

AN ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

✠ ENTRANCE ✠

GATHERING OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Dobrinski
Carillon Ringers

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Tell the timid to take heart.

**People: The Lord our God will come!
O come, O come, Emmanuel!**

*HYMN 211 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL
(stanzas 1-2, 5-7)

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND CHRISMON TREE

Leader: We pray that the keeping of Advent may open our hearts
to God's love,

People: Come, Lord Jesus!

Leader: We pray that the light of Christ may penetrate the
darkness of sin,

People: Come, Lord Jesus!

Leader: We pray that this wreath may constantly remind us to
prepare for the coming of Christ,

People: Come, Lord Jesus!

Leader: We pray that this Chrismon tree may remind us that Jesus
made the cross a tree of life and light, dispelling our sin
and darkness, bringing healing to our brokenness and
peace to all who receive him.

People: Come, Lord Jesus!

Leader: We pray that this holy season may fill us with peace and
joy as we strive to follow the example of Jesus,

People: Come, Lord Jesus!

**All: Loving God, your Church joyfully awaits the coming of
its Savior, who enlightens our hearts. Pour forth your
blessings upon us as we light the candles of this wreath
and the lights of this tree. May their light reflect the
splendor of Christ, who is Lord, for ever and ever.
Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

A RESPONSE (to be sung through twice by all)

*Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,
And all people will see the salvation of our God.*

✠ THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD ✠

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Colossians 1:15-20

*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in
him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and
invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers – all things
have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all
things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body,
the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he
might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of
God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile
to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace
through the blood of his cross.*

ANTHEM

Messiah's Lullaby

Schwoebel

Chapel Singers (8:25, 9:45)

The People That Walked in Darkness

Barrett

NewSpirit Choir (11:05)

* GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

*Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his
mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together,
she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph,
being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace,
planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this,
an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph,
son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child
conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you
are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All
this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the
prophet:*

*"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall
name him Emmanuel,"*

*which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as
the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had
no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named
him Jesus.*

* GOSPEL RESPONSE (No. 206 - to be sung by all)

In him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

SERMON

Conceived by the Holy Spirit

✠ RESPONSE TO THE WORD ✠

* HYMN 184 *Of the Father's Love Begotten* DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, who by your love has made us, and through your love has
kept us, and in your love would make us perfect: We humbly confess
that we have not loved you with all our heart and soul and mind
and strength, and that we have not loved one another as Christ
has loved us. Your life is within our souls, but our selfishness has
hindered you. We have not lived by faith. We have resisted your
Spirit. We have neglected your inspirations. Forgive what we have
been; help us to amend what we are; and in your Spirit direct what
we shall be, that you may come into the full glory of your creation
in us and in all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

SILENT PRAYERS

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PARDON

THE PRESENTATION OF GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming* arr. Raney

* THE DOXOLOGY

***Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be:
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore. Amen.***

✠ THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION ✠

* TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP

* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Setting III, UMH page 15)

* THE LORD'S PRAYER

GIVING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

*Gluten free elements are available at the station served by Rev. Frazier.
During the communion, the congregation is invited to join in
singing hymns 216, 224, and 246.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

✠ THE SENDING FORTH ✠

* HYMN 242 *Love Came Down at Christmas* GARTAN

* CARRYING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

* DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

* CHORAL RESPONSE (to be sung by all)

*Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ will come.*

* THE CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

To honor our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
please remain standing for all the chimes of the Trinity –
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

* POSTLUDE *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* arr. Kellner

* Please stand as you are able

All hymns may be found in *The United Methodist Hymnal*
unless noted as *TFWS* (which represents *The Faith We Sing*)
or *WS* (which represents *Worship and Song*).

WELCOME TO FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CARY

We welcome you to First United Methodist Church Cary, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray that our time of worship will draw you closer to God and invite you to join us for worship on Sunday mornings. Our regular schedule includes Sanctuary services at 8:25, 9:45, and 11:05, 1st on Chatham at The Cary at 9:45 and 11:05, and our Celebration service in the Fellowship Hall at 11:11.

We invite you to stop by our information table in the large narthex if you have any questions about our church. Also, our website, firstcary.com, may provide the information you need.

We invite you to join us for coffee on Sunday mornings at “First Cup” from 8:00 until 11:00 in the back of the fellowship hall!

WORSHIP LEADERS THIS MORNING:

Preacher: The Reverend Carl Frazier, Lead Pastor

Liturgist: The Reverend Martha McLean,
Pastor of Christian Formation

Choir Director: Kerry Johnston, Director of Music Ministry

Organist: Christy Farris, Assoc. Director of Music Ministry

Pianist: David Griffin

Lay Readers:

8:25 Angela French

9:45 Sandra Schneider

11:05 Adam Bloebaum

Stephen Ministers:

Scott Hansen

Joyce Catherwood

Suzanne Gordon

A Stephen Minister is available in the large narthex after each church service to meet and pray with anyone who would like to.

Listening devices are available at the sound booth in the back of the sanctuary.

Kids and Youth

Children are always welcome! Bulletins and crayon packs are available at each entrance to the Sanctuary. Nursery and Sunday school classes are available for infants through fifth grade. Youth (grades 6-12) gather in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30. Our ushers are happy to escort you and your child or youth to the Children's or Youth Ministry area.

Prayer Concerns

You may view the list of prayer concerns at firstcary.com/prayerlist
firstcary.com • 919-467-1861

OUR VISION

Sharing the heart of Christ from the heart of Cary

OUR MISSION

*To make disciples of Jesus Christ who grow in faith and love
through worship, fellowship, service and witness
to one another and the world*



Conceived by the Holy Spirit



First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2017