



*December 10, 2023*  
*Second Sunday of Advent - Peace*

104 NEWBERRY ST. NW  
AIKEN, SC 29801

P.O. BOX 809  
AIKEN, SC 29802

803-648-6891

[stjaiken.org](http://stjaiken.org)

## Luke 1:46b-55, known as *Magnificat*

<sup>46b</sup> "My soul glorifies the Lord  
<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup> for he has been mindful  
of the humble state of his servant.  
From now on all generations will call me blessed,  
<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me -  
holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup> His mercy extends to those who fear him,  
from generation to generation  
<sup>51</sup> He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;  
He has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.  
<sup>52</sup> He has brought down rulers from their thrones  
but has lifted up the humble.  
<sup>53</sup> He has filled the hungry with good things  
but has sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
remembering to be merciful  
<sup>55</sup> to Abraham and his descendants forever,  
just as he promised our ancestors."

## Gaudete Sunday, December 17

Next Sunday, December 17, is Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday in Advent. We use the pink candle as a sign of joy and the word "Gaudete" is Latin for joy. To honor the joy that Jesus' coming brings us, we want everyone to be as festive as possible. Plan to wear your brightest colors and holiday wear. The gaudier, the better! Jesus brings joy to the world, and we surely need it!

## Applefest Results are In

Once again, Applefest was a tremendous success. As a result of the dedication of this church, Applefest raised \$42,000 - the largest amount ever! On January 7th, St. John's United Methodist Women (UMW) will award checks to the recipients at the 11am worship service.

## St. John's Grief Group

Our St. John's Grief Group is a caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of the life's most difficult experiences, losing a loved one. Please know that you do not have to go through the grieving process alone. If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, we invite you to become a part of our St. John's Grief Group. We will meet on Tuesdays from 3:45pm - 5pm, beginning January 9, 2024, upstairs the Faith Center. If you have questions or plan to attend, please call Reverend Butch in the church office.

## Primetime Travelers Announce First 2024 Trip

St. John's Primetime Travelers will be going to NarroWay Theater, Fort Mill, SC, on March 16, 2024, to attend the Easter production of The Fourth Cross. These Christian plays and lunches have always been popular with the Primetimers. Travel details and registration forms are available in the lobby, outside the church office. Do not delay. Invite a friend. The registration deadline is January 15, 2024.

Also, mark your calendars for Thursday, February 1, 2024, at 2pm in Ward Hall, for the ever-popular Travel Talk announcing the remaining 2024 St. John's travel dates!

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## SERVING THIS WEEK

**Worship Services:** Rev. Dr. Tim McClendon; Rev. Butch Blackwell; Rev. Will Altman; Director of Traditional Music - Dr. Matt Caine; Organist - Christopher Nash; 9:02 Band Leader - Jane Timmerman; The 9:02 Band - Chuck Carver, Juli Davis, Earl Melton, Matt Osteen, George Collins, Steve Davis, Alec James, Jeff Krok, Johnathan Cook, Susan Lawson, & Marshall Sanders

**Crucifer:** Madison Zeigler    **Acolytes:** Madison Bates and Palmer Gregory

**December 11:00 Ushers:** Champ & Jeannette Bowden, Donald Leader, Alison & Roger Carpenter, Penny Rue, Jean Geiger, Al Hartgraves, Art & Susie Smith, Commie Peebles, Leah & Joe Lewis, Mick & Connie Pisko, Eric Randall, Dave Felak, Larry Burdette, Allen & Nola Radcliffe, Kent Falb, Jerry Miller, Mitch Rivers & Mary Ann Findley

**December Worship Support:** Jean Geiger, Sandra Jameson and Millie Winston

You may text your gift to St. John's by texting **stjaiken** to 1-888-364-4483 and following the instructions.

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*The 11:00 service is broadcast over WKSX 92.7 at 12 p.m., one week delay.*

# December 10, 2023

## Children's Ministries

Celebrate Advent at home! Parents, please pick up an Advent coloring book for your child in the Narthex or lobby of the Faith Center. The booklet, entitled *Come! Lord Jesus*, contains daily family devotionals for the season and coloring pages for children.

**Churchwide Gingerbread Nativity:** Tonight 5pm – 6:30pm. **All ages** are invited and welcome, registration includes dinner! Please come join us as we share this special way to tell the Nativity story!

**Christmas Caroling:** December 13, at 5:30pm. Grades 6 and below and parents are invited. We will ride together on the church buses for your convenience. Parents, please bring a flashlight!

**Birthday Party for Jesus:** December 24 at 10am

The children will gather and celebrate the birth of our Savior during Sunday School. Gifts of new men's socks for the homeless are appreciated.

**Children's Nativity Skit:** December 24 during the 5pm Christmas Eve Service  
The children will walk through the story of Jesus birth, as told in Luke 2.  
\*\*Please note: There will be practice on Dec. 20 at 5:30pm.

Please let Cara Robinson know if your child would like to participate in any of these events: [crobinson@stjohns-umc.org](mailto:crobinson@stjohns-umc.org).

## Foundation Student Ministries

(7th-12th Grades)

Tonight is the Churchwide Family Gingerbread Nativity program. We hope to see you all there: 5pm - 6:30pm in the gym. Dinner will be served.

Revolution is January 26-28, 2024! Registration is open on Realm. Early bird deadline is December 17.

Registration is also open for the Ski Trip, February 9-11.

**Youth Small Groups on Wednesdays from 7pm-8pm:**

Brotherhood (7th-12th grade boys) in the gym

CORE (7th-8th grade girls) in the Faith Center

Dwell (9th-12th grade girls) in Bekah & Amy's office

Realm has a new texting update that requires an "opt-in" from you! Parents, counselors, and students, make sure you stay up-to-date on all things Foundation, **text START to (843)305-4638**.

## St. John's Missions News

As we go about our Christmas festivities, let's take a few minutes to pray for the men, women and youth who are in jail and especially for God to encourage those men and youth who have participated in Kairos and Epiphany. May this Christmas be different and special for them.

For the month of November, we are collecting **blankets and sleeping bags**. Please place any donated items in the box marked "**Grace Kitchen**" in the Narthex of each worship service. Please place only the requested donation items in the Grace Kitchen boxes as these are the current items needed.

## Saturday of Service Make Up Date

Our Saturday of Service to Epworth Children's Home was rained out on November 11. Please mark your calendars for January 27, 2024, when we will try again to go and serve Epworth. Sign up sheets will be available in January, but please mark your calendars now!

## Poinsettia Sales Today

Today is the final day to order Christmas poinsettias. Stop by one of the tables today and purchase yours in honor or memory of loved ones. Poinsettias are \$25 each.

**The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God  
in memory of John "Coach" Abshire by The Abshire Family.**

### **Wednesday Night Supper**

**Menu:** Meatloaf, scalloped potatoes, green beans, and Éclair cake

**Kids Menu:** Grilled cheese and fruit

Reservations are required and should be made by Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, at 5pm by calling the church office at (803)648-6891 or contacting Juli Davis at: [jdavis@stjohns-umc.org](mailto:jdavis@stjohns-umc.org). Cost is \$8.00 for ages 10 yrs. - adult and \$3.00 for children over 3 years. You can pay online at [stjaiken.org](http://stjaiken.org), select "GIVE NOW" and then from the drop down menu, select "WNS." You may also pay in person - checks are preferred. Please make checks payable to St. John's.

### **Discipleship Groups are Now Forming**

Come next Sunday, December 17, at 10am, to the Faith Center to learn how being part of a life-changing discipleship group can draw you closer to God. Or contact Denny Norman 773-329-5341 or Francis Osteen 803-617-9771 for more information.

### **Music Appreciation**

In appreciation of today's beautiful Christmas music and in memory of Linda Calhoun, breakfast was provided for the choir and musicians by Lynda and Jerry Platt.

### **News of the Family**

***Welcome our newest member:  
Claire Gaynor***

### **ACTS Monthly Collection Item**

**December — peanut butter**

*Collection bins are located in the Narthex and the Faith Center*

### **Attendance — 12/3/2023**

8:30 | 97    9:02 | 258    11:00 | 319

In-Person Total | 674

9:02 Online Live | 356    11:00 Online Live | 294

### **Financials**

#### **Operations Budget as of 12/06/2023**

Year to date offerings given for what God

is asking us to do:

\$ 2,030,515.21

Year to date ministry expenditure:

\$ 1,976,576.84

\$ 53,938.37

#### **Missions Budget: Year 2023-2024**

Year to date offerings given for what God is asking us  
to do in Missions:

\$ 210,562.52

Year to date Missions Disbursements:

\$ 220,002.74

*We thank you for your generous support of St. John's Ministries & Missions!*



TODAY IS THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



# Order of Worship - 8:30 A.M.

## Christmas Cantata

*We welcome you, no matter who you are, where you come from, or why you are here. We are Christ's people, and this is Christ's place with its doors open wide. Thank you for worshipping with us today. Please silence all electronic devices.*

PRELUDE	<b>Pastorella zur Weihnacht</b> Orchestra of St. John's	Gregor Joseph Werner
	<b>Fantasia on "Greensleeves"</b> Orchestra of St. John's	Ralph Vaughan Williams
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS		Rev. Dr. Tim McClendon
BIDDING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER		Dr. Matt Caine
*CAROL No. 216,	"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"	ES IST EIN ROS
LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE		David & Cara Robinson
SCRIPTURE READING	Luke 1:39-46a	Rev. Butch Blackwell
SCRIPTURE READING	Luke 1:46b-48	Audrey Muckinhaupt
ANTHEM	I. Magnificat anima mea, <i>Magnificat</i> Chancel Choir	John Rutter
ANTHEM	II. Of a Rose, a lovely Rose, <i>Magnificat</i> Chancel Choir	John Rutter
SCRIPTURE READING	Luke 1:49	Audrey Muckinhaupt
READING	"Sanctus" from the Ordinary of the Mass	Rev. Butch Blackwell
ANTHEM	III. Quia fecit mihi magna, <i>Magnificat</i> Chancel Choir	John Rutter
INVITATION TO OFFERING		Rev. Butch Blackwell
SCRIPTURE READING	Luke 1:50	Audrey Muckinhaupt
OFFERTORY ANTHEM	IV. Et misericordia, <i>Magnificat</i> Chancel Choir; Alysa Smith, <i>soprano</i>	John Rutter
*PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS	"Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"	
SCRIPTURE READING	Luke 1:51-52	Audrey Muckinhaupt
ANTHEM	V. Fecit potentiam, <i>Magnificat</i> Chancel Choir	John Rutter
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SCRIPTURE READING	Luke 1:53-55	Audrey Muckinhaupt
*CAROL No. 230,	"O Little Town of Bethlehem"	ST. LOUIS
*BENEDICTION		Rev. Butch Blackwell
CHORAL RESPONSE	VII. Gloria Patri, <i>Magnificat</i> Chancel Choir; Alysa Smith, <i>soprano</i>	John Rutter

\*Please stand, as able.

*This is a time of great need, and our missions and church operations require our continued generous giving. Please consider giving online, through text, through the mail, or over the phone to help us ensure that our ministries here and around the world are not adversely affected. More details can be found at [stjaiken.org](http://stjaiken.org).*



## Order of Worship

### Second Sunday of Advent - Peace

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#### PRELUDE

**PRAISE SONG**                      **The First Noel**                      *Stainer/Third day*

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**                      **Rev. Dr. Tim McClendon**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**                      **The Sawyer Family**

**PRAISE SONG**                      **God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen**                      *BNL*

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**                      **The Apostles' Creed**

*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.*

**PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER**                      **Rev. Dr. Tim McClendon**

*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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.*

**OFFERTORY**                      **"What Child Is This"**                      *Dix*

#### THE CHRISTMAS STORY THROUGH SCRIPTURE & SONG

**READINGS**                      **Genesis 1:1-5**                      **Elizabeth Grace Reynolds**

**Genesis 3:8-15**                      **Ben Dean**

**SONG**                      **"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"**                      *Wesley/Robinson*

**READING**                      **Genesis 22: 15 - 18**                      **Carson Higgins**

**SONG**                      **"Emmanuel"**                      *Tomlin*

**READINGS**                      **Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**                      **Michelle Pearson**

**Micah 5:2-5a**                      **Susan McDonald**

**SONG**                      **"Light of the World"**                      *Daigle*

**READING**                      **Luke 1:26-35, 38**                      **Avelyn Yeh**

**SONG**                      **"Magnificat, Mary's Song"**                      *Agnew*

**READINGS**                      **Luke 2:1-7**                      **Thomas Rittgers**

**Luke 2:8-16**                      **Gloria Savoy**

**SONGS**                      **"When Love Was Born"**                      *Schultz*

**"It Came Upon A Midnight Clear"**                      *Sears/MercyMe*

**READINGS**                      **Matthew 2:1-11**                      **Xander Leigh**

**John 1:1-14**                      **Harper Duren**

#### BENEDICTION

**SENDING FORTH SONG**                      **"O Come All Ye Faithful"**                      *Wade/Third Day*

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