

Kern Memorial United Methodist Church

The Reverend Donna M. Hester, Pastor

November 28, 2021 11:00 AM

First Sunday of Advent

Welcome

Prelude

Give Thanks

Henry Smith/Mark Hayes

*Call to Worship

Our ancestors have led us here.

We are witnesses of their faith.

The wisdom of the ages has called us here.

We are children of its call.

The choice to follow God lies before us.

We are heirs of its promise.

The Lord of life has called us here.

We are here to worship the Lord.

*Hymn

We Gather Together

UMH, 131

*Affirmation of Faith

The Nicene Creed

UMH, 880

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer

Lord's Prayer

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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Anthem

Bless This House

H. Taylor

Scripture Lesson

Joshua 24:14-24 (CEB)

Rev. Donna Hester

14 “So now, revere the Lord. Serve him honestly and faithfully. Put aside the gods that your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates and in Egypt and serve the Lord. **15** But if it seems wrong in your opinion to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve. Choose the gods whom your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you live. But my family and I will serve the Lord.”

16 Then the people answered, “God forbid that we ever leave the Lord to serve other gods!

17 The Lord is our God. He is the one who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. He has done these mighty signs in our sight. He has protected us the whole way we’ve gone and in all the nations through which we’ve passed.

18 The Lord has driven out all the nations before us, including the Amorites who lived in the land. We too will serve the Lord, because he is our God.”

19 Then Joshua said to the people, “You can’t serve the Lord, because he is a holy God. He is a jealous God. He won’t forgive your rebellion and your sins. **20** If you leave the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn around and do you harm and finish you off, in spite of having done you good in the past.”

21 Then the people said to Joshua, “No! The Lord is the one we will serve.”

22 So Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the Lord.”

They said, “We are witnesses!”

23 “So now put aside the foreign gods that are among you. Focus your hearts on the Lord, the God of Israel.”

24 The people said to Joshua, “We will serve the Lord our God and will obey him.”

Message

“Choose ”

Rev. Donna Hester

Farewell to Pastor

I thank you, the members and friends of Kern Memorial United Methodist Church, for the love and support you have shown me while I have ministered among you.

I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave to minister elsewhere. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave with your departure.

I accept your gratitude and forgiveness, and I forgive you, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God. I release you from turning to me and depending on me. I encourage your continuing ministry here and will pray for you and for your interim pastor, Jim Bailes.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, whose steadfast love for us is from everlasting to everlasting, we give you thanks for cherished memories and commend one another into your care as we move in new directions. Keep us one in your love forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Hymn

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

UMH, 117

*Blessing with Response

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Lutkin

Announcements

Sunday, November 28, 2021

- 8:30 am** Christian Formation Class (Zoom)
- 9:00 am** Praise and Worship Service (FLC)
- 10:00 am** Sunday School Classes
- 10:00 am** Online Worship Service (Facebook, YouTube)
- 11:00 am** Traditional Worship Service (Sanctuary)

Monday, November 29, 2021

- 9:00 am** Monday Morning Maintenance (Narthex)
- 12:30 pm** Staff Meeting (Parlor)
- 5:30 pm** Yoga (FLC)
- 6:00 pm** Venture Crew (Room 3)
- 7:00 pm** Scout Troop 324 (FLC)

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

- 9:00 am** Camp Faith (Rm 26, 28)

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

- 5:30 pm** Family and Fellowship (FLC) reservations needed before noon on Monday
- 6:15 pm** Children/Youth Play Practice (FH/Sanctuary)
- 7:00 pm** Choir Practice (Sanctuary)

Thursday, December 2, 2021

- 8:00 am** Prayer Partners (Parlor)
- 9:00 am** Camp Faith (Rm 26, 28)

Saturday, December 4, 2021

- 2:00 pm** United Methodist Women Bake Sale (FLC)

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