

Our Service of Worship on the Lord's Day (Rom. 12:1 – NAS)

Sunday 10:27 a.m. December 17, 2023

Pastor: Gary Kiontke

Phone: (978) 660-7557

Pianist: Luis Gregorio

Jesus Is Lord

Sing Praises & Prayers to: Father-JesusChrist-HolySpirit

** **Prelude:** #433 “*Near to the Heart of God*”

Call to Worship: *Psalm 85:1-7 (KJV)*

** **Opening Hymn** #214 “*Good Christian Men Rejoice*”

** **Invocation**

Congregational Prayer of Confession (Bulletin Insert)

We shout to the Lord in joyful music:

** ----- “*Shout to The Lord*” (Bulletin Insert)

Scripture: *Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13; Luke 2:25-32 (KJV)*

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

We testify in song that Jesus came for the whole world:

** #199 “*It Came upon the Midnight Clear*”

Responsive Reading: *Isaiah 51:1-6 (NAS, See Bulletin Insert)*

Light Advent Candle of **Joy-Light**

Message: *Renewal is better than what went before*

We prepare our hearts for Communion:

** #265 “*Let Us Break Bread Together*”

Responsive Reading (Bulletin Insert)

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

** **Closing Hymn:** #194 “*Joy to the World*”

** **Benediction:** *Isaiah 49:5-6 (NAS)*

** **Postlude:** #203 “*Ring the Bells*”

** Congregation Please Stand

We welcome you to our time of worship this morning. Thanks for being with us today!

People arriving after 10:15 are encouraged to join in singing to the Lord, or to focus on the Lord by reflecting on the words of the songs, or otherwise communing with God.

This Week at the Church

Thursday 3:00 PM -- *Prayer in Parlor*

Sunday 9:30 AM -- *Music Team Practice*

10:30 AM -- **Sunday Morning Worship**

LOVE: Salvation comes from God's mercy

7:00 PM -- *Christmas Eve Candle-light*

We are still finalizing plans for the Christmas Eve Candle-light service, but we do know that some people from the Haitian Nazarene Church will participate.

Be sure to consider the options for our next mid-week Bible study, and let your first three choices in order be known. And please feel free to choose a topic of your own first.

We are giving people the opportunity to worship virtually.

Go to: www.facebook.com/pg/FCCClintonMA at 10:27 AM on Sunday mornings to watch the worship service live. The video of the service is also available to watch at any time.

A video of our worship (on a one week delay) airs on Comcast (Xfinity) Clinton channels 8 and 99 on Mondays at 8:00 PM, Tuesdays at 6:30 AM, and Sundays at 5:30 AM.

To listen to last week's sermon: Go to fcclintonma.org. On the left hand side go to 'Blog Postings' and click on 'Sunday Services'. Under 'Sunday Service – month, day, year' hit the prompt 'Continue Reading ->'. This will bring up PDFs of the Bulletin and Sermon Outline as well as two audios. Click on the big arrow on the left and it will start to play.

JOY:

God can rebuild what was destroyed

Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13; Luke 2:25-32

Notes:

Prayer: To have a request included in the *Pastoral Prayer*, phone the church office and leave a message any time before 9:00 AM on Sunday morning. *Or*, fill out a green ‘*Prayer Request*’ card on the back table as you come in and give to Pastor Gary up front before 9:25 AM.

Text for the week:

Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. And we have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this, love is perfected with us, that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

1 John 4:15-18 (NAS)