



THE ADVENT OF
HOPE PEACE LOVE JOY LIGHT

*First Friends Meeting
December 3, 2017*

Gather and Center

Prelude	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i>	arr. Larson
Welcome and Announcements		Sheila Hoyer
Joys and Concerns		
Silence for Centering Prayer		

Listen and Respond

Hymn 154	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i>	
Young Friends Message		Mary Nelle Smith
Anthem	<i>The Yearning</i>	Courtney
Offertory Invitation and Prayer		Jacque Behrends
Offertory	<i>Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming</i>	arr. Drischner
Advent Song	<i>Come Now, O Prince of Peace</i>	Hymn 157, stanza 1
Scripture Reading	Isaiah 64:1-9	Jacque Behrends
Hymn 176	<i>Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates</i>	
Message	"It's Me God - Are You There...?"	Don Durham

Waiting Worship After the Manner of Friends

If led to speak, please stand and wait for a host to bring a microphone.

Please allow for a few minutes of silence between messages.

Go Forth in Spirit

Benediction		Don Durham
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Sung Response

Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Please close Meeting for Worship by shaking hands with your neighbors.

Joining Don on the facing bench is Jacque Behrends.

Jacque Behrends says she has been a part of this Meeting since even before she can remember. She and her Shih Tzu, "Soybean," love their 57 year old house and their early morning walks.

Anthem

There is a yearning in hearts weighed down by ancient grief and centuries of sorrow. There is a yearning in the hearts that in the darkness hide and in the shades of death abide, a yearning for tomorrow.

There is a yearning a yearning for the promised One, the First-born of creation. There is a yearning for the Lord who visited His own, and by His death for sin atoned, to bring to us salvation.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning. Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.

There is a yearning that fills the hearts of those who wait the day of His appearing. There is a yearning when all our sorrows are erased and we shall see the One who placed within our hearts the yearning.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning. Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.

First Friends warmly welcomes visitors.

Please complete the visitor card and place it in the offering plate.

We invite you to contact pastoral staff with any questions.

Please help yourself to Quaker literature in the foyer.

Activity packets are available for children as well as a fully staffed nursery.

Hearing devices are also available.

Please see a morning host for assistance.

Gentle Reminder: Please silence all electronic devices.

Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down -- so that the mountains would quake at your presence as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil -- to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, the one who works for those who wait. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O LORD, you are our Parent; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever.

Now consider, we are all your people.

JOYS AND THANKSGIVINGS

Dawn Carter. We celebrate with Dawn her ongoing recovery from breast cancer and hold her in the light that she will continue to receive good news!

Jaden Allen Jeanis, grandson of Diane Burns and Jay McCracken, came into this Sweet World on November 17. All the Jeanis family, mother Kasey, dad Jody and baby are healthy, happy and very grateful. Diane was honored to be present at the magical birth of Jaden, a 6lb. 5oz. Miracle. Love abounds!

Akil Ramsey was released from Whitaker this past Friday. He will be continuing physical therapy at home. Akil, Ellen and family thank you for your many prayers, cards and support.

IN THE LIGHT

Hattie, Beth Joyce's mom, is in the hospital. Please hold her in our prayers.

Gene Martin, Chris Burnett's uncle was diagnosed with cancer last week and started chemo this past Tuesday.

Jean Small has been at Cone Hospital, Room 3 South 10, for the past week due to serious cellulitis of her leg. She is making slow progress. Prayers are appreciated.

Este Rayle's husband **Bill Rayle's** memorial service was held last Saturday. Please continue to hold Este in the light.

Robert Dixon had orthoscopic knee surgery last Wednesday. He thanks everyone for their prayers. He feels his knee surgery was a success! Please hold Robert and Nancy in light as he recuperates.

Patti Culberson, Lou Gordh's sister-in-law's surgery was successful. well. So far everything is proceeding normally.

Brad McHargue. We continue to hold Brad in our prayers.

PRAYERS FOR ONGOING HEALTH CONCERNS

Laura Mason Altizer's mother, Fred Small, Jim Wilkinson, Ray Hurley, Norman Rider, Helen Hoffman's mother, mother-in-law and husband. Dawn Davis and her mother, Heidi McLaughlin's son Christopher, Rose Corbett's mother Betsy Wray. Janis Hammett's cousin, Alan Cochran, Beth Joyce's mother Hattie, Edith Shepherd's friend Jan, Mary Elizabeth Barwick and Patrick Tillman's mother Marian and nephew, Harrison Tillman. Mary Elizabeth and Patrick's cousin. Traci Cossman's Aunt Polly and Uncle Bob, Maryann Phillips Eisenbrand and Dawn Carter.

CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

DRESS REHEARSAL: There will be a dress rehearsal of the Christmas play, "Room For Everyone," next Sunday, Dec. 10, at 3 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Participants should bring their scripts. The play will be presented at 4:30 p.m. the same day, followed by the annual Soup Supper. For questions and further details, see Bill Hass.

Sunday, December 3 and December 10 at 10:00am children who would like to be in the Christmas Nativity (but are not doing a speaking piece) can meet Sheila downstairs in the room across from the food pantry. We will talk through and walk through what will be happening the evening of the play.

This Advent, we will be learning one of the new hymns in our hymnal, Come Now, O Prince of Peace. Geon-yong Lee wrote the music and words in 1988 while attending a workshop in Geneva with the World Council of Churches. Mr. Lee was born in 1947 in Pyongannam-do, in what is now North Korea. His father was a minister. Following the Korean War, the family moved to what is now South Korea in 1953, where Mr. Lee grew up in Seoul.

Korea was divided into two countries in 1953 at the end of the Korean War. Though fighting has ceased, the region remains tense. Mr. Lee is among the many Anglicans actively working toward reunification of the Korean Peninsula.

Each stanza of this hymn is a petition requesting the "Prince of Peace" to "come" to us and to "reconcile" us to "all people" and "all nations." It is a timely and appropriate prayer for our world today, and so we join our voices with our brothers and sisters in Korea who long for and pray for peace.

The Gift that Gives Back! Our beautiful "In Honor" cards are the perfect gift that keeps on giving through the year! First Friends Food Pantry feeds approximately 60-75 families a month. During the holidays we give away 150 turkeys with the fixings for Thanksgiving dinner and 150 hams with the fixings for Christmas dinner. You can help feed a family by contributing \$25 per meal. You are welcome to donate any amount and take as many cards as you need. Cards will be in the office and available during office hours as well as in the foyer after Meeting for Worship on Sundays through Christmas.

Sunday Morning Gatherings at 10:00am. In the Adult gathering this Sunday we will be continuing our discussions of *Quakers and Social Justice Movements: Nonviolent Direct Action* in Room 208. We will focus on the example of Mohandas Gandhi.

Monthly Meeting for Business will meet today, December 3, 2017, 12:00pm in Fellowship Hall.

Pecans are on sale! United Society of Friends Women (USFW) will be selling pecans again this year. If you wish to purchase, see any USFW member or look for the sale in the foyer at the Rise of Meeting on Sundays.

The next **Working Group to Undo Racism Meeting** will be held on December 7, 7:00pm in Room 208. Childcare will be provided.

Ministry and Counsel will meet on December 10, 12:00pm in the Library.

United Society of Friends Women will meet at Bravo's, December 11, at 11:30 am for a special Christmas luncheon.

Daisy Newman will meet on December 13, 6:15pm in Fellowship Hall. It will be hosted by: Nancy Dixon - Rnak1215@bellsouth.net, and Kathryn Straughn - luemas@bellsouth.net. Please bring your favorite salad topping and a couple of items for the food pantry. Please remember to RSVP one of the hosts so we will have the proper number of table settings. Come prepared to enjoy a wonderful salad bar and fellowship as we enter into this Christmas season.

Christmas Eve at First Friends:

- 9:00am Unprogrammed Meeting for Worship,
Gathering Room
- 11:00am Meeting for Worship with Carrie Paz, guest
musician
- 5:30pm Christmas Eve Candlelight and Carol
Singing Service
Joe and Tommy Wrenn singing, the Rowlett/
Gilbert string quartet, and the ABCs of
Christmas

The Financial Peace University class will meet for nine consecutive Mondays, beginning on January 22, from 6:30 - 8:00 pm at First Friends. Childcare will be available (donations appreciated). Participants may purchase materials and register at <http://www.fpu.com/1053286>. This class will be open to the public - if you know anyone who might be interested, please share this information. Contact Elizabeth Vance with any questions, evance878@gmail.com or [336-686-6847](tel:336-686-6847).

Quaker Environmental Justice Group Forming

Are you interested in working collaboratively on environmental issues from a Quaker perspective based on the model of the Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT)? Committed to nonviolent direct action, EQAT is active in the Philadelphia area in efforts to combat climate change, and there is interest among local Quakers in learning from their work. If you would be interested in participating, please contact Margaret Rowlett or Deb Staves.

Springfield Friends Meeting. *Dinner and a Show.* Tonight is the last show. **Dinner and Show begins at 7pm, Admission is free, donations welcome.** The dinner and show will begin at 7:00pm in the Rees Fellowship Hall at 555 E. Springfield Road in High Point.

High Point Friends Meeting—Christmas Music:

December 3, 10:00am.Choir, Organ & Violin featuring, Kimberly Farlow.

December 17, 5:00pm Candlelight Service (The Story of Christmas)
Choir, Organ & Oboe featuring Heidi Gordon. Mark Your Calendars.

Agape Retreat, Thursday February 8 through Sunday February 11, 2018. Contemplative Outreach of Central and Eastern North Carolina
<http://www.contemplativeoutreachnc.com/>. It's not too soon to look toward the 2018 retreat at Agape Retreat and Conference Center in Fuquay-Varina. Join us for 4 days of contemplative silence, prayer, community, time in nature and a warming fire to gaze upon. Please go to our website: www.contemplativeoutreachnc.com and click on Special Events. There will be a link to the Registration Form. ***Please register by December 15, 2017. If we don't have 12 participants by December 31, 2017 we will have to cancel the retreat.*** For more information, contact Leslie Bellard at 919-906-3110 or lsbellard@gmail.com.

NOTES, DOODLES AND REFLECTIONS ...

COLORING PAGE

GODS

LOVE

has NO

LIMITS

**First Friends is a Quaker Meeting
building healthy relationships
with God, one another, and all creation.**

**336-299-8869
www.friendlymeeting.org
office@firstfriendsmeeting.org**

**Office Hours:
Monday: Closed
Tuesday-Friday: 10:00am-3:00pm**

Ministers: Everyone

**Don Durham, Intentional Interim Pastor
Sheila Hoyer, Pastor of Education and Outreach
Monica Citty Hix, Minister of Music
Ellen Ramsey, Office Manager
Pam Reese, Treasurer
Cidney Holliday, Nursery Care
Adrian Quarles, Nursery Care
Bill Davis, Monthly Meeting Presiding Clerk
Beth Joyce, Clerk of Ministry and Counsel
Anita Lewis, Clerk of Personnel Committee**

To email a Clerk or Staff: (first name)@firstfriendsmeeting.org
Don, Sheila, Bill, Beth, Monica, Jean, Ellen or Pam

Sunday Gatherings

Unprogrammed at 9:00 a.m. in the Gathering Room
Choir Practice at 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Gatherings at 10:00 a.m.
Semi-programmed at 11:00 a.m. in the Meetingroom

*Childcare available in the Nursery
(Six years of age and younger)*