

# Christ Church United Methodist

December 3, 2023

(in - person) 9:00 am  
(live-streamed & in - person) 11:15 am

## First Sunday of Advent Communion Sunday Order of Worship

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Eric Bryant

PRELUDE

*In the Bleak Midwinter*  
Celebration Ringers  
Shawn Dawson, conductor

arr. Fred Gramann

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

(9:00) The Tzanetos Family  
(11:15) The Janesky Family

Leader: This is a time for preparation, of journeying toward Bethlehem.

**People: And making straight the path that will bring us into the presence of the Divine.**

Leader: There are messages to hear and journeys to examine.

**People: Those who make the journey only need the simple gift of a willing heart.**

Leader: We light the first candle representing hope for the journey.

**ALL: May we follow God's light of hope as we worship this day!**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

*Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

Hymn 203

Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!  
Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;  
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.

He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong;  
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;  
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;  
love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.  
Before him, on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go,  
and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;  
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.  
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand forever; that name to us is love.

\*INVITATION

Rev. Melissa Head

Leader: Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,  
who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live  
in peace with one another.

Therefore let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON**

**People:** Merciful God,

we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have failed to be an obedient church.

We have not done your will,

we have broken your law,

we have rebelled against your love,

we have not loved our neighbors,

and we have not heard the cry of the needy.

Forgive us, we pray.

Free us for joyful obedience,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Leader:** Let us all pray silently and confess our sins to God.

*(All pray in silence)*

**\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**Leader:** Now hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners.

That proves God's love for us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**People:** In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**All:** Glory to God. Amen.

**OFFERING MUSIC**

‡ 9:00

*Tundra*

Ola Gjeilo

Chancel Choir Sopranos and Altos  
Portia Odette, solo; Daniel Light, piano

‡ 11:15

*Betelehemu*

arr. Barrington Brooks

Chancel Choir Tenors and Basses  
Reese Walton, Alex MacDonald and James Chapman, percussion

**\*DOXOLOGY**

Hymn 95

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Him, all creatures here below;  
praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**CHILDRENS MOMENT**

Rev. Dr. Leanne Hadley

**\*SCRIPTURE**

*Matthew 3:1-12*

(9:00) Hazel Powell  
(11:15) Sally Jackson

**SERMON**

*The Journey: To Hope  
Advent Tree*

Rev. Dr. Eric Bryant

\*SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION (*turn to page 24 in the hymnal*)

### THE 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.

### SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

*The ushers will direct you to the kneeling rails where you may kneel or stand.  
When you are at the rails, please hold out your hands, and you will be served.  
If you need gluten free bread, let your server know.*

*If you wish to remain in your seat, please raise your hand as the server comes down the aisle and they will bring the elements to you.*

### MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

*A Christmas Pastorale* Charles Callahan  
Ben Williams, oboe; Shawn Dawson, organ

*Wait for the Lord* Taizé  
**Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.  
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!**  
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*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* Charles Callahan  
Andrew Blosser, clarinet

*Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming* arr. Ron Boud  
Daniel Light, piano

*In the Bleak Midwinter* arr. Daniel Light  
Daniel Light, piano

### PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING COMMUNION

### INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

### \*CLOSING HYMN

*Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies* Hymn 173  
Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true, the only light,  
Sun of Righteousness, arise, triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee;  
joyless is the day's return, till thy mercy's beams I see;

till they inward light impart, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
fill me, Radiance divine, scatter all my unbelief;  
more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day.

## SENDING FORTH

## POSTLUDE

*Awake, the Voice is Calling Us, BWV 645*  
Shawn Dawson, organ

J.S. Bach

† Dr. Daniel Blosser, conductor

\*\**Announcements are located on the following pages*

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## THIS MORNING

The flowers displayed in the Chancel area today have been given in loving memory of our parents, Julia and Bill Yackey and Kay and Jack Wetzel by Steve and Debbie Yackey and family.

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Christian sympathy is extended to Joe Nunnelley on the death of his wife, Jeanette Nunnelley, who died November 29. Christian sympathy is also extended to daughters Kimberly (Kevin) Broecker and Michelle (Brad) Stevenson.

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### ***Joy of Every Longing Heart | 2023 Christmas Concert***

Come and celebrate the Christmas season with one of our church's most treasured traditions! Our annual Christmas concerts feature carols, both old and new, presented by the Chancel Choir, Carillon Ringers, Jubilate Ringers and orchestra. Admission is free, and all visiting family, friends and guests are welcome!

- **Sunday, December 10 | 5 pm**
- **Wednesday, December 13 | 7:30 pm**
- **Sunday, December 17 | 9 & 11:15 am**
- **Tuesday, December 19 | 7:30 pm**

Shuttle service between The Summit Office Park (at Hubbards Lane & Brownsboro Road) will begin 1 hour prior to the concerts on December 10, 17 (11:15 am service only) and 19. The 11:15 am concert on December 17 will be available on livestream at [ccum.net/live](http://ccum.net/live). Childcare is available for all concerts.

### **Blue Christmas | Sunday, December 17 | 4:30 pm | Chapel**

Blue Christmas is a worship service designed as a gift of love and hope to those who may have experienced suffering or loss over the course of the past few years. In trying and painful times, we come to God and look to Christ's light for comfort and peace. Communion will be served and the service will be live-streamed at [ccum.net/live](http://ccum.net/live).

### **Christmas Eve Morning Worship | Sunday, December 24 | 10 am | Sanctuary**

Worship only. No Sunday School. Childcare is available for ages 5 and under.

## Christmas Eve Worship Services | Sunday, December 24 | Sanctuary

**3 pm | 5 pm | 8 pm | 10:45 pm**

3 pm service is designed for families with young children.

5 pm service will be live-streamed at [ccum.net/live](http://ccum.net/live).

Childcare is only available at the 3 pm and 5 pm services and is for ages 3 and under.

## New Years Eve Worship | Sunday, December 31 | 10 am

Worship only. No Sunday School. Childcare is available for ages 5 and under.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Family Advent Celebration: Christmas Comes to Life!

Begin your Advent journey with the Nativity Bible characters as they tell the story of Jesus's birth to remind us all of the love God has for us! **Dinner, games, cookie decorating, Bible Trading Cards!** This is an Advent event for the whole family to enjoy! Tonight, **Sunday, December 3 at 5:30 pm** in Fellowship Hall. Register at [ccum.net/children](http://ccum.net/children).

**Monday, December 4, at 11:30 am** in the **Chapel**, the **Sanctuary Series** presents the **Ballard Madrigal Singers**, putting their full hearts into this captivating musical program! The concert is free, and all are welcome. An offering will be taken to benefit Maryhurst.

**Urgent Need for Help in December!** The Bridge gatherings on Tuesdays and Thursdays are an important part of the recovery process for many women at The Healing Place. The normal **transportation for the gatherings for 15-18 women is unavailable in December**. If you would be willing to transport some of these women from and to The Healing Place on **Tuesdays (pick up at 5:30 pm)** or **Thursdays (pick-up at 4:30 pm)**, please contact Rev. Leigh Ann Manyard at [LMaynard@ccum.net](mailto:LMaynard@ccum.net).

**United Methodist Men's Breakfast** | Saturday, December 9 | 8 am | Fellowship Hall

Men of all ages are invited to join us the second Saturday of the month for **breakfast, fellowship and a guest speaker**. This month's speaker is Bobby Patton, Director of Youth Ministry. Come get to know Bobby and hear about the exciting things happening with our youth!

### Registration for the Laudate Winter Retreat is now open!

The retreat is happening on **January 26-27**. We will be spending Friday and Saturday together with food, fun, and fellowship and sing for several organizations in the Louisville metro area. Check in at church Friday evening at 6 pm and we'll conclude on Saturday at 3 pm. **This event is FREE!** Please contact Dan Blosser at [dan@ccum.net](mailto:dan@ccum.net), with questions. Register now at [ccum.net/youthmusic](http://ccum.net/youthmusic).

### Staff Appreciation

As is our **tradition**, the Staff Parish Relations Committee wants to give you the opportunity to **show your appreciation to the staff** by making a contribution towards a Kroger gift card for each of them, if you so choose. To **express your gratitude**, you may write a check to CCUM with 'Staff Appreciation' in the memo line or give online at [ccum.net/give](http://ccum.net/give) and choose 'Staff Appreciation' from the fund drop-down. Please send your gift by Thursday, December 14. Whatever amount you may be able to give, thank you for recognizing our talented and dedicated staff at Christmas.

Join us **Monday, December 11** for a special **Senior Adult Ministry** luncheon! First, we'll gather in the **Chapel at 11:30 am** for a glorious concert with gifted musician Carol Wellman, *Ringing the Liturgical Year*. Then we'll move to **Fellowship Hall** for a delicious **holiday meal**, with a gift at each table setting. Merry, merry! **Register** at [ccum.net/SAM](http://ccum.net/SAM) or fill out a form at the Reception Desk and drop it in the SAM box no later than Friday, December 8 at 12 pm.

**Pointing the Way** | An Advent Study with Liz Curtis Higgs | Tuesdays, November 28 and December 5 | 10 am | Chapel  
Prepare your heart for the **joyous coming of the Christ Child**, as we consider the many Old Testament prophecies pointing toward the long-awaited Messiah. This **two-week study** is **open to everyone!** Register at [ccum.net/classes](https://ccum.net/classes)

We are hosting a **brunch for our college students while they are home for Christmas break on Sunday, December 17 at 12:30 pm in the Café**. For more information, please contact Logan Ashkettle at [logan@ccum.net](mailto:logan@ccum.net).

**Save the Date for Created By God, February 2 - 4, 2024.** This weekend retreat is designed to communicate to 5th graders that we are a fantastic creation made by God. The **topics of human sexuality, values and relationships are approached in a frank, honest and Bible-based manner**. Parents are required to attend an information meeting in order for your child to participate. For more information, please contact Amy Chapman at [achapman@ccum.net](mailto:achapman@ccum.net).

### **Weekly Fitness Classes**

Looking to improve your fitness while having fun? We have 2 types of classes every week in the Gym, open to all ages and fitness levels, and they're **free!**

- REFIT® combines movement and positive music for a cardio-based workout that is challenging, effective and fun for everybody. Classes are Mondays at 6:15 pm and Saturdays at 9 am.
- REV+FLOW® is a low impact, high intensity workout focused on building strength, balance, flexibility and mobility. Classes are Tuesdays at 6:15 pm.

### **College Aged/ Young Adult Contact Information**

If you have a loved one who has taken their first steps into adulthood, whether that be attending college or trade school, entering the workforce, or taking time for themselves, **we want to stay in contact with them** as they transition into becoming adults. Please fill out the information form at [ccum.net/youngadults](https://ccum.net/youngadults) so we can ensure those who are adapting to a new chapter in their lives **feel God's love** through Christ Church.

### **Men's Ministry: Just for Men** | Wednesdays at 7:30 am via Zoom

Join Rev. Mike Porter, Director of Men's Ministries and Discipleship, as he shares scripture and discussion for men during these trying times. Drop-in to our weekly gathering. If interested, please email [katie@ccum.net](mailto:katie@ccum.net) to be sent the Zoom link.

### **Men's Morning Coffee** | Tuesdays | 7 - 8 am | Fellowship Hall

We invite you to come join other men on Tuesday mornings anytime between 7 - 8 am. Stop in grab a coffee and donut, connect/reconnect with old and new friends and listen to a short devotional.