

**WELCOME, GUESTS!** We are honored to worship God with you today. If you would like to become a member of Fernwood Baptist Church, you are invited to speak with the minister following the worship service or by emailing [matt@fernwoodchurch.org](mailto:matt@fernwoodchurch.org). If you need pastoral care, please call 864-582-7467.

**SO GLAD YOU ARE HERE!** Text "hello" to (864) 501-0585, for more information and to let us contact you.

### Guest Information

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Best Time to Call:    Morning    Afternoon    Night

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Your Age Group:

\_\_\_13-18    \_\_\_19-29    \_\_\_30-39    \_\_\_40-49  
 \_\_\_50-59    \_\_\_60-69    \_\_\_70 & Older

Children:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the applicable:

\_\_\_ First time guest    \_\_\_ Returning guest  
 \_\_\_ Would like information about the church  
 \_\_\_ New to the area    \_\_\_ Would like a visit  
 \_\_\_ Would like to know more about becoming a Christian

\_\_\_ I am a guest of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Prayer Request \_\_\_\_\_

### Our Vision

*is to be Christ to each other and our community –  
 doing justice, loving mercy and walking humbly with our God.*

### Choose How You Give

Give easily and securely...

1. Offering envelopes during the service or by mail.
2. Set up *bill pay* straight from your bank.
3. On our website [www.fernwoodchurch.org](http://www.fernwoodchurch.org)
4. Directly through our online giving  
<http://onrealm.org/FernwoodBaptist/give/now>
5. Text from your phone: 73256 then keyword "fernwood" and dollar amount and follow the instructions.

### CHILDREN'S EXTENDED SESSION WORKERS

Dec. 24AM – Peggy Beard    Dec. 31 – Diane Blackburn    Jan. 7 – Peggy Beard  
 Jan. 14 – Amy Said    Jan. 21 – Mike Hensley    Jan. 28 – Justin Hicks

*O Little Town of Bethlehem* © 1966 Singspiration, Inc.  
*A Candle is Burning*; Words © 1986 Sandra Dean; Music 1887 James R. Murray  
*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*; Words Latin hymn, tr. 1851 (sts. 1, 2) John Mason Neale,  
 1916 (sts. 3, 4) Henry Sloane Coffin; Music Plainsong, adapt. 1854 Thomas Helmore  
*Away in a Manger*; Words 1885, anonymous (sts. 1, 2),  
 1892 (st. 3) John Thomas McFarland; Music 1895 William J. Kirkpatrick  
*Emmanuel with Behold, a Virgin Shall Conceive* © 1994, 1995 Pilot Point Music,  
 © 1976 C. A. Music  
*My Soul Proclaims with Wonder*; Words 1989 Carl P. Daw, © 1989 Hope Publishing Co.;  
 Music 1991 J. Harold Moyer, © 1991 The Hymnal Project/Brethren Press  
*Old 100<sup>th</sup>* 1551 Genevan Psalter  
*Joy to the World* © 1984 Lillenas Publishing Co.  
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*Masks are not required while in the building. For those who wish to continue wearing a mask while in the sanctuary, there is a designated place on the side nearest the baptistery. There are signs on the pews.*

### All Members of Fernwood Baptist Church, Ministers

Mrs. Lee Anne Bailie .....Director of Family and Communication Ministries  
 Mrs. Marcia Harris .....Assistant Music Associate  
 Rev. Matthew K. Johnson .....Senior Pastor  
 Rev. Dean Newkirk.....Office Administrator  
 Mrs. Rebecca Turner.....Music Associate  
 Dr. Stafford Turner..... Director of Music Ministries  
 Mrs. Mary Helen Wessinger..... Financial Administrator  
 Mr. Don Williams.....Custodian  
 Rev. Dr. P. Randall Wright ..... Pastor Emeritus



*Sunday, December 24, 2023*  
*Forth Sunday of Advent*

### Sunday

9:45am - Sunday School (in-person and online)  
 11:00am - Worship (in-person and online)

### Wednesday

5:30pm – Wednesday Night Supper  
 6:15pm – Bible Study for Adults (in-person and online)  
 6:15pm – Children's Missions, Music & More  
 7:15pm – Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

200 Fernwood Drive, Spartanburg, SC 29307  
 Mailing Address: P. O. Box 7058, Spartanburg, SC 29304  
 864-582-7467 ~ Fax: 864-582-7477

Website: [fernwoodchurch.org](http://fernwoodchurch.org)  
 Email: [office@fernwoodchurch.org](mailto:office@fernwoodchurch.org)  
 Facebook: [@fernwoodbaptistchurchspartanburg](https://www.facebook.com/fernwoodbaptistchurchspartanburg)  
 Instagram: [@fernwoodbaptist](https://www.instagram.com/fernwoodbaptist)

# The Lord's Day

The Lord's Day	December 24, 2023
The Welcome & Announcements	Rev. Matthew K. Johnson
The Passing of the Peace One: May the peace of Christ be with you. <b>All: And also with you.</b>	Matt Johnson
The Processional <i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i> Marcia Harris, organ	Lewis H. Redner arr. Norman Johnson
Lighting the Candle of Love	The Said Family
The Carol of Love <i>A Candle is Burning</i> Verse 4	MUELLER
A candle is burning, a candle of love, a candle to point us to heaven above. A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth, for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.	
†The Hymn of Praise, No. 79 <i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i>	VENI EMMANUEL
1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear. <i>Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.</i>	
2. O come, thou Day-Spring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. <i>Refrain</i>	
3. O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and nigh; To us the path of knowledge show, And cause us in her ways to go. <i>Refrain</i>	
4. O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease, fill all the world with heaven's peace. <i>Refrain</i>	
The Greens Reading	George Small
The Gospel Reading Luke 1:26-45 NRSV (Pew Bible, page 831) One: The Good News offered for all. <b>All: Thanks be to God.</b>	Matt Johnson

†The Hymn of Adoration, No. 111  
*Away in a Manger*

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,  
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

The Pastoral Prayer Matt Johnson

The Anthem arr. Tom Fettke  
*Emmanuel with Behold, a Virgin Shall Conceive*  
Sanctuary Choir  
Marcia Harris, piano

Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,  
and shall call his name Emmanuel, "God with us."

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel;  
God with us, revealed in us! His name is called Emmanuel.

The Gospel Reading Wake Johnson  
Luke 1:46-55 NRSV  
(Pew Bible, pages 831-832)  
One: The Good News offered for all.  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

The Sermon Matt Johnson  
*Curses Into Blessings*

†The Hymn of Response, No. 91  
*My Soul Proclaims with Wonder* WALNUT

1. My soul proclaims with wonder the greatness of the Lord,  
rejoicing in God's goodness my spirit is restored.  
To me has God shown favor, to one the world thought frail,  
and every age shall echo the angel's first "All hail!"

2. God's mercy shields the faithful and saves them from defeat,  
with strength that turns to scatter the proud in their conceit.  
The mighty have been vanquished, the lowly lifted up.  
The hungry find abundance, the rich, an empty cup.

3. To Abraham's descendants, the Lord will steadfast prove,  
for God has made with Israel a covenant of love.  
Rejoicing in God's goodness my spirit is restored,  
my soul proclaims with wonder the greatness of the Lord.

CRADLE SONG

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Mason Harris

†The Doxology OLD 100<sup>th</sup>

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.

The Pastoral Benediction Matt Johnson

The Recessional George Frederick Handel  
arr. Albin C. Whitworth  
*Joy to the World*  
Marcia Harris, organ

†Please stand, as you are able.

## CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE TONIGHT - 5:00PM

**CBF GLOBAL MISSIONS** - When you give to the offering for Global Missions, you are helping to equip the church to do God's will in a broken world, a world in need of The Great Shepherd, Jesus Christ. **Offering Deadline is 12-31-23.**

**KEY INFORMATION & YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS**  
**There will be NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> or Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>.**  
Worship will begin at regular time 11:00AM.

**Church Office** will be **closed** on **Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**. It will reopen on **Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>** for the entire day and a half day on **Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup>**. If you would like to drop your contribution by the church office, you may do so from **Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup> until 12PM on Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup>**. You may also include it in the Sunday morning offering received during the **11AM Worship Service on Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**. Contributions received after that time will be posted in the new year 2024. *Thank you so much for your contributions and support of Fernwood Baptist Church!*

**2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are here and may be picked up from the information table in the lobby. *Please be sure you look closely at the name when picking up your envelopes and only pick up yours.*

**BIBLE STUDY & WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER REMINDERS**  
There will be no Bible Study or Wednesday Night Supper on **Wednesday, Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>**. Wednesday night activities will resume on **Wednesday, Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>**. **Reservation deadline for that meal is Tuesday, Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> at Noon.** You can call 864-582-7467, email the office@fernwoodchurch.org or fill out the registration form on the information table in the concourse and place it in the basket.

**1/3** – *The Gifts of the Gentiles*

**1/10** – *Beginnings (NEW series starting – “Being The Presence of Christ: A Vision of Transformation” by Daniel Vestal)*

**1/17** – *The Basics*