

# Christ Church United Methodist

December 24, 2023

(live-streamed & in - person) 10:00 am

## Fourth Sunday of Advent Order of Worship

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Leanne Hadley

PRELUDE

*The First Noel*  
Andrew Blosser, clarinet; Daniel Light, piano

arr. Wayne Fritchie

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Carolyn and Maris Godbey

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 fourth candle representing peace for the journey.

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

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*  
O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Hymn 211

Refrain:

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. [Refrain]

O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times once gave the law in cloud and majesty and awe. [Refrain]

O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree, an ensign of thy people be;  
before thee rulers silent fall; all peoples on thy mercy call. [Refrain]

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Based on John 1:1-5, 14*

Liz Curtis Higgs

We believe the good news of the gospels:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory,  
the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart*

Hymn 160

Praise God who reigns on high, the Lord whom we adore,  
the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, one God forevermore.  
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO PRAYER

*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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PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

OFFERING

OFFERING MUSIC

*Gesu Bambino*  
Erin Cornett, solo  
Daniel Light, piano

Pietro Yon

\*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 1:18-25*

Allison Spurgeon

SERMON

*A Safe Space*

Rev. Dr. Leanne Hadley

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

\*CLOSING HYMN

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Hymn 196

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

*Toccata on 'Veni Emmanuel'*  
Shawn Dawson, organ

Andrew Carter

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

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## THIS MORNING

The flowers in the Chancel area have been given by Bill and Debbie Cook in loving memory of their daughter, Susan.

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Christian sympathy is extended to.....

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### **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.

Communion will be offered immediately following the 3 pm service in the Chapel and will also be served during the 5 pm, 8 pm and 10:45 pm services in the Sanctuary.

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

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Charge Conference** | January 28, 2023 | 12:30 pm | Room 158

All Administrative Council members are asked to attend and all church members are invited to attend this annual church business meeting. Childcare is available upon request by January 21 to [gina@ccum.net](mailto:gina@ccum.net).

**A much-loved Bible study returns to Christ Church!** Beginning January 11, go deep and wide with **DISCIPLE**, a 24-week study of the entire Bible, each **Thursday** from **11:30 am - 1 pm** in **Room 260**, led by Steve Keene. Register at

[ccum.net/classes](http://ccum.net/classes). “Go therefore and make disciples...” Matthew 28:19

### **Registration for the Laudate Winter Retreat is 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).

**Register 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), or you can register at [ccum.net/createdbygod](http://ccum.net/createdbygod).

### **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](http://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.