

# Christ Church United Methodist

December 21, 2025

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

## Order of Worship Fourth Sunday of Advent

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Eric Bryant

PRELUDE

*Wachet auf, ruft uns die stimme*  
Daniel Blosser, tenor  
Matthew Vanover, organ

J.S. Bach

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

(9:00) Petal Pushers  
(11:15) Wedding Coordinator Team and Remembrance Team

Leader: Today, we come face to face with the scandal of Advent: Mary, the unmarried mother; God Incarnate growing in Mary's womb as a vulnerable baby; Joseph contemplating leaving Mary because of her pregnancy; God's love at work in ways that society and propriety could not understand; God calling Mary and Joseph to faithfulness despite the fear of disgrace.

**All: With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch, and listen for the way and work of God's love. We choose to look for the bright spots of light and grace especially in the places they seem hardest to find.**

Leader: We light this candle of love as a sign of our faithfulness as we seek, find, and follow Emmanuel, God with us.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*  
True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,  
lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;  
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Hymn 234

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*  
Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;  
behold, the King of glory waits;  
the King of kings is drawing near;  
the Savior of the world is here!

Hymn 213

Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
make it a temple, set apart  
from earthly use for heaven's employ,  
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come, with us abide;  
our hearts to thee we open wide;  
let us thy inner presence feel;  
thy grace and love in us reveal.

Thy Holy Spirit lead us on

until our glorious goal is won;  
eternal praise, eternal fame  
be offered, Savior, to thy name!

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Rev. Amy Chapman

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in the one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*Gloria Patri*

Hymn 70

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

MUSICAL RESPONSE

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel*

Hymn 204

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.  
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

OFFERING

OFFERING MUSIC

◇ 9:00

*Ring the Bells*  
Chapel Choir

John Behnke

‡ 11:15

*Angels We Have Heard on High*  
Chancel Choir

Howard Helvey

\*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.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

\*SCRIPTURE

*Matthew 1:18–25*

(9:00) Daren Neel  
(11:15) Matthew Kellner

SERMON

*Holy Interruptions*

Rev. Dr. Eric Bryant

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.

\*CLOSING HYMN

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Hymn 211  
st. 1, 2, 5, 6

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

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, thou Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home.  
The captives from their prison free,  
and conquer death's deep misery. [Refrain]

Oh come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirit by thy justice here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight. [Refrain]

## SENDING FORTH

## POSTLUDE

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*  
Matthew Vanover, organ

arr. Dello Joio

◇ Mark Benz, conductor

‡ Dr. Daniel Blosser, conductor; Daniel Light and Matthew Vanover, piano

---

## This Morning

The flowers on the altar this morning are given in honor of our incredible ministers from a grateful community.

## The rose banner honors the birth of:

Wells Patterson Crockett, born November 24. Son of Callie and Henry Crockett and baby brother to Hank.

Olivia Mae Chesser, born December 5. Daughter of Rachel and Derrick Chesser.

## Christian Sympathy is extended to the following church members:

Jane Myers on the death of her mother, Eulalia Seay, who died December 7.

The siblings, family and friends of Bill Powers, Jr. who died December 9.

---

This mornings Advent Wreath Lighters represent our Petal Pushers Ministry and our Wedding Coordinator and Remembrance Teams.

**Petal Pushers** share God's love by creating small bouquets from our weekly altar-flower arrangements. The flowers that have been present in our worship are carried forth to bless those who are ill or shut-in, and those experiencing sorrow or celebration.

**Wedding Team and Remembrance Team** members serve and care for families who are experiencing moments of great joy and moments of profound sorrow. With elegance and compassion, these groups help create a lasting sense of God's presence, safety, peace and love.

## Christmas Eve Services

Wednesday, December 24 | 3\*, 5\*, 8 and 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).

8 pm service will be in the Chapel; all others will be in the Sanctuary.

\*Childcare will be available for children ages 3 and under.

**Sunday, December 28** | One worship service at 10 am

Childcare is available for ages 5 and under.

No Sunday School.

---

## Advent 2025 | Light From Light Eternal

More information and registration at [ccum.net/advent2025](http://ccum.net/advent2025)

**Advent Study** | Sunday, December 21 | 10 - 11 am | Chapel

Facilitated by Pastor Amy Chapman, this gathering is a study of Amy-Jill Levine's book, *A Child is Born: A Beginner's Guide to Nativity Stories*. Whether you've read the book or are just curious — to come, reflect, and walk together toward Christmas with renewed insight and hope.

**A.W.E. Ministry** | Threads of Light: An Advent Art Project

As we wait for the coming of Christ, join AWE in creating a shared textile of light and hope. Visit our table in Gathering Hall and add your piece before the 11:15 am service through December 21.

**Chair Yoga** – Joy to the Seat! | Tuesday, December 23 | Fellowship Hall

All are welcome for a Christmas-themed chair yoga series that will offer gentle, seated movement and breath work to increase mobility, reduce stress and nourish your body and spirit. Wear comfortable clothing and join us – no experience necessary!

**College Brunch** | Today, December 21 | 10 am | Youth Center

We're excited to welcome our college students' home for Christmas Break! Join us for our annual Christmas Brunch, hosted this year by Youth Ministry. Come enjoy a hot breakfast, served by our students.

**Christmas Caroling with Open Chord** | Tonight, December 21

Our Open Chord music ministry invites you to join the band as they take the show on the road for some old-fashioned Christmas caroling. All ages and musical abilities are welcome—if you can hum then join the fun! Registration is requested, so we can coordinate transportation and communication.

---

## Announcements

**Holiday Closing** The building will be closed Thursday, December 25 through Friday, December 26 and Thursday, January 1 through Friday, January 2.

**Charge Conference** | January 25 | 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 18 to [childcare@ccum.net](mailto:childcare@ccum.net).

## YOUTH/CHILDREN

### **Epiphany Pillow Project** | January 4 | 12:30 - 2 pm | Fellowship Hall

On the Sunday before Epiphany, we invite you to come hang out, eat pizza and make soft, knotted pillows for our homeless neighbors. During Epiphany, we celebrate that the Wise Men traveled to meet and bring gifts to Jesus. This is an opportunity to follow their example and **deliver meaningful gifts** to those in whose faces we glimpse the glory of God. Registration is required at [ccum.net/children](http://ccum.net/children), if you plan on eating.

## SERVE

Roll up your sleeve and join us for the next **Red Cross Blood Drive** on **Tuesday, January 13** from 1 - 6 pm in Fellowship Hall! Please schedule an appointment by contacting Kim Brice at (502) 727-2581. Walk-ins are also welcome.

### **Grief Support Group** | Tuesdays, through - December 23 | 11 am - 12 pm | Prayer Room

Experiencing the death of a loved one is something **you do not have to walk through alone**. Grieving, transitioning and coping cry out for added support and encouragement. Such **support is essential** to your wellbeing - spiritually, mentally and physically. In response to these ongoing needs, we are offering a time of sharing, learning and supporting one another with care. If you cannot commit to being there every week, then come when you are able. If you have questions email Rev. Karen Lovett at [kgklovett49@gmail.com](mailto:kgklovett49@gmail.com).