



## Central United Methodist Church

Our Mission:

To make disciples of Christ who WORSHIP God,  
GROW in their faith and SERVE in the church and world.

Rev. Mark L. Barden, Pastor  
Rev. Fawn Mikel, Director of Discipleship and Outreach  
Danny Buckner, Director of Music Ministries  
Nick Richart, Director of Youth Ministries  
Savanna Craig, Children's Ministry Coordinator

200 East Marion Street  
Shelby, NC 28150  
704-487-6336

<http://cumcshelby.org>

## The Worship of God

December 2, 2018

10:00 am

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Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Fawn Mikel

Prelude

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*  
Libby Alexander, organ

arr. Ferguson

Lighting of the Candles

River Harrill

\*Call to Worship

Where people walk in darkness

**Prepare the Way for the Lord**

Where busy lives need stilling

**Prepare the Way for the Lord**

Where minds are full of tinsel, presents and parties

**Prepare the Way for the Lord**

And now, in this place and among your people gathered

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

Into this busy place that we call home

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

Where people shout in the wilderness and expecting the  
Messiah.

**O Come Lord Jesus and help us find room for you in  
our hearts. Amen.**

\*Processional Hymn *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*  
*Mighty to Save*

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Maxwell Family

Congregational Response *Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come  
to thee, O Israel.*

Children's Time

Nick Richart

\*\*Children up to age 5 may join the nursery on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Education Building.

Prayers of the People

Mike Ribadeneyra

The Lord's Prayer

**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 who 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.**

Anthem	<i>Rise, O People, and Bring Good News</i> Chancel Choir	Choplin
Message	"Getting Rid of the Rocks and Trash" Isaiah 40:1-5, Luke 3:1-6	Rev. Mark Barden
Offertory	<i>Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming</i> Libby Alexander, organ	arr. Martin
Doxology #95	<b>Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.</b>	
Prayer of Dedication		Rev. Mark Barden
*Closing Hymn	<i>O Come, O Come Emmanuel</i>	
*Benediction		Nick Richart
*Chiming of the Trinity		
Postlude	<i>Lift Up Your Heads</i> Libby Alexander, organ	arr. Cherwien

\*Please stand as you are able.

Central UMC is a *Safe Sanctuaries* church. Please be sure that your children are accompanied at all times by a parent or responsible adult caregiver including if and when they need to use the restroom during service. We appreciate your assistance as we strive to ensure the safety of all.

**Reminder:** If you use an envelope for your offering please include your name on the outside of the envelope before placing in the offering plate.

**The First Sunday of Advent** signals a four-week time of preparation for the celebration of the coming of Christ. Although the Christmas season officially begins for Christians Dec. 25 continuing until Jan. 6 (Epiphany), we often are tempted to bypass the time of preparation Advent affords. This Advent season, your worship planning team is showing the time of preparation visually by adding to the Sanctuary's decorations each week until it is fully decorated when Jesus is placed in the Nativity on Christmas Eve. We begin Advent with the Advent Wreath and Chrismon tree. Mary and Joseph will be the first two figurines placed on the altar table. Today's theme is "Prophets Prepare the Way for the Messiah." Long before Jesus was born, prophets foretold of a Messiah that would come to save the people. For years, the people waited in anticipation. This time of waiting may be like the waiting children (and older folks too) experience in the weeks before Christmas Day. Hopefully, this approach to Advent will make it more enriching and meaningful to all as we move into the Christmas season.

**To Our Guests:**

Thank you for sharing in worship today. We are honored that you have chosen to spend a portion of your day with us and we want to help you have a meaningful experience. Here are a few things that you may find helpful.

-**Childcare** is available for infants and preschool aged children. Our nursery staff awaits you in room E105.

-**Hearing devices** are available for those who need them.

-**Large print Bibles & Hymnals** are available for those who need them.

The Ushers are at each door and will happily assist you with any of these.

Sermon Notes

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# *The Christmas Season at Central*

## *Uptown Shelby Holiday Celebration*

*\*In the Fellowship Hall*

*December 7<sup>th</sup>, 6-8 pm – Christmas caroling on the church steps with Crossfire, Central Ringers, and Praise Ensemble*

*December 14<sup>th</sup>, 7-9 pm—Handel's Messiah performance in the Sanctuary*

### *Special Events*

*December 7<sup>th</sup>, noon - Kid's Place Christmas Program*

*December 9<sup>th</sup>, 5 pm—Biblical Story of Christmas, Christmas Children's Program*

*December 16<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 –7:30pm – One Starry Night at Aldersgate UMC*

*December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 11 am—Christmas Worship Workshop & Lunch*

*January 9<sup>th</sup>, noon -- Kid's Place Epiphany Service*

### *Sunday Services*

*December 9<sup>th</sup>, 10 am -- Second Sunday of Advent: Crossfire Choir Performs*

*December 16<sup>th</sup>, 10 am – Third Sunday of Advent Handel's Messiah at Aldersgate UMC*

*December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10am - Fourth Sunday of Advent Central Ringers Perform*

*December 24<sup>th</sup>, 5pm – Christmas Eve Family Service*

*December 24<sup>th</sup>, 11pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*

*December 30<sup>th</sup>, 10 am – Lessons and Carols will be shared as we celebrate Christmas!*

*January 6<sup>th</sup>, 10 am – Epiphany Service*

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### **Sponsor a Musician**

Please tear off this portion, fold around your donation and place in the offering plate. More information is on the back of this insert.

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cash** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check** \_\_\_\_\_

Optional:

**In Memory/Honor of** \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle Memory or Honor

## Sponsor a Musician

Each year around Christmas time, we are blessed to have various musicians join us for our special Christmas program offerings. This year we will be joining forces with Aldersgate Methodist to offer Handel's Messiah. There will be two offerings of this program: a community concert on Friday December 14 at 7pm here at Central and again at Aldersgate on Sunday December 16 at 10am. If you would like to help fund these musicians, we invite you to "Sponsor a Musician" by writing a check made payable to Central Methodist Church and include "Sponsor a Musician" on the memo line. **Please fill out the other side of this insert and include it with your check in the offering plate.** Acknowledgements will be made in our program bulletin for the Friday evening community concert.

Purchase **Poinsettia(s)** (\$15 each)

or

**Wreath(s)** (\$20 each)

in memory or in honor of someone you love.

Please make **checks payable** to **Central UMC**, **tear off** the bottom portion of this insert, **fold** it around your **check** and **place in the offering plate**. Additional order forms are available from the ushers.

Memorials and honoraria will be published in a special bulletin on December 23rd. Poinsettias may be picked up after the Christmas Eve 11 pm service but you are welcome to leave them until Epiphany. Deadline to place orders for poinsettias and wreaths is December 16<sup>th</sup>!

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Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_  
Poinsettia \_\_\_\_\_ or Wreath \_\_\_\_\_

Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
Poinsettia \_\_\_\_\_ or Wreath \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Total amt \$ \_\_\_\_\_