

Luke 2:15 When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go to Bethlehem! Let’s see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

¹⁶ They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. ¹⁷ After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. ¹⁸ All who heard the shepherds’ story were astonished, ¹⁹ but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. ²⁰ The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.

²¹ Eight days later, when the baby was circumcised, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel even before he was conceived.

²² Then it was time for their purification offering, as required by the law of Moses after the birth of a child; so his parents took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. ²³ The law of the Lord says, “If a woman’s first child is a boy, he must be dedicated to the Lord.”* ²⁴ So they offered the sacrifice required in the law of the Lord—“either a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”**

* **Exodus 13:2** “Dedicate to me every firstborn among the Israelites. The first offspring to be born, of both humans and animals, belongs to me.”

** **Leviticus 2:8** “If a woman cannot afford to bring a lamb, she must bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons. One will be for the burnt offering and the other for the purification offering. The priest will sacrifice them to purify her, and she will be ceremonially clean.” (NLT)

Prayer List:

Homebound Members, Emma McGinnis, J.D. Paschal, Aaron Griffith, Barry Williams, Tommy Hicks, Johnny Glover, Jesse Sigmon, Joe Alexander, Joanna Gibbs, Dennis Irving, Shannon French, Wanda Poole, Mitch Mason, Regina Hampshire, Ray Gibson, Rebecca Filibey, John Noell, Donna Snoufer, John Rush, Kennedy Kollesar, Mary Lynn Somers, Steven, Latoyia, and Lee Rakestraw.

**Call the church office to add / update a listing.*

Lets Us Celebrate You!

Plan to attend the **Birthday Fellowship Meal** on Sunday, February 9, 2025 after morning worship! Be on the look out for more information, so you don’t miss out on the fun!

Food Bank Collection

The **NOW Committee** is collecting **canned green beans and canned corn** for the Reidsville Outreach Center during the month of December. *Thank you for your support!*

Monthly Mission Offering

December Monthly Mission Offering is for **Main Street United Methodist Help Fund**. The offering supports people of the church and community that are in need.

Snack-Kit Ministry: The people of Main Street United Methodist continues to give snack kits to neighbors in need. The snacks and toiletries are distributed on Wednesdays of each week at 10 a.m. Your continued contributions of deodorant, toothpaste and soap or donations to purchase supplies helps tremendously with this ongoing project. Call the church office if you would like to help. *Thank you for all donations!*

Main Street United Methodist Church
is a growing fellowship of loving, faithful, praying
disciples of Jesus Christ.

Mission Statement

MAIN STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

221 SOUTH MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 338

REIDSVILLE, NC 27320 | | 336-349-3432

A SERVICE OF COVENANT RENEWAL

DECEMBER 29, 2024

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lord, you are mindful of us and you have given us mercy;
The Lord will bless them that fear the Lord.

HYMN 234

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ful

OPENING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN 238

Angels We Have Heard On High

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE OFFERING

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:15-24

SERMON

Home

THE CONFESSION

We are those who seek to live as true disciples of Jesus Christ, but sometimes we fall short. Let us now examine ourselves before God, humbly confessing our sins and submitting our hearts so that we do not deceive ourselves and cut ourselves away from God.

Let us pray: **Father God, You have set forth the way of life through Your Son Jesus Christ, whom You love dearly. We shamefully confess that we have been slow to learn of Him and have been reluctant to follow Him. You have spoken and called to us but we have not listened. You have revealed Your beauty to us, but we have been blind. You have stretched out Your hands to us through our friends, but we have passed by them. We have accepted Your gifts and offered little thanks. We are unworthy of Your unchanging love.**

We now confess to you our sins. Please forgive us...
for the poverty of our worship...
for the selfishness of our prayers...

for our inconsistency and unbelief...
for the ways we neglect fellowship and Your grace...
for our hesitation to tell others about Christ...
for the ways we deceive others...

Forgive us for when we waste time and when we misuse the gifts you have given us. Forgive us for when we have made excuses for the wrong things we have done and when we have purposefully avoided responsibility.

Forgive us that we have been unwilling to overcome evil with good and that we have not been ready to carry our cross. Forgive us that we have not allowed Your love to work through us to help others and that we have not made their suffering our own. Forgive us for those times when instead of working for unity we made it hard for others to live with us because of our lack of forgiveness, inconsiderate judgment, and quick criticism.

Forgive us for when we have not tried to reconcile with others and when we have been slow to seek redemption.

Forgive us also for these sins that we silently confess to you now.

(All Pray in Silence)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PARDON

HYMN 354

I Surrender All

THE INVITATION

Let us gathered here before the Lord, now in covenant, commit ourselves to Christ as his servants. Let us give ourselves to Him so that we may fully belong to Him. Jesus Christ has left us with many services to be done. Some of these services are easy and honorable, but some are difficult and disgraceful. Some line up with our desires and interests, others are contrary to both. In some we please both Christ and ourselves, but then there are other works where we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. Jesus Christ, we offer You this prayer:

Let me be Your servant. Let me follow your commands. I will no longer follow my own desires. I give myself completely to your will.

The power and strength to live as true servants is given to us in Christ. We accept the place and work that He gives us, acknowledging that He alone will be our reward.

I am not my own. I am Yours alone. Make me into what You will. Rank me with those You will. Put me to use for You. Put me to suffering for You. Let me be em-

ployed for You. Let me be laid aside for You. Let me be lifted high for You. Let me be brought low for You. Let me be full or let me be empty. Let me have all things or let me have nothing. With a willing heart, I freely give everything to Your pleasure and disposal.

Christ is Savior to those who are His true servants. He is the source of all salvation to those who obey. To be His servant is to consent fully to His will. Christ accepts nothing less. Christ will be all in all, or he will be nothing.

Now confirm this truth in holy covenant. Make it a reality in your life in these ways:

First, set apart time in your day, more than once, to be spent alone with the Lord. Seek to perceive God's special care for you and gracious acceptance of you. Carefully think through the words of this covenant and its conditions. Examine your heart, even if you have freely given your life to Christ. Name the sins in your life. Reflect on whether you are willing to choose Christ's holy laws and strict commands. Be sure you are clear in all of these so you do not lie to God!

Second, uphold a serious spirit of holy awe and reverence.

Third, claim God's covenant. Do not trust in your own strength and power but rely upon God's promise of giving grace and strength. In this way, He will empower you to keep your promise.

Fourth, be determined to be faithful. You have given your heart and life to God. You have opened your mouth to dedicate yourself to the Lord. With God's power, never go back to your former way of living.

And last, be prepared to renew your covenant with God. Fall on your knees. Lift your hands. Open your hearts.

THE COVENANT PRAYER

Let us pray together: **My righteous God, for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, see me now as I fall down before You. Forgive my unfaithfulness when I have not done your will. You promise mercy if I turn to You with my whole heart.**

God requires that you rid yourself of every idol in your life.

From the bottom of my heart, I here and now renounce every idol in my life, covenanting with You that I will not commit any known sin. By turning against Your will I have turned my love toward the world. In Your power I will watch for any temptation that will lead me away from You.

Through Jesus Christ, God offers to be your God again, if you allow Him to be.

Before all heaven and earth, I here and now acknowledge You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as my Lord and God. I vow to give all of myself, body and soul, to be Your servant and to serve You in holiness and righteousness all the days of my

life.

Jesus Christ is the only way and means to God. God has given us Jesus as the way and means to salvation.

Jesus, I here and now accept You and the only new and living Way. I join myself in covenant with You. I come to You hungry, sinful, miserable, blind, and naked, unworthy even to wash the feet of Your servants. With all my power, I accept You as my Lord and Head. I renounce my own unworthiness, and vow that You are the Lord, my righteousness. I renounce my own wisdom and take You for my only guide. I renounce my own will and take Your will as my law.

Christ has told you that you must suffer with him.

Jesus, I here and now make this covenant with You and accept whatever comes in life. Through Your grace I promise that neither life nor death will separate me from You.

God has given holy laws as the rule of your life.

I here and now willingly take on Your yoke and burden.

All Your laws are holy, just, and good. I accept them as the rule for my words, thoughts, and actions, promising I will strive to order my whole life around your direction. I will not allow myself to neglect anything I know to be my duty.

The Almighty God searches and knows you, even the thoughts of your heart.

O God, You know that we have made this covenant today in sincerity, without deceit or reluctance. If You find anything false in us, guide us and help us to set it right. And now, glory be to You, God the Father. From this day forward, I shall look upon You as my God and Father. Glory be to You, God the Son. You have loved me and washed me from my sins in Your own blood. From this day forward, I shall look upon You as my Savior and Redeemer. Glory be to You, O God the Holy Spirit. By Your almighty power, You have turned my heart from sin to God. From this day forward I shall look upon You as my Comforter and Guide. O mighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you have now become my Covenant Friend. And I, through Your infinite grace, have become Your covenant servant. You are mine and I am Yours. So be it. May this covenant that I have made here on earth be ratified in heaven. Amen.

HYMN 240

Sing

Hark The Herald Angles

DISMISSAL