

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### Hanging of the Greens

#### THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

*The service of worship begins with the music.*

*Through its power and brilliance may you feel the majesty of God, in its quietness, God's peace.*

#### ~ WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD ~

#### \*\*WELCOME, REGISTRATION, ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(Please sign the attendance sheet and pass it to the end of the pew for usher pickup.)*

**THE PRELUDE** (8:45 am) Ryland Brown  
(11:00 only) The Cherub Choir

#### \*THE CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

\***THE HYMN NO. 211** VENI EMMANUEL  
"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (vs. 1-4)

#### \*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

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

**People: With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.**

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

**People: With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.**

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

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

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

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

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

**People: Glory to God in the highest!**

#### THE HANGING OF THE GREENS

##### The Advent Wreath

8:45: Brenda & Rainer Ellis

11:00: The Spellman Family

(After the Candle Lighting reading, the following will be sung to the tune of "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly")

**Lord we thank you, and we praise you, for your gift to us divine. As we celebrate this Advent, fill our hearts with hope sublime. Candles glowing, spirit growing, As the Christ child comes to Earth. We rejoice his holy birth. We rejoice his holy birth.**

#### The Wreaths

8:45 Reader: Logan Bagley

Presenters: Cheryl LePorte, Mary Ann Repaire

11:00 Reader: Johannah Myers

Presenters: Linda & Doug Patrick

Leader: ... Each wreath is a continuous circle, a symbol of Gods unending love and eternal life.

**Congregation: We thank God for the eternal life given to us through Christ's coming. May that life be visible in us as it is in these wreaths.**

#### The Holly and the Ivy

8:45 Reader: Jim Dansby

Presenters: Jack & Carol Cornell

11:00 Reader: Marian Rose

Presenters: David Rose, Susan Hamilton

Leader: ... shielding the baby, and so, the soldiers passed by, leaving baby Jesus safe and sound.

**Congregation: Just as the holly protected the Christ child, help us to protect those who are vulnerable.**

#### The Poinsettia

8:45 Reader: Ruth Ann Gooch

Presenter: Marshall Gooch

11:00 Reader: Sara Colgate

Presenter: Bruce Colgate

Leader: ...miraculously transformed into bright red and white leaves that we know as the poinsettia.

**Congregation: Help us to present our gifts to God, no matter how humble, knowing that your grace will transform them and us.**

#### The Nativity

8:45 Reader: Keith Rutherford

Presenters: Jim Rutherford, Suzanne Haney, Kim & Eddie Beam

11:00 Reader: Dave Herndon

Presenters: Betty Herndon, Henry Addis, Dick & Anne McGaughey

Leader: ...reminds us of that night when the shepherds saw a babe, away in a manger, in far-off Bethlehem.

**Congregation: May our lives become living examples of Christ's presence in the world for all to see.**

#### The Candles

8:45 Reader: Ruth Hughes

Presenter: Gary Hughes

11:00 Reader: Tom Angster

Presenter: Pam Martin

#### **Congregation:**

**This little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine,  
this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine,  
this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

#### The Chrismon Tree

8:45 Reader: Scott Bagley

Presenters: Wendy & Tim Davis, Brooks Davis, Linda McDaniel

11:00 Reader: Karis King

Presenters: Ashley & Trevor King, Trace King, Luke King

Leader: ...We place these Chrismons on the tree as a reminder of Christ whose monogram is written on our hearts.

**Congregation: Write your law on our hearts that we may become living monograms of Christ.**

**THE ANTHEM** "Christmas Songs of Joy" by Joseph M. Martin  
The Children's Choir

#### **THE MORNING PRAYER**

*(Leader: Lord, in your mercy.*

*People Respond: Hear our prayer.)*

#### **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. Amen.**

#### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**During this season of waiting and anticipation, we are reminded to stay awake for the coming of your Son. Jesus' love often comes into our lives in quiet, unexpected ways. Today, we generously respond to this compassion and commit ourselves to living in a manner worthy of your love. In anticipation of the coming of Jesus, the Savior, we pray. Amen.**

#### **THE GIVING OF GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS**

**THE OFFERTORY** "Away in a Manger"  
The Children's Choir

**\*THE DOXOLOGY NO. 94** LASST UNS ERFREUEN  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below;  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up-lifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**~ WE HEAR GOD'S WORD ~**

**THE CHILDREN'S TIME** Ruth Hughes

**SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 3:1-6 NT-60

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year, ... <sup>2</sup>the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness."

**THE MESSAGE** Rev. Alex Stevenson  
"When Did It Start?"

**~ WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD ~**

**\*THE HYMN NO. 206**  
"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

**\*BENEDICTION**  
Leader: At Aldersgate we are ...  
People: **Hearts on Fire ... Seeking, Sharing,  
Serving ... For God!**

**\*CHORAL RESPONSE** (11:00 am only)

**\*THE CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**

**\*THE POSTLUDE** Ryland Brown  
\*Congregation will please stand as able.  
Our service of worship has ended.  
Let our worship through service begin.

**THE FLOWERS ON THE COMMONS TABLE** are to the Glory of God and in honor of Eddie & Susan Hamilton's 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on December 4.

**LESSONS AND CAROLS** - Sunday, December 9 at 8:45 & 11 am. An inspiring service using Bible readings and Christmas hymns and carols with music from The Chancel Choir and Cathedral Handbells to proclaim the Good News of Jesus' birth. Bring a friend. Pot Luck Lunch immediately following the service in Parker Hall. The meat is provided so please bring vegetables to fill in. Desserts will be available in the Commons.

**CONSECRATION SUNDAY REPORT**

134 families have estimated their giving for next year!  
The new total is **\$465,452 So Far!**  
Continue to keep this campaign in your prayers!  
If you haven't turned in your Estimate of Giving Card,  
please do so.

**A BIG THANK YOU** to Kaitlyn Stevenson and to Katie Watts for directing the Children's and Cherub Choirs. (Katie is standing in for Macy Covington who is out of town)

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

As of printing Thursday, November 28, 2018  
**Greenville Memorial Hospital:** Kay Culbertson, John Holmstrand  
**Home:** Beth & Warren Rambo, Freida Parker, Pete & Martha Hendrix, Mary Holmstrand, Ann Armstrong, Lynda Collins, Lyn Kemp, Jan Alderman  
**NHC Mauldin:** Atrice Hughey **Rosecrest:** Jennie Ruth Waynick  
**Cascades:** Patti Whelchel **Mt. Pleasant, SC:** Florence Hale  
**The Woodlands:** Annette McDuffee, Peggy Miller  
**Haywood Estates:** Ann Linse **Mt. Home Health, NC:** Nancy Reitz  
**Brookdale @ Hawthorne:** Nita Bearden  
**Rock Hill /Daughter:** Bill Taylor **Myrtle Beach, SC:** Randy Hale  
**Westminster Senior Living/Augusta Place:** Melba Poole  
**Rolling Green:** Wayne Rowan, Ralph Bell

**SERVING TODAY**

**Lay Readers:** 8:45 am Shirley Cooke 11:00 am Ruth McAllister  
**Greeters:** 8:45 am Michelle & Stephen Keith  
11:00 am Susan & Bruce Royal  
**Acolytes:** 8:45 am Julian Gettys 11:00 am Hudson Patrick  
**Crucifer:** 11:00 am Graham Addis  
**Usher Captains:** 8:45 am Austin Watts  
11:00 am David Rose  
**Ushers:** 8:45 am Doug Jordan, Phil Martin, Waldo Watts  
11:00 am Clay Garrison, David Ayer, Cody Owens

**MINISTRY STAFF**

The Rev. Alex Stevenson, Pastor (ext. 207)  
Johannah Myers, Director of Christian Formation (ext. 211)  
Ruth Hughes, Director of Children's & Leisure Min. (ext. 204)  
Dr. Grant Knox, Dir. of Music (ext. 208)  
Ryland Brown, Musician  
Jennifer Nelson, Director, Child Development Center (ext. 301)  
Josh Consalvo, Director of Youth (ext. 209)  
Susan Hamilton, Office Manager/Communications (ext. 210)  
Cameron Vaughn, Financial Secretary (ext. 206)

**MINISTERS – THE CONGREGATION**

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday-Thursday: 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Friday: 9:00-Noon  
Phone: 864/244-1820 Fax: 864/244-9701  
Child Development Center...864/268-5028

**MISSION STATEMENT**

... We are called to make disciples by embracing all people with God's love in Christ and equipping each other for service to God and His world.

*Hearts on Fire...Seeking, Sharing, Serving...For God!* 

# Welcome to

## ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



The Rev. Alex Stevenson  
7 Shannon Drive  
Greenville, South Carolina 29615  
864-244-1820  
www.aumcsc.org

**WORSHIP SERVICES**

**8:45 AM & 11:00 AM**

**December 2, 2018**

Established October 9, 1960  
Open hearts...Open minds...Open doors  
The people of The United Methodist Church

*A Stephen Ministry Congregation*