

ORDER OF SERVICE

**Please rise in spirit and/or in body, as you are able.*

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES/RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP/OFFERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

OFFERING/OFFERTORY MUSIC

*PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS

DOXOLOGY - UMH 95

GREETING

In the Advent season, we recall God’s entering history as one of us in his Son, Jesus Christ. We prepare our hearts so that God will find room and expression in our lives. As we proceed through the Advent season, we pray for the day when every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. During Advent, we look toward the fulfillment of God’s love for all people. Through many generations we have had reminders of Jesus’ birth in the beautiful symbols of music, customs, and traditions, so that we will not forget what our God has done. In the Hanging of the Greens, we share with Christians through the ages the memory and anticipation of Christ’s coming. We festively decorate the sanctuary with symbols of hope, love, joy, and peace. We tell the story again as we proclaim, “God is with us. Jesus Christ is born.”

*CALL TO WORSHIP

BOW

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the King?

With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the eternal Christ?

With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, evergreen.

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of our Savior?

With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of his passion, death, and resurrection.

How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Son of God?

By hearing again the words of the prophets, who foretold the saving work of God.

For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.

Glory to God in the highest!

*HYMN – No. 234 (vs 1 & 2) *O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL*
Advent wreath brought in during hymn.

HISTORY OF THE ADVENT WREATH

For most churchgoers, the most characteristic symbol of the Advent season may well be the Advent Wreath. Four candles encircle a central Christ candle. The candles signify God’s Son as the light of the world. There are four candles for the four weeks of Advent. Each Sunday in Advent, we light the candles from the preceding week, along with a new one. The central candle, the Christ candle, is the last to be lit symbolizing the birth of Jesus. The Advent Wreath, with increasing brightness from the candles, witnesses to the light that cannot be put out!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

As this season of “sparkle and bright” unfolds before us, the glimmering promises of hope lie like boxed jewels awaiting an adoring light. May we hold fast to hope’s patient possibilities. May we lift them high that they might catch the light of our dreams and shine bright in our broken world. And may we instill hope’s challenge in the hearts of our children; that they, too, will live it into meaning - pouring their lives, as we do ours, into making it real – for themselves, for each other, for the world. May Hope light the world this Christmas.

ACT OF PRAISE – TFWS No. 2090 (vs 1)

ADVENT SONG

THE PARAMENTS AND BANNERS

The angel says to Mary in the Gospel of Luke, “Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” During the season after Pentecost, often called Ordinary Time, the paraments on the lectern, pulpit, and communion table are green. The paraments we place during Advent are purple – a color truly fit for a king. Purple is the ancient color of royalty, a reminder that the descendent of David whose birth we prepare to celebrate is the one who left his eternal throne to take his place among us, a royal ambassador, so that we might be welcomed at last, as those who have been made members of the Royal Family, into the grand home he has prepared for us. The banners we place during Advent also serve as powerful symbols of the God who comes among us. Through Jesus Christ, the way is open!

HYMN – No. 196

COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

Altar paraments and banners are hung during the hymn

THE EVERGREENS

From the Prophet Isaiah, “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to provide for those who mourn in Zion – to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called the oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.” The greens tie it all together well. Evergreens have long been considered symbols of eternity, a sign of God’s everlasting nature, and an indication that the faithful will experience eternal life in communion with God in Jesus Christ. The evergreen branches testify to the continuation of life. Bending the branches so that the ends touch to form a circle further symbolizes life without end. What a powerful reminder of God’s abiding love we have in evergreens and wreaths.

HYMN – No. 218 (vs 1&4) *IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR*

Greenery will be hung around the Sanctuary

THE POINSETTIAS

The prophet Isaiah speaks of the desert rejoicing and blossoming. Whenever flowers bloom in the desert, it is something to be noticed, a reminder of the goodness and presence of God, even in dry places. But what caught Moses’ attention in the desert was even more striking. It was flame red, and made him go for a closer look – the Burning Bush. Poinsettias in the church can serve that same function. The red in “Christmas red and green” is a solemn reminder of the blood of Christ. May the poinsettias serve to assure us – as did the burning bush for Moses – of the presence of the Lord.

HYMN – No. 230 (vs 1, 2, 4) *O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM*

Poinsettias will be placed around the Chancel during the hymn

THE NATIVITY

In the Gospel of Matthew, we are invited to see and hear the good news! “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” Week by week, with candles and colors, with prayers and preparations, the Advent season moves us toward the joyful celebration of Christmas, God with us! The figures of the manger scene can keep reminding us just how very close God was and is through Jesus Christ. Here commoners and kings may kneel together, in the circle of family, and even animals nudge to find their place. It’s so very real – what we celebrate brings us all together, no matter who we are.

HYMN – No. 246

JOY TO THE WORLD

*Children are invited to come forward
and help set the Nativity during the hymn.*

THE CHRISTMAS TREE ADORNED

The Christmas Tree is the last symbol we prepare today. As the largest of decorations, it’s hard to miss, and therefore the Christmas tree’s message is hard to miss as well! There is no question what time of year this is, what we are preparing to celebrate, when we decorate the tree. The Bible uses a picture much like this to describe the coming of Christ, that “he shall stand as an ensign for the peoples” – a sign so obvious that it can’t be missed. The cross of Christ has become such a sign, as well. Even when no words are spoken, its message of forgiveness and love towers over everything else. The Christmas tree is a wonderful sign of God’s love and faithfulness.

**All are invited to come forward
to hang an ornament on the tree*

Lighting of the Tree

*HYMN – No. 239

SILENT NIGHT

PASTOR RICK, HOLY COMMUNION

*TAKING CHRIST’S LIGHT TO THE WORLD

OUR COMMUNITY PRAYS FOR:

Tom Mayo, Jonathan Scott, Danny Hurt, Chuck Elston, Joann Bright, James Jackson, Betty Maynard, Cole Floyd, Judy Petitt, Terry Zapp-Miller, Martha Wall, Reese Durham, our country, election, Tim Lemaster

Grieving families of: Mary Eunice Durham

Those who are homebound or in care facilities: Laura Jane Anderson, Bill Noble, Sylvia Shellenbarger, Betty Jo Elliot, Erwin Gaines, Jim Dodson

Young persons who need prayer: Adam Harris, Lia Nesbitt, Everett Harrington, Easton Buker

Those who serve our nation: Aaron Hill, Jay Johnson, Mikale Gardner, Kyle Voss, Ryan Morin, Michael Morin, Terry Phelps, Joshua Morin

Announcements: The Chamber and Community Choirs will be performing on December 8th at 7:15. The Children’s Choir will perform on the same date at 6:00. Both performances will be at Dickson First UMC. We have several church members performing.

Heart to Heart Ladies Group is having an ornament exchange on December 11th at 4:00 at the home of Casey Mahoney. Bring a wrapped ornament and a finger food.

For those who wish to place a poinsettia on the altar at Christmas in memory or honor of a loved one, please see Mary West for a form. The cost of each poinsettia is \$20. Proceeds will go to our scholarship fund.

DEC 7, Daily Audio Bible, 10-11:00 a.m. at CFCC Fellowship Hall (Every WED)

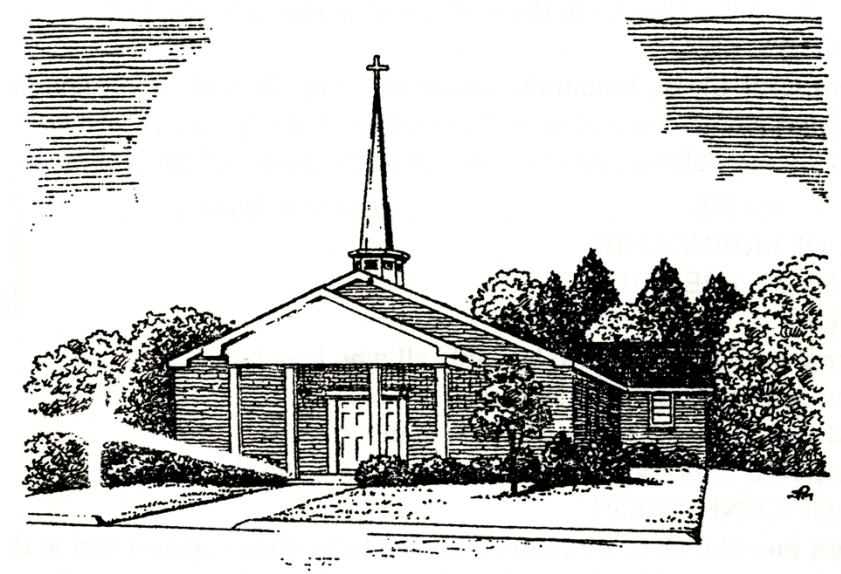
DEC 7, Intercessory Prayer, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at CFCC Sanctuary (Every WED)

DEC 11, Combined Choir Christmas Cantata, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. at CFCC Sanctuary

DEC 18, Combined Choir Christmas Cantata, 7 p.m. at Martha’s Chapel UMC Sanctuary

DEC 24, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 6 p.m. at CFCC Sanctuary

DEC 25, Christmas Day Service, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. at CFCC Sanctuary



November 27, 2022



**CHARLOTTE FAGAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH**

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*The mission of Charlotte-Fagan UMC is to gather in faith,
grow in fellowship and go into the world to make disciples
for Jesus Christ and the transformation of the world.*