flashlight or cellphone for the walk as it is dark. BNOW will be holding children's classes and a meal WILL be served. The dinner for this night will be soup and sandwiches donated by the Living Christmas Story volunteers. There will also be the LCS rehearsal and walk-through prior to worship.

Bethany Happy Hearts Games Day- December 7

Bring a lunch and beverage, so we can eat together before we begin playing games. We play several different games and have FUN! Everyone that enjoys playing card or board games is welcome to join us. If you have questions, please call Bob or Bethann Erwin at 843.291.2892 or 843.291.1666. Since the Living Christmas Story Set will be up on this day, please come into the church through the door in front of the church next to the church office.

Bethany Angel Tree

Bethany Local Missions Angel Tree is now on stage in the Fellowship Hall. We hope you will find it in your hearts to make a needy child's Christmas wishes come true by taking an angel from the tree. Be sure to put your name and phone number by the angel's number in the log book located on the table by the tree. Please wrap the gifts and place them together in a large bag with the angel's tag attached so we can get them to the right child. Gifts must be returned by Dec. 9. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Festival of Carols Dec. 16

Our second annual Festival of Carols on Sunday, Dec. 16 at 4 p.m. will feature all of the Bethany music ensembles joining together to celebrate Christ's birth. All of the selections will be interspersed with scripture read by members of the Bethany Music Ministry and members of the Bethany staff and clergy. In addition, selected hymns will be sung by everyone. We hope you will join us for this wonderfully festive concert.



Bethany United Methodist Church Spell Chapel ~ 8 o'clock a.m.

118 West 3rd South Street, Summerville, SC 29483

www.bethany-umc.com

843-873-1230

