

ORDER OF WORSHIP
 Sunday, December 17, 2017
 Third Sunday of Advent
 Poinsettia Sunday, White Christmas and Blessing of the Angel Gowns

ENTRANCE

The people come together in the Lord's name.

PRELUDE

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST AMONG US

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Love has come down to us this Advent Season.
All: Divine love which heals and transforms our lives.
 One: With great joy, we receive that love and share it with others.
All: We open our hearts to all God's children, the last, the least, and the lost, as well as those who feel privileged.
 One: The Lord has done and continues to do great things for us.
All: Praise be to God who loves us so much and who challenges us to be people of joy in this darkened world.

TFWS 2095 Star-Child (verse 1)

One: We hear it said that "Christmas is for children", but I say to you that Christmas is for everyone, for those who have lived through many Christmases; for those whose hearts rejoice or weep at the thoughts of Christmas past. Today we keep these beloved people in our hearts, all God's beloved ones, and we celebrate with joy! "This year, this year, let the day arrive, when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!"

TFWS 2095 Star-Child (verse 5)

*OPENING PRAYER

Lord of Love and Light, shine through our darkness, bringing us hope. Open our hearts for the journey, our eyes for the light, our spirits for the peace which you bring. Fill our mouths with laughter and speech with shouts of joy that we shall reveal the love with which you surround us. We offer this prayer in the name of the One who is coming into the world bringing your hope, love, joy, and peace, Jesus Christ. Amen. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE *Angels from the Realms of Glory* UMH 220

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

HYMN OF PRAYER *In the Bleak Midwinter* UMH 221

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER UMH 895

PROCLAMATION

The Scriptures are opened to the people.

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 OT 608

CHILDREN'S SERMON *Let Us Rejoice!*

BLESSING OF THE ANGEL GOWNS See Insert

SCRIPTURE Luke 1:46b-55 NT 52

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

One: John said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said.
All: During Advent, we pray that we may remember again God's gift of Jesus to the world and know the joy that gift brings to all people.
 One: When we look at the third candle, we remember God's promise of joy. God promised to send a Savior to the people. Today, we read from the Gospel of John. In the Scripture, we read that John was sent by God not to be the light, but to testify to the light. This reminds us that Jesus brings light to the world. And where there is light, there is joy and peace and assurance.
All: When the world seems dark, scary, and frightening, we are reminded that Jesus brings light, and that brings joy.
 One: Let us pray. Dear God, thank you for your son, Jesus. Thank you for the joy remembering Jesus' birth brings to us today. Help us live in such a way that our words and our actions help others know of the joy you give.
All: Amen.

ADVENT SONG *Light the Advent Candle (vv. 1, 2 and 3)* TFWS 2090

SCRIPTURE 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 NT 189

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON *Rejoice Always*

RESPONSE

The people respond with acts of commitment and faith.

ADVENT AFFIRMATION OF FAITH See Insert

OFFERING
 *Doxology *Gloria* UMH 238

SENDING FORTH

The people are sent into ministry with the Lord's blessing.

*HYMN OF PROMISE *Once in Royal David's City* UMH 250

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES FORTH

*BENEDICTION *Emmanuel, Emmanuel* UMH 204

*POSTLUDE

* = Please stand as you are able.
 NT = New Testament, OT = Old Testament
 TFWS = The Faith We Sing, UMH = United Methodist Hymnal
 A fully staffed and stocked nursery is available for your convenience.
 Also, the rocking chairs in the Sanctuary are for rocking your little ones.
 Please ask an usher if you need any assistance.

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are given to the glory and praise of Almighty God and in loving memory of Mayo and Mary Ann Smith by Martha Smith.

SUPPORTING THE CHURCH

BY OUR PRAYERS...

Unless otherwise requested, prayer requests remain on this list for thirty days. We have an active prayer chain. If you have need for immediate prayer, please call the church office or Joanne Taylor at 910-892-7034.

Lou Allred	Nancy Cooper	Anne Johnson	Dollye Walters
Ric Anderson	James Cooper	Ida Lawrence	Irvin Warren
Ed Bateman	Susan Crooks	Janice Lever	Terry Waterbury
Mary Lemuel Blalock	Brandon Eaton	Rochelle Pope	Vickie West
Chris Byrd	Elliott Gifford	George Rawls	Debra Winstead
Kim Byrd	Sarah Herring	Family of Robert Smith	Grace Zyla
Jameson Campagna	Susan Horton	Nancy Thomas	
Larry Carmichael	Sharon Hundley	Kinsley Vann	

BY OUR PRESENCE AND GIFTS 12/10/17...

Sunday School Attendance	40	Offering Received	\$ 3,955.00
Worship Attendance	111	Weekly Cash Needs	\$ 6,726.27

A memorial for **Robert Smith** has been given by Paul and Teeny Perry.

BY OUR SERVICE AND WITNESS...

		<i>Serving This Week</i>		<i>Serving Next Week</i>
ACOLYTE	Dec 17	Natasha Williams	Dec 24	Jackson Crumpler
ALTAR FLOWERS	Dec 17	Martha Smith	Dec 24	Nicole Gossage
CHILDREN'S CHURCH	Dec 17	Martha Smith	Dec 24	No Children's Church
		Rhonda McLamb		
FINANCE	Dec 17	Rudy King	Dec 24	Trey Apperson
GREETERS	Dec 17	Joanne Taylor	Dec 24	Jonathan and Elizabeth Murphy
		Brandon and Hope Tyndall		
NURSERY	Dec 17	Hope Tyndall	Dec 24	Cherry Ennis
YOUTH VOLUNTEERS	Dec 17	No Evening Activities	Dec 24	Christmas Eve Service
	Dec 20	No Evening Activities	Dec 27	No Evening Activities
		<i>Serving This Month</i>		<i>Serving Next Month</i>
ALTAR GUILD	Dec	Joyce Draughon	Jan	Joanne Taylor
		Cherry Ennis		Sharon Raynor
LITURGIST	Dec	Craig Strickland	Jan	Gary Ronnfeldt
USHERS	Dec	Herman Medlin, Steve Parker,	Jan	Sherrell Taylor, Dal Snipes,
		Open, Open		Cory Wilson, Open

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4 Jonathan Murphy	13 Valton Coats	23 Nonie Roberson
5 Allen Peterson	18 Trey Apperson	28 Janice Lever
6 Faye Butler	18 Colin Simonelli	28 Elizabeth Murphy
6 Jackson Crumpler	19 Ethan Duval	28 Mariah Rabb
6 Trey Leslie	21 Richard Bond	29 Mary Jo Rabb
10 Christopher Parker	21 Hannah Faith Gaines	30 Hayden Walker
10 Kyle Parker	22 Gavin Tyndall	31 Ed Bateman
12 Mary Lemuel Blalock	23 Larry Johnson	



December 17, 2017

Divine Street United Methodist Church

Rev. Elizabeth Gaines, Pastor
Rev. Kristina Yeatts, Director of Christian Education
Mrs. Amy Stovall, Director of Music Ministries
Mrs. Anna Bunn, Organist
Mrs. Patti Queipo, Preschool Director
Mrs. Susan Smith, Administrative Assistant

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A Place to...Belong...Believe...Become