

Christ Church United Methodist

December 22, 2024

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent Order of Worship

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Eric Bryant

PRELUDE

Comfort Ye, My People/Ev'ry Valley (from Messiah)
Daniel Blosser, soloist
Matthew Vanover, harpsichord

G.F. Handel

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

(9:00) Liz and Bill Higgs
(11:15) Lisa and Wade Watkins

Leader: The journey to Bethlehem is not much farther, and this candle will help light our way.

People: God's light goes before us, we are not alone.

Leader: We long for the Good News of Jesus.

People: We are becoming a people of more love.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Hymn 211

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thy justice here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Hymn 206

I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. (Refrain)

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. (Refrain)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Rev. Amy Chapman

I believe in God the Father Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified dead and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

BAPTISMAL COVENANT (11:15)

James Wells Stewart (3/2/2024) son of Nicholas and Brittany Stewart

Pastor: Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin
and your commitment to Christ?

People: We do.

Pastor: Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include
Wells now before you in your care?

**People: With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according
to the example of Christ. We will surround him with a community of love and forgiveness, that he may
grow in service to others. We will pray for him, that he may be a true disciple who walks in the way that
leads to life.**

Pastor: Members of the household of faith, I commend to your love and care
Wells, whom we this day recognize as a member of the family of God. Will you endeavor so to live that he may
grow in the knowledge and love of God, through our Savior Jesus Christ?

**People: With God's help, we will so order our lives after the example of Christ
that Wells, surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in the faith and confirmed and strengthened
in the way that leads to life eternal.**

BAPTISMAL RESPONSE

Hymn 609

You have put on Christ, in Christ you have been baptized.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO PRAYER

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Hymn 229

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow: Christ the babe was born for you.

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

‡ 9:00

All is Well
Chapel Choir
Hannah Benz, soloist

arr. Ron Huff

◇ 11:15

Oba Ti De
Chancel Choir
Richard Root, Dan Trice, Mark Berlin, Lester Blank and Jeff Reynolds, soloists
Reese Walton, Alex MacDonald and James Chapman, percussion

Jeffery Ames

*DOXOLOGY

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.

Hymn 95

CHILDRENS MOMENT

*SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:39-45

(9:00) Paula Matthews
(11:15) Beth Dixon

SERMON

Peace for the King

Rev. Dr. Eric Bryant

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

*CLOSING HYMN

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Hymn 216

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as those of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter
when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind:
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore to men a Savior
when half-spent was the night.

This Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispel with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God, from sin and death now save us,
and share our every load.

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
Matthew Vanover, organ

arr. Norman Dello Joio

‡ Mark Benz, conductor; Daniel Light, piano

◇ Dr. Daniel Blosser, conductor

***Announcements are located on the following pages*

This Morning

The flowers on the altar this morning are given by Tom Jones in honor of the Chancel Choir, the wonderfully talented directors and the many volunteers.

Our Church Family

Christian sympathy is extended to Cara and Chad Forinash on the death of Cara's father, Barry McCauley, who died December 10. Christian sympathy is also extended to grandchildren, Graham and Finn.

Christian sympathy is extended to Anthony Burke on the death of his wife, Pam Burke, who died December 13.

Advent 2024

ccum.net/advent

Christmas Eve Worship Services | Tuesday, December 24 | Sanctuary

3 pm | 5 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*.

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

Sunday, December 29 | 10 am

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

Holiday Closure:

The church office and building will be closed
Wednesday, December 25 - Friday, December 27 and Wednesday, January 1.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Staff Parish Relations Committee has granted a renewal leave for Dr. Dan Blosser beginning January 2 through February 27. Renewal leave provides energizing renewal for clergy, staff and the congregation. It is an important part of maintaining focus, commitment, passion and skill for ministry. Dan has prepared the staff and his team well for his absence. We invite you to extend prayers for Dan during this time of renewal.

College-age? Young adult? Wondering where you fit? Visit **Dwell!**

Led by Sarah Patton and Jennifer Goselin, this **brand new gathering** is for **young adults** age 18 - 35 (single or married, no children) in Room 150b on **Sunday mornings from 10 - 10:45 am**. Invite a friend and come to Dwell.

Parking Lot Caution: From time to time, cars are broken into in the church parking lot, even during well-attended events, during daylight, and when the car is parked for a short amount of time. External cameras are mounted around the building, but not all areas of the parking lot are visible. Please be sure not to leave any valuable items visible in your car when parking.

NEW NUMBER! REACH ON-CALL PASTORS | (502) 893-7774

Call or text (502) 893-7774 to connect with a pastor in case of a pastoral emergency (like at emergency room, admitted to the hospital, scheduled for surgery, actively dying, a recent death, suicidal, active family conflict, a move from or to a rehab or nursing facility or some other crisis). A pastor will answer, or you can leave a message and a pastor will return your call shortly. Out of respect, please do not use any individual staff cell phone numbers, no matter how well you know them, so they can truly be off when they are off. All of our pastors care greatly about the congregation members and want to offer care when you need us. Please help us by adding this number to your phone contacts!

Help us celebrate the ministry of **Liz Curtis Higgs** as she prepares for her December 31 retirement. Liz will be preaching on Sunday, December 29 at 10 am (our only worship service that day). **A light reception will follow in the Gathering Hall.** To **express appreciation** for Liz, you may write a note and mail it or drop it off to the church and/or contribute to the "Flower Fund" for the new garden Liz plans to work on in her retirement. Checks may be made to CCUM with "Liz Flower Garden" in the memo line, or made online at ccum.net/offering, select "Liz's Flower Garden" fund.

Charge Conference | January 26 | 12:30 pm

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 19 to gina@ccum.net.

Grief Support | Prayer Room 150b | 11 am | Wednesdays, January 8 - February 26

Experiencing the death of a loved one is something you do not have to walk through alone. As you are grieving, transitioning, and coping, you can **receive support and encouragement** through your church. If you have questions, email Melissa at melissa@ccum.net.

MEN

Men's Lunch - Meet and Meat! | Sunday, January 12 | 12:30 pm | Fellowship Hall

All men are invited to join us immediately following the 11:15 am worship service for **lunch, fellowship and fun!** We're

excited to welcome our **guest speaker, Rear Admiral Gene Price** (Retired). The menu features smoked ham, baked beans and macaroni and cheese. Please note that there will be no Men's Breakfast in January, so this lunch is a great opportunity to connect. Please sign up at ccum.net/men.

SERVE

Christmas Eve Parking Attendants Needed!

We are looking for some folks to help us **direct and assist** with parking for the 5 pm Christmas Eve service. Volunteers should plan to arrive at 4 pm. Please contact Mike Porter, mike@ccum.net, if you are available.

Roll up your sleeve and join us for the next **Red Cross Blood Drive** on **Tuesday, January 7** from 1 - 6 pm in Fellowship Hall! Please schedule an appointment by contacting Kim Brice at (502) 727-2581. Walk-ins are also welcome.

FELLOWSHIP

New to Christ Church? Looking to learn more? Join Rev. Dr. Eric Bryant and Rev. Amy Chapman for **Belong! A Christ Church Connect Class**, Sundays in February at 10 am. Register at ccum.net/belong, registration is encouraged but not required.