

December 7, 2008 / 2nd Sunday of Advent

J. William Harris, Pastor

John G. Hipp, Pastor Emeritus

Welcome to God's house! On this Second Sunday of Advent, we encourage everyone to think often about God's gift to us in Christ. What love God has for each of us! And what love we should have for one another! Blessings!

We Turn Our Thoughts Toward God

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP "O Come, Let Us Adore Him" Choir

WELCOME & COMMUNITY SHARING (Please register your attendance.)

*Hymn of Advent: 211 (verses 1 & 2) "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

THE ADVENT CELEBRATION

*Hymn of Praise: 218 "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" Proclaiming the Word

*Psalter: 806 – Psalm 85

*Affirmation of Faith: 881 – The Apostles' Creed

*The Gloria Patri: 70 – "Glory Be to the Father"

KIDS OF THE KINGDOM

GIVING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS:

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

THE OFFERTORY

*THE DOXOLOGY: 95 – "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

*Hymn of Preparation: 219 "What Child Is This"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison):

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

THE READING OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES: 795 – Mark 1:1 - 8

This is the Word of God for the people of God

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM "There's a Song in the Air" Choir

SERMON "A God Who Can't Keep His Distance" Dr. Bill Harris Responding to the Word

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION: 15

*Hymn of Commitment: 229 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE "My Peace" Choir

*RECESSIONAL

*Please stand (if your health permits), as a means of giving honor to God.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP ...

TODAY:

9:30am Altar Prayer

10:00am Sunday School

9:30am Blood Pressure Screening

11:00am Morning Worship

3:00pm Emerald Gardens

THIS WEEK: *****

Mon., Dec. 8, 6:30pm – Greenwood Writer's Guild Christmas Dinner

Tues., Dec. 9, 6:30pm – Cub Scouts

Wed., Dec. 10, 7:00pm – Bible Study 7:45pm – Choir Practice

Sat., Dec. 13, 1:00pm – Hall's Family Christmas Party

NEXT WEEK: *****

Tues., Dec. 16, 6:30pm – Cub Scouts

7:00pm – Wisewood Neighborhood Meeting

Wed., Dec. 17, 7:00pm – Bible Study

7:45pm – Choir Practice

Sun., Dec. 21, 10:00am – Children & Youth Christmas Party

Table with 3 columns: SERVING OUR LORD, Today, Next Week. Rows for Nursery and Acolyte.

Preparation for Worship: Dear Lord, let peace abound in each of us gathered here. Prevent us from resisting the benefits of your grace. You alone can provide our greatest needs. Amen.

Welcome to all who visit with us today. Your presence enhances our worship of Almighty God. Please sign a visitor's card, found in the pew racks, and give it to an usher during the offering, or sign the pew register pad found at the end of each pew. You are always welcome at Mathews.

Advent Offering Folders are now available. You may pick one up from the table in the vestibule or in the upstairs hallway.

The Children & Youth Christmas Party will be on Sunday, Dec. 21, at 10:00am, during the Sunday School hour. This is for the children and youth who attend Sunday School regularly.

Church Contributions – There are only 3 more Sundays in this year. All Tithes & Offerings and other contributions need to be in by Dec. 28 to be listed on your 2008 Contribution Form. Any money received after that date will be recorded for the 2009 year.

Newsletter – If you have any information for the January/February newsletter, please have it into the church office by Monday, Dec. 22. Please write it on a piece of paper or send it by e-mail to mathews@mathewsumc.org. (If you tell it to me in passing, it may not be remembered and will not be in the newsletter.)



What is Christmas?

It is belief in the past, courage for the present, and hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace.