



May Memorial Baptist Church

December 22, 2019
The Fourth Sunday
of Advent

*This is the House of God,
All Are Welcome!*

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS TO WORSHIP

Welcome and Announcements

Michael Edwards

Prelude

Carols of Gathering

Adult Choir

arr. Joseph M. Martin

* Carol of Praise No. 108

How Great Our Joy

JUENGST

Traditional German Melody

* Invocation

Ashley Edwards

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Love

Beverley, Michael, Anna, Laura,
and Sophie Edwards

Reading

Congregational Carol

O, Come, O Come, Emmanuel (St. 4)

(The Candle is Lit as congregation sings)

VENI EMMANUEL

John Mason Neale

*O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell your people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

Congregational Prayer

Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season. As these candles are lit, light our lives with your imagination. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Magnify your love within us. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

THE COMMUNITY PROCLAIMS AND HEARS GOD'S WORD

The Messenger of the Ancients

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Ashley Edwards

Adult Choir

Children's Sermon

Ashley Edwards

Children are invited to move to the front of the sanctuary as all sing Hymn No. 344

Jesus Loves Me. After the *Doxology*, children ages 3 through Kindergarten who remained in worship with their families may exit for Extended Session.

The Messenger of Promise

Bethlehem Promise, Bethlehem Joy

Mike Koelzer

Adult Choir

Pastoral Prayer (ending with the Lord's Prayer)

Michael Edwards

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 that 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.

The Messenger of Favor

Rejoice, All Ye Daughters

Ashley Edwards

Adult Choir

Worship in Stewardship

Offertory Prayer

Constance Deal

The Messenger of Salvation

Mike Koelzer

All on a Starry Night

Adult Choir

* Doxology No. 253

OLD 100TH (altered)

The Messengers of Praise

Ashley Edwards

Glory and Wonder

Adult Choir

The Messengers of Joy

Mike Koelzer

Saw You Never, in the Twilight

Adult Choir

Les Miller, solo

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO GOD'S WORD

The Messengers of Witness
The Wonder of Christmas

Ashley Edwards
Adult Choir

Diana Schmitz, solo

The Messengers to the World
O Holy Night

Mike Koelzer
Congregation & Adult Choir

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining.

It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.

Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees. O hear the angel voices.

O night divine, O night when Christ was born.

O night divine, O night, O night divine.

* Congregational Response

Light Dawns on a Weary World

TEMPLE OF PEACE
William Rowan

1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -

see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a

wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.

Refrain
The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan. Text: Mary Louise Bringle, admin.
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* Congregational Benediction (see screens)

Michael Edwards

Postlude

Carol Williams

MAY MEMORIAL BAPTIST ADULT CHOIR

Sopranos

Judy Boelt
Lynne Bradbury
Gwen Hagen
Vicki Kruschwitz
Diane Miller
Karen Utt

Altos

Juli Garrett
Amy Karnolt
Diana Schmitz
Sandy Shelton

Tenors

Gabe Cosby
Billy Kruschwitz
Bob Kruschwitz
Ed Utt

Basses

Doug Bradbury
Bill Karnolt
Les Miller
Steve Shaw

Announcements:

Agape Feast at the Potters - While being a student at Wake Forest College in Winston Salem, N.C., I learned of the Moravian Agape Feast or Love Feast. The Moravians had settled in 1753 in Salem, N.C. as a religious community. One of their Christmas traditions was this occasion, based on the Agape Feast of the early church. It was a time of fellowship for the Christian believer. The love feast sought to strengthen the bonds and spirit of harmony, goodwill, and congeniality of the members, as well as a time to forgive disputes and discord. Its intention was to create a time of love and fellowship. This practice has recently been revived and has become another way for us to celebrate the joy of our Savior in homes as the early Christians did. The food has been simplified to consist of sweet buns, cookies, and coffee. The purpose is to celebrate and enjoy Christmas fellowship. Judy and I want to try such a Christian time in our home. The refreshments will be simply Moravian cookies and Moravian sugar cake from a Salem bakery. In addition, there will be punch, coffee, and fresh fruit. Christmas music will be in the air and the fellowship will be up to each of us. We would love to have any of you including family and friends to come to our home following lunch between 1:30 and 3:30 on December 22 and share in this Agape Feast. Our address is 3581 Richards Run.

~ Rudy and Judy

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service – December 24, 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Offering - On Christmas Eve a special offering will be taken to support the May Memorial Benevolence Account. This account is used to help people with rent, heating, electricity, food, and other basic needs. This year the account has even been used to help people have access to a doctor. Please consider contributing to this fund so May Memorial may continue to help the needy in our own community.

Winter Bible Study - Beginning Wednesday, January 15 our Wednesday night adult Bible Study will be "Being a Good Neighbor: The Faith of Mr. Rogers." This will be a lighthearted and fun study of the Christian themes found in the teachings and practices of TV's Fred Rogers. Join us on Wednesday nights, beginning January 15, for this wonderful study.

Church Office Hours – During Christmas week the church office will be open on Monday, December 23rd and closed from December 24-27.

Ashley Edwards, Youth and Children's Minister
Joan Maples, Music Minister, Mary Ellen Balarzs, Organist
Michael Edwards, Pastor, (804) 922-0101