

WELCOME

We are glad you're here. Please sign our register to let us know that you're visiting, so our members can make you feel at home.



WE'RE SO GLAD YOU ARE JOINING US FOR WORSHIP TODAY! If you have any questions about Sunday morning activities & Worship or you would like more information about how you can be involved in the life of First United Methodist Church, Shreveport:

- ♦ Ask one of our wonderful ushers or volunteers in the Welcome Center. They'd be glad to help!
- ♦ Call the church office at 318.424.7771. We're open 8:30am - 5:00pm Monday - Thursday and 8:30am - 4:00pm on Friday.

READY TO JOIN OUR FIRST SHREVEPORT FAMILY?

If you're curious about what membership means and want to meet with one of our pastors before deciding, please contact our front desk at 424-7771 for more information.

You may join the church today by profession of faith, transfer of membership or reaffirmation of your baptismal vows. Our church receives persons from other traditions by transfer. If you have been baptized in another denomination, re-baptism is not necessary. To join, simply come to the front of the church and meet the pastors during the singing of the last hymn.

FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Grab a copy of the *First Weekly* or *The Columns* located at any of the entryways or visit firstshreveport.org.

HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST?

We'd love to stand alongside you in prayer! Please share your prayer request with us by placing this form in either prayer box at the Sanctuary entrance.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Prayer Request: _____

Would you like our Director of Prayer Ministry to reach out to you about this request? Yes No

Our Heritage in Stained Glass

"Virgin with lamp"— "Be Ye Also Ready" Matthew 24:44

In loving memory of Our Idolized Daughter, Maude Lucile Atkins" August 10, 1886 - October 13, 1910. The center panel in this second window from the front on the right depicts a virgin with a lighted lamp. This beautiful window takes on deeper meaning when one realizes that in the central figure the artist has incorporated the face of the lovely young woman for whom the memorial was given in 1913.

JOYS & CONCERNS

HOSPITALIZED: Mary Cochran

DISCHARGED: Bill Towery, Jennifer Mahoney

CONGRATULATIONS to Danielle & Bob Thames on the birth of their son, Sloan Magee Thames on December 3, 2020. Maternal grandmother is Susan Stafford.

SYMPATHY is extended to the family & friends of Mary Sledge in her death and to Denise Tindall & family in the death of her mother, Nancy Santor, and to Maye Spells & family in the death of her sister Gaye England.

THE RED ROSE near the altar honors those serving in the armed forces at home and abroad.

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

Lela Tucker

from Mr. and Mrs. James Goins

Evelyn Friday

from Circle 1, UMW

Scott Teekell

from Kathryn Salpietra

Patty Lindsey

from Anne and David Beasley

Helen Evans

Ruth McCook

from Sylvia Wright

Mary Boggs

from Dr. and Mrs. Dayne Hassell

~*Honorariums*~

Dr. Pat Day

from Tina and Terry Kendrick and

Family

VITAL SIGNS

Contributions	Week Ending 12.6.20	Month-to-Date	Year-to-Date
Goal	\$199,834	\$199,834	\$3,655,501
Received	\$102,137	\$102,137	\$3,589,372
Over/(Under)	(\$97,697)	(\$97,697)	(\$66,129)

Year to Date - November 30, 2020 (in thousands)			
	Budget	Actual	Variation
Cash Receipts	\$4,100	\$3,804	(\$296)
Cash Disbursements	\$4,595	\$4,020	\$575
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$495)	(\$216)	\$279

Please remember that in order to receive credit for 2020 all gifts to the church must be dated and postmarked by December 31, 2020. Thank you.



WE ARE A STEPHEN MINISTRIES CARING CONGREGATION. *If you are in need of personal prayer, we have Stephen Ministers available to listen and pray with you. A Stephen Minister will be at the altar by the left door at the end of each service.*

Senior Pastor: Dr. R. Pat Day • Executive Pastor: Rev. Derek Joyce

Associate Pastor: Dr. Ashley Goad • Associate Pastor: Rev. Erik Rasmussen • Pastor of Senior Adult Ministry: Dr. Carl E. Rhoads

Director of Music: Dr. David Hobson • Director of Fine Arts: Dr. Will K. Andress • Principal Organist: E. Ray Peebles

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICES: 8:30am & 11:00am, LIVE TELECAST ON KTBS/ABC at 11:00am

FAITHLINK CONTEMPORARY SERVICE: 11:00am • SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:45am

WESLEYAN COMMUNION SERVICE: 9:45 – 10:30am, FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH IN COUCH CHAPEL

318.424.7771 office • 318.429.6888 fax • PRAYER LINE: 318.429.6898 TOLL FREE: 1.888.393.PRAY
www.firstshreveport.org • fumc@fumcshreveport.org

FIRST

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, SHREVEPORT

DECEMBER 13, 2020 • THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



CONNECT. GROW. SERVE. LEAD.

Celebration of Worship

Third Sunday of Advent - December 13, 2020

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE: 11:00 AM, LIVE TELECAST ON KTBS/ABC at 11:00 AM

PRELUDE.....“Votre Bonté Grand Dieu”.....E. Ray Peebles, organ
from *Deuxième Suite de noels*
[“Your Goodness Great God” from *Second Christmas Suite*]
Claude Balbastre

WORDS OF WELCOME & GREETING.....Dr. David Hobson

INVOCATION & CALL TO WORSHIP.....Dr. David Hobson

† HYMN OF PRAISE.....“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”.....No. 203

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....No. 881.....Debby Williams

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLENeil & Lindsey Lewis
Bennett, Henry, Sarah Kathryn

MUSICAL OFFERING.....“Noël: Joseph est bien Marié”.....Rebecca Vacha, soprano
with *Organ Variations* Liesl Cruz, alto
Marc-Antoine Charpentier Jeremy Yang, tenor
Benjamin McDonald, bass
E. Ray Peebles, organ

[Joseph is well betrothed to the daughter of Jesse:
this thing was very recent, that she would be mother and maiden, God has done well.

Joseph is well betrothed. When Joseph heard that his woman had conceived: he was not contented at all,
he was pained against Mary, and he wished to go from her.

Joseph is well betrothed. But the Angel also told him, “Joseph,” he said to him, “your holy wife, Mary,
is great with the fruit of life; she has conceived without sin.”

Joseph is well betrothed. “Change therefore your thinking, and approach in your insolence,
for by all his strength you shall endure his infancy and serve him with dedication.”
Joseph is well betrothed.]

† SCRIPTURE READING.....Romans 5:1-8.....Debby Williams
See scripture reading on Text Page

‡

† GLORIA PATRI
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

‡

JOYS & CONCERNS.....Dr. Pat Day

MORNING PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER.....Dr. Ashley Goad

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.

† HYMN OF PREPARATION.....“What Child is This?”.....No. 219

† OFFERTORY PRAYER.....Dr. Ashley Goad

MUSICAL OFFERING.....*Climb to the Top*.....Chancel Choir Ensemble
of the Highest Mountain
Carolyn Jennings

† DoxologyVENI EMMANUEL
*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!
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

SCRIPTURE READING.....Luke 2:9-10.....Dr. Pat Day
See scripture reading on Text Page

MESSAGE.....**THE GRACIOUS GIFT OF JOY**.....Dr. Pat Day

† *HYMN OF INVITATION.....“Joy to the World”.....No. 246
(During the singing of this hymn, those who wish to join the First Methodist family
are invited to come to the front of the church for reception and recognition.)

BENEDICTIONDr. Pat Day

SENDING FORTH.....*O Holy Child of Bethlehem*.....Chancel Choir Ensemble
FOREST GREEN

POSTLUDE.....*Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella*.....E. Ray Peebles, organ
arr. Keith Chapman



Crucifer: Crew Chandler; Acolytes: Cannon Chandler, Court Chandler

† Those who are able may stand. ‡ Latecomers may be seated at these times.

Sermon Notes

THE GRACIOUS GIFT OF JOY

LUKE 2:9-10

I. First, we can choose to be joyful rather than attempting to be happy.

II. Second, we can choose to be joyful when we allow suffering to produce Christ-like character.

III. Third, we can choose to be joyful when we choose a positive perspective - an attitude of hope.

IV. Fourth, we can choose to be joyful when we choose to become wounded healers for Christ.

V. Finally, we can choose to be joyful when we exercise and develop inner joy.

A. An attitude of gratitude

B. Giving

C. Service

D. Sharing Christ with others

Hymns

December 13, 2020

Hymn of Praise No. 203 “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

Stanza 1

Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;
To take away transgression, and rule in equity.

Stanza 2

He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong;
To help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.

Stanza 3

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.
Before him, on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go,
And righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

Stanza 4

To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;
His kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;
His name shall stand forever; that name to us is love.

Hymn of Preparation No. 219 “What Child is This?”

Stanza 1

What child is this who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.

Stanza 2

Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

Refrain

Stanza 3

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him.

Refrain

Hymn of Invitation No. 246 “Joy to the World”

Stanza 1

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Stanza 2

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy; repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Stanza 3

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found;
Far as, far as the curse is found.

Stanza 4

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
And wonders, and wonders of his love.

Affirmation of Faith

No. 881

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, dead, and buried;

the third day he rose from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,

and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

from thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.

Scripture and Creeds

December 13, 2020

Romans 5:1-8

Peace and Hope

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Luke 2:9-10

An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.