

The Advent wreath is given in memory of Kevin Douglas Vincent, by Janet Vincent and his family .

Using their Gifts to Serve in December:

Deacon of the Month of December:	Charlie Cole/Tommy Bird
December Radio Ministry Sponsor:	Don and Lynn Johnson
Opening of the Church in December:	Steve Fowler
Ushers for December:	Don Johnson, Wayne Brown, Bruce Brown, and Bob Turner
Caregiver for December 7-30:	Charlie and Dell Aycock

This Week at Murfreesboro Baptist Church . . .

Sun.	Radio Broadcast, 98.3	10:00 A.M.
	Worship	11:00 A.M.
	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	5:30 P.M.

Please join us for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on this evening at 5:30 p.m.

A Christmas Concert will be held at Lasker Baptist Church December 27th at 6:30 pm featuring pianist Dr. Charles Hulin.

Thank you to all who donated to the Fuel Assistance Program. Your donations have helped families pay for home heating costs that they might otherwise not be able to pay.

With the help of your donations, we were able to provide White Christmas Boxes to those in our area who are in need by bringing spiritual and physical nourishment to local families for the holidays. Thank you.

We will be receiving the CBF Offering for Global Missions throughout the month of December. Please make checks payable to MBC and mark your offering “Global Missions”.

The Installation Service for our pastor, Dr. Mark Gaskins will be held on Sunday, January 14, 2024. Please join us for the special occasion.

If you are looking for a way to help local families, the church food pantry is in need of volunteers willing to donate food items. The sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board next to the pantry in the fellowship hall.

Merry Christmas  
from your Pastor and Church Staff!

Please remember these friends who cannot worship with us regularly:

Phil Royce Janet Collins Bern Davenport Tom and Ann Caulkins Randy and Cheryl Whitley

200 West Main Street	Contact us at:	252-398-3613	Murfreesboro, NC 27855
Email: office@murfbc.org	Website:	www.murfbc.org	

# Murfreesboro Baptist Church

The Lord’s Day, December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Dr. Mark E. Gaskins, Pastor

Mrs. Paula Pressnell, Organist and Choir Director

Rev. Thomas Caulkins, Pastor Emeritus

<i>We Gather to Worship</i>		
Prelude	<i>Carol Medley</i>	arr. Carl Bloom
Words of Welcome	Dr. Mark Gaskins	
The Lord be with you! <b>And also with you!</b>		
Ministry Opportunities	Dr. Gaskins	
Call to Worship	Lighting of the Advent Wreath	The MBC Family
Advent Hymn No. 79	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i>	VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven’s peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Litany of Praise	<i>Based on Romans 16:25-26 (NRSV)</i>
God is able to strengthen you according to the gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith.	
<b>To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever! Amen.</b>	

<i>We Hear God’s Word</i>		
*Hymn of Praise No. 102	<i>Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come</i>	ANTIOCH
Children’s Sermon	Ms. Sarah Davis	
Old Testament Lesson	1 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Dr. Gaskins
The Word of God, for the People of God. <b>Thanks be to God.</b>		

The Church at Prayer		
Call to Prayer		
The Prayers of the People		
The Lord’s Prayer ( <i>trespasses</i> )		
*Hymn of Thanksgiving No. 114	<i>Gentle Mary Laid Her Child</i>	TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDIUM
Thanksgiving with Our Tithes and Offerings		
Offertory Sentence		Dr. Gaskins
Offertory	<i>What Child Is This?</i>	arr. Marilyn Ham
*Doxology 706	<i>Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	OLD 100 <sup>TH</sup>
*Offertory Prayer		Dr. Gaskins
New Testament Lesson	Luke 1:26-38	Dr. Gaskins
The Word of the Lord. <b>Praise His Holy Name!</b>		
Message in Song	<i>Glory to God!</i>	Lloyd Larson
Scripture and Sermon	Luke 1:46-55	Dr. Gaskins
	Mary’s Song	

<i>We Respond to God’s Word</i>		
*Hymn of Response No. 127	<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>	MENDELSSOHN
Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment		Dr. Gaskins

<i>We Go Forth with God’s Blessing</i>		
Commission and Benediction		
**Postlude	<i>Variations on Joy to the World</i>	Rich Coburn
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<i>*Please stand as you are able.                      **Please remain seated until the conclusion of the music.</i>		

**To our guests this morning . . .**

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you to worship today at Murfreesboro Baptist Church. We believe that worshiping God together is the most important thing we do as a church, strengthening our faith and drawing our attention to God, who created us, calls us, and sustains us by the power of the Holy Spirit. We encourage active participation in worship through responsive readings, corporate prayer, giving our tithes and offerings, and singing the hymns together.

As Baptists, we emphasize the reading and preaching of the Bible, God’s written word. We also practice believers’ baptism, and invite those who are not already believers to make a public profession of faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior. We frequently share the Lord’s Supper, which is open to all baptized Christians.

As members of the larger body of Christ, we affirm our kinship with our fellow believers in other traditions and around the world by following the seasons of the Christian year. We are now in the season of Advent. The color for the season is purple, symbolizing the royalty of the coming King and our penitence as we prepare to greet him.