



# First Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, December 30, 2018  
Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church  
West Columbia, SC  
9:00am Worship

# WELCOME

*We welcome you to Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church!*

*If you are worshipping with us for the first time, WELCOME,*

*If you are worshipping again, WELCOME BACK.*

*Worship is much more joyful when we add our voices to offer praise and thanksgiving. If you need anything, just ask one of the ushers or greeters. A nursery is provided for younger children should you want to use it at any time. If you would like to discuss discipleship at Mt. Hermon, Pastor Gina would love to speak with you!*

**Again welcome...**

**PRE-SERVICE**

*On Christmas Night*

Arr. Cherwein

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please see the Community Announcements in the back section of the bulletin.*

*Please note that all the congregation responses are printed in **Bold and Italics**.*

**PRELUDE**

*A Strange Way to Save the World*

Clark, Harris and Koch

*Solo, Ryan Price*

*We are silent as we prepare our hearts for worship.*

## THE GATHERING

*Please turn to face the cross at the entrance of the sanctuary.*

**GATHERING**

Gathered in the name of Jesus, we join to hear the Word of God and to sing praises to Him.

**Amen.**

*As the cross passes your pew, please turn your bodies and worship attention to the front of the sanctuary.*

## **HYMN**

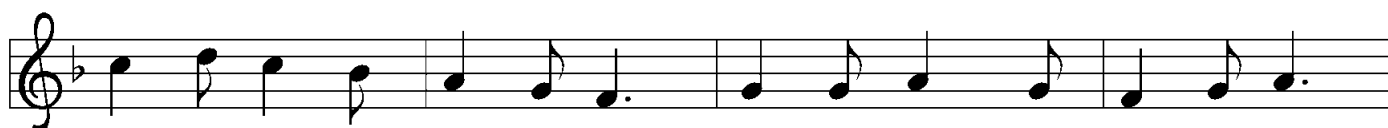
## *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

**ELW 288**

*(Red Book)*



- 1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
- 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
- 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

## **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

***And also with you.***

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*We pray together.*

***Eternal God, you have placed us in a world of space and time, and through the events of our lives you bless us with your love. Grant that in the new year we may know your presence, see your love at work, and live in the light of the event that gives us joy forever—the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.***

***Amen.***

*We sit.*

## THE WORD

**READING:** Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

*A reading from Ecclesiastes.*

<sup>1</sup>For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

<sup>2</sup>a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

<sup>3</sup>a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

<sup>4</sup>a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

<sup>5</sup>a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

<sup>6</sup>a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

<sup>7</sup>a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

<sup>8</sup>a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSE HYMN**

*Love Has Come Down*

ELW 292



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the  
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -  
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;  
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;  
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to  
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the  
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.  
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

**READING:** Revelation 21:1-6a

*A reading from Revelation.*

<sup>1</sup>I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud

voice from the throne saying,  
 “See, the home of God is among mortals.  
 He will dwell with them;  
 they will be his peoples,  
 and God himself will be with them;  
 4he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
 Death will be no more;  
 mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
 for the first things have passed away.”

5And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” 6aThen he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.”

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.  
***Thanks be to God.***

*We stand.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory (Verses 1 and 4)*

ELW 275



- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
- 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
- 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

## **GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter

***Glory to you, O Lord.***

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup>“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;

<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup>And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

<sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with

fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

The gospel of the Lord.  
***Praise to you, O Christ.***

*We sit.*

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**CAROL SING**



# The First Noel

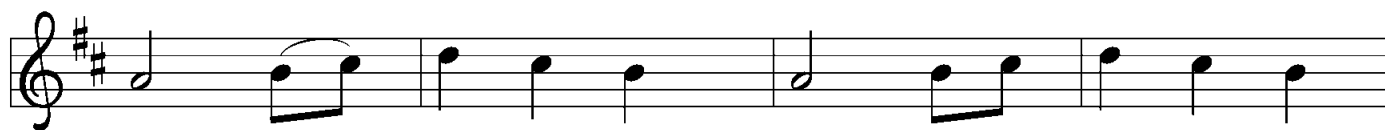
ELW 300



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to  
2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing  
3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . . .  
4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . . .  
5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where  
in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the  
wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a  
Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it  
rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's  
earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -  
king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the  
did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the  
there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . . and

## Refrain



night that was so deep.  
tin-ued both day and night.  
star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -  
place where Je - sus lay.  
myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

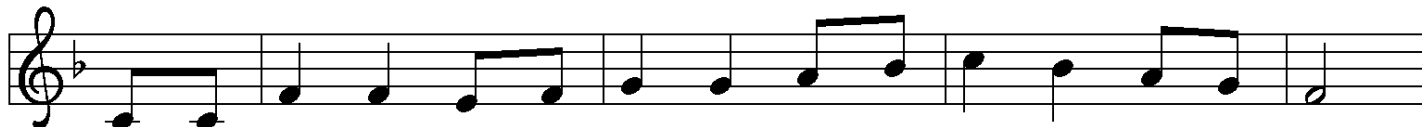
*Christmas Eve* written and sung by Ryan Price

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

ELW 276



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;  
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:  
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:

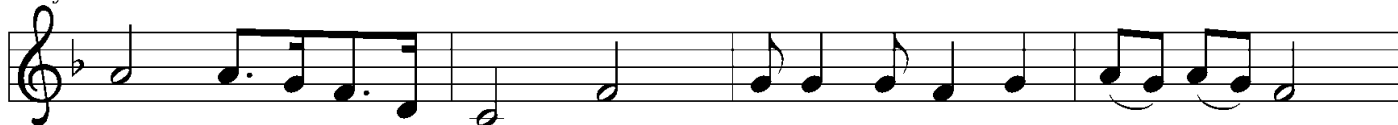


Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

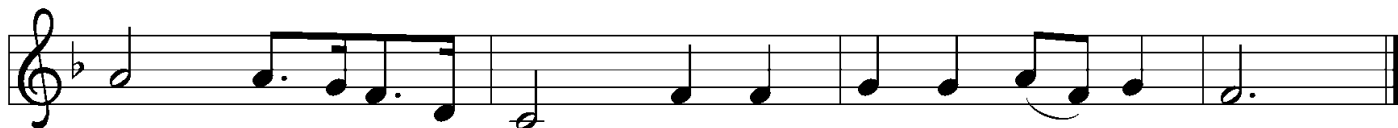
# Go, Tell It On the Mountain

ELW 290

*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;

*Refrain*



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

HYMN

*What Child is This*

ELW 296



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

*Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.*

***I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.***

***I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.***

***On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.***

***I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.***

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.

***And also with you.***

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace,  
and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

We sit.

## **OFFERING**

*We give our monetary offering to support Christ's mission in this place and around the world in gratitude of God's amazing grace. You may make a contribution any time by*

visiting [www.mthlc.org](http://www.mthlc.org) and click on "On-line Giving." Thank you for your gifts and your stewardship.

Please also take this time in worship to complete the pew registers.

## OFFERING

*Emmanuel*

Card  
Solo, Ryan Price

## OFFERTORY

*Emmanuel*

W&P 36

♩ = 80

C      Em<sup>7</sup>   F      F/E      Dm<sup>7</sup>      G<sup>7</sup>   F/G   C      Gm<sup>6</sup>/B<sup>b</sup>

Em - man - u - el, \_\_\_\_\_ Em - man - u - el, \_\_\_\_\_

4    A<sup>7</sup>      A<sup>7</sup>/C<sup>#</sup>   Dm      Dm/C      G<sup>7</sup>/B      G      G<sup>7</sup>/B   C      E+    E<sup>7</sup>

His name is called \_\_\_\_\_ Em - man - u - el: \_\_\_\_\_ God with

9    F      A<sup>7</sup>/E      Dm      G<sup>7</sup>      C      Gm<sup>6</sup>/B<sup>b</sup>      A<sup>7</sup>      A<sup>7</sup>/C<sup>#</sup>

us, \_\_\_\_\_ re - vealed in us! \_\_\_\_\_ His name is

13   Dm      Dm/C      G<sup>7</sup>/B      G<sup>6</sup>      G<sup>7</sup>      C

called \_\_\_\_\_ Em - man - u - el. \_\_\_\_\_

## PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

O God, thank you that you make all things new. Thank you for all that you've allowed into our lives this past year, the good along with the hard things, which have reminded us how much we need you and rely on your presence filling us every single day.

***We pray for your Spirit to lead us each step of this New Year. We ask that you will guide our decisions and turn our hearts to deeply desire you above all else. We ask that you will open doors needing to be opened and close the ones needing to be shut tight. We ask that you would help us release our grip on the things to which you've said "no," "not yet," or "wait." We ask for help to pursue you first, above every dream and desire you've put within our hearts.***

We ask for your wisdom, for your strength and power to be constantly present within us. We pray you would make us strong and courageous for the road ahead. Give us ability beyond what we feel able, let your gifts flow freely through us, so that you would be honored by our lives, and others would be drawn to you.

***We pray for your protection over our families and friends. We ask for your hand to cover us, that you would be a barrier to surround us, that we'd be safe in your hands. We pray that you would give us discernment and insight beyond our years, to understand your will, hear your voice, and know your ways.***

We ask that you would keep our footsteps firm, on solid ground, helping us to be consistent and faithful. Give us endurance to stay the course, not swerving to the right or to the left, or being too easily

distracted by other things that would seek to call us away from a close walk with you.

***Help us to be known as great givers, help us to be generous and kind, help us to look to the needs of others and not be consumed by only our own.***

***May we be lovers of truth, may the fruits of your spirit be evident in our lives - your love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Shine your light in us, through us, over us. May we make a difference in this world, for your glory and purposes. Set your way before us. May all your plans succeed. We may reflect your peace and hope to a world that so desperately needs your presence and healing.***

Into your outstretched arms, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Jesus Christ, the light and life of the world. ***Amen.***

## **THE SENDING**

### **WORDS OF SENDING**

*Using the poem by Howard Thurman, "The Work of Christmas"*

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and the princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:

***To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,***



*To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among people,  
To make music in the heart.*

**BLESSING**

May Christ, who by his incarnation  
has filled us with grace and truth,  
give you peace this Christmas and always.  
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.  
*Amen.*

*As the cross passes your pew, please turn and face the entrance of the sanctuary.*

**HYMN**

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

**ELW 282**



1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,  
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,  
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,  
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.  
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:  
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king.”  
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,  
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;  
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!  
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

**DISMISSAL**

Glory to God in the highest!

***Peace to God's people on earth!***

**POSTLUDE**

*Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

Arr. Burkhard

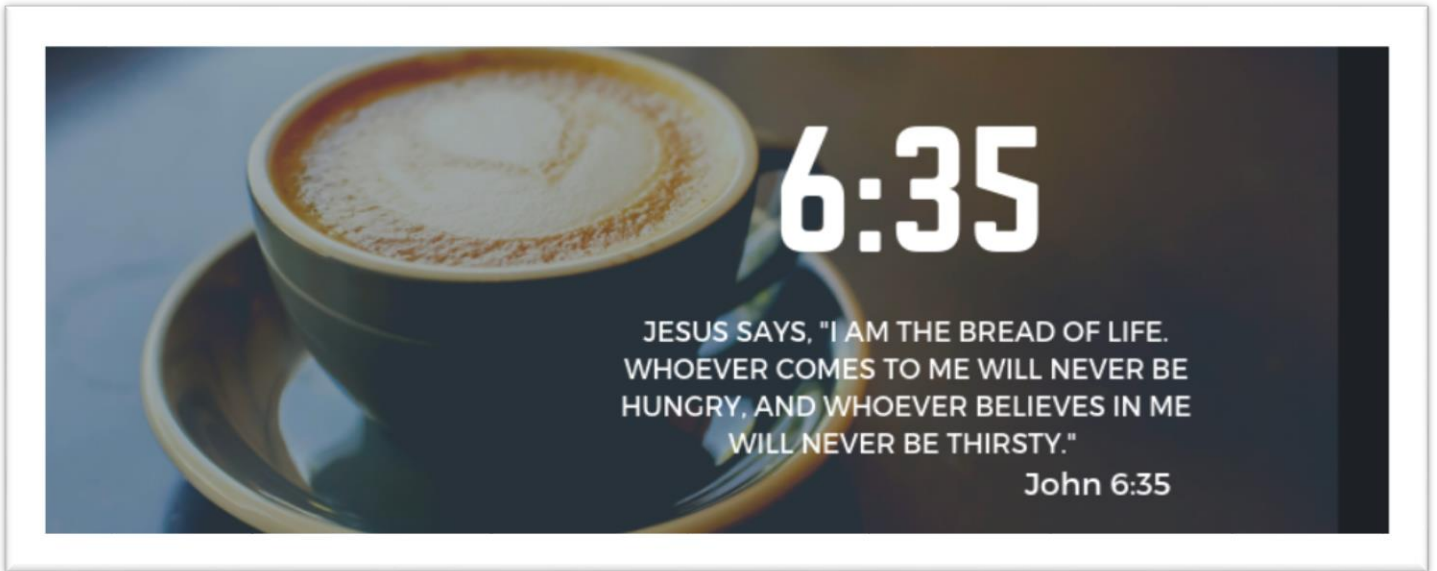
## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FLOWERS** that beautify our sanctuary today are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Iva Pearle, Ryan, Jerry, Stephen Price and Barbara Mills

**Pastor Gina** will be on vacation December 27<sup>th</sup> through January 3<sup>rd</sup>. She will also be at leading a Bible Study at the Isle of Palms January 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>. There are several pastors who will be handling emergencies during these dates. Please call the pastor's cell phone 803.951.3784 if there is an emergency.



**Thank You** to Wynne Price for leading worship this morning.



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	<b>Serving Today*</b>	<b>Serving January 6th*</b>
<b>Greeter:</b>	Doris Carver	Al Stevens
<b>Crucifer:</b>	Bryce Addy	Wynne Price
<b>Acolytes:</b>	Ainsley Allen	Karly Addy
	Brayden Rutherford	Joshua Koon
<b>Lector:</b>	Ronnie Fulmer	Alyson Price
<b>Communion Asst.</b>		
	Emily Morris	Wynne Price
	Joel Price Sr.	Angie Hydrick
	Perry Bouknight	Trudy Bouknight
<b>Children's Sermon:</b>		
	Daryl Leigh Anthony	Mary Koon
<b>Nursery:</b>	Grace Roof, Emily & Moises Arroyo	Grace Roof, Haley Addy & Karen Nicholson
<b>Food Pantry:</b>	<u>Jan. 2</u>	<u>Jan. 9</u>
	Annette Price	Diane Boulware

### **Serving in January\***

**Council Representative:** Jamie Addison

**Altar Guild:** Ann Addy, Diane Boulware, Annette Price

**Tabulators:** Buddy Hydrick, Jo Leach, Kay Little, Linda Water-Hamilton, Angie Hydrick

**Ushers:** Ronnie Fulmer, Fran Bouknight, Ricky Bouknight, Cindy Price

*\* If you are unable to serve, please ask someone to cover for you and notify the church office of the change. If you have a responsibility in worship, please arrive no later than 8:45am*

## **OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER**

### ***Homebound and Care Facilities***

Nell Buff, *Lexington Place*

Margie Hook, *Home*

Pearl Dennis, *HarborChase*

Lib Swygert, *Lowman Home*

Lynwood Crout, *Home*

Lois Watson, *Lexington Place*

Lena Wessinger, *Presby. Home*

Patricia Bachman, *Carolina Gardens*

Hazel Bockus, *Home*

### ***Members in Special Need of Prayer***

Alberta Berry

Clifton Addy

Mary Frances Hamilton

Connie Bucknam

Mary Frances Sease

Perry Bouknight

Georgianna Gray

Lila Catt

### ***Family and Friends Who Have Requested Our Prayers***

Kathryn & Don Bergeron, (Bucknam)

Iris Wellborn, *sister of Earl Sease*

Scott Coleman (Thurman)

Jim & Vickie Burcham (Thurman)

W.A. "Buddy" Keller (Marion & Cyndi)

Nellie Gantt (Mary Price)

Ben Nicholson (Karen Nicholson)

Jimmy Mills (Tommy Mills)

Tressa Oswalt (Angie Hydrick)

Sue Reeves (Thurman)

Linda Rea (Marion & Cyndi)

Jason Thurman (Thurman)

Richie Tallent (Danny Scott)

Todd Hewitt (Missy Addy)

Evelyn Newman, *friend of Ricky and Fran Bouknight*

Charlotte Martindle, *family of Kelli Mills*

Kaiden Robinson (Kelli Mills)

Rose Little, *daughter of Marie Kleckley*

Mandy McLemore *friend of Amanda Boyd, Kim Addy and Allyson Price*

Megan Sease, *granddaughter of Earl & Mary Frances*



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Pastor Gina 803.951.3784

*Rev. Gina D. Metze*

*PastorGinaMetze@gmail.com*

*803.951.3784*

*Ruthie Brannen Cantor*

*ruthiebrannen@gmail.com*

*Brittany Mailleue Parish Administrator*

*office@mthlc.org*

#### **CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS**

President, *Danny Scott*

Vice President, *Terry Swygert*

Secretary, *Alyson Price*

Treasurer, *Emily Morris*

Financial Secretary, *Annette Price*

Sextons, *Ricky Bouknight, Allison & Terry Swygert*

#### **Sunday, December 30**

##### **First Sunday of Christmas**

9:00 am Worship Service

10:15 am Sunday School

6:35pm Pray

#### **Monday, December 31**

Church office closed

#### **Tuesday, January 1**

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Church office closed

6:35pm Pray

#### **Wednesday, January 2**

6:00pm Chancel Bells

6:30pm Chancel Choir

#### **Thursday, January**

1:00pm Arthritis Chair Class

2:00pm MAT/ Pilates Class

6:35pm Pray