



*December 5, 2021 ♦ 11:00 a.m. ♦ Second Sunday of Advent*

## **Welcome to University United Methodist Church**

**At *University UMC***, our mission is to live into radical kinship through loving God, serving others and building Christian community. We pray all will find encouragement and spiritual nourishment here as we praise God together this morning.



*Living into Radical Kinship through Loving God, Serving Others and  
Building Christian Community*

150 East Franklin Street • Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
[www.universityumc.church](http://www.universityumc.church)  
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## GATHERING

### Words of Welcome

#### Prelude

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

Johannes Brahms

#### Lighting of the Advent Candle

*Responsively*

On the second Sunday of Advent, we know that God’s love has always been with us. God’s love has been made known to us in a new way, through the birth of the Christ-child. God has become one of us, the Word that breathes the Spirit into us, and in Christ we know the fullness of God’s love. We are called to share that love with the world.

We light this second candle for the love God has for the whole world.

**Come, wander where lion and lamb gently play, where evil is banished and faith takes the day. A babe in a manger to fool the world’s eyes. One candle is lit for God’s loving surprise.**

#### \*Hymn 211, st. 1-3 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lowly exile here until the Son of God appear.  
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.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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

#### \*Opening Prayer

*In Unison*

God of Ancient Times, we find your light in the simplicity of lighting candles. We are reminded of your love in the coziness of familiar stories and songs. We have found your joy in the pleasures of decorating and baking and passing on traditions that were taught to us. We are reminded of our roots of long ago, traditions from long before you came into our world as the Christ-child. May our souls be filled as we harken back to days of old with our carols and rituals. As Christmastide approaches, speak to us from out of the old ways, and help us find new meaning here and now, as we wait for and anticipate you, who once was, who is, and who is to come, Almighty God our Savior. Amen.

#### \*Sung Response

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

## PROCLAMATION

#### \*Prayer for Illumination

*In Unison*

Gracious God, give us humble, teachable, and obedient hearts, that we may receive what you have revealed, and do what you have commanded. Amen.

#### \*Gospel Reading

Luke 1:68-79

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

#### Sermon

“Praying in Advent”

The Rev. Dr. Creighton Alexander

## RESPONSE

### \*Affirmation of Faith

*In Unison*

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God.  
We are called to be the church: to celebrate God's presence,  
to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.  
In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.

### Prayers of the People

*Responsively*

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Let us pray . . .  
*The congregation responds to each petition, "Hear our prayer."*

### The Lord's Prayer

*In Unison*

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.

### Presentation of Our Gifts and God's Tithes

God is Good. All the time.  
And all the time. God is Good.

*Responsively*

**Generosity Moment:** *You may designate your offering via mobile phone by texting "UniversityUMC" to 833-245-5259 and choosing the General Fund or specific missions, or through [UniversityUMC.church](http://UniversityUMC.church).*

### Anthem

"Lo, He Comes, With Clouds Descending" David H. Williams  
*Chancel Choir*

## SENDING FORTH

### Invitation to Christian Discipleship

*If you wish to become a follower of Jesus Christ, a member of University United Methodist Church, or would like for someone to pray with you, we invite you to please come forward during the closing hymn and meet the clergy in front of the chancel rail.*

### \*Hymn 209

"Blessed Be the God of Israel"

Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,  
who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.  
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;  
God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.

Now from the house of David a child of grace is given;  
a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven.  
Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,  
the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.

On prisoners of darkness the sun begins to rise,  
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes,  
to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace;  
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**      "Savior of the Nations, Come"      Johann Gottfried Walther

*\*Please stand if you are able.*

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Please remember to sign our [online attendance pad](#) and visit [the announcements page](#) for more information about upcoming events! If you are not comfortable with accessing our announcements online, please call the church office to get connected.

## Ministerial Staff & Those Serving Today

Senior Pastor .....	The Reverend Justin Coleman
Exec. Pastor of Discipleship & Operations...	The Reverend Dr. Creighton Alexander
Pastor of Outreach.....	The Reverend Tobi Nguyen
Pastor of Kindred Church.....	The Reverend Daniel Childs
Youth Minister.....	The Reverend Charlie Baber
Director of the Ministry of Music .....	Tim Baker
Director of Children and Family Ministries.....	Rebecca Dyck
Minister of Administration.....	Michael Saunders
UNC Wesley Campus Minister.....	The Reverend Ryan Spurrier
Lector.....	Beth Alexander
Audio Visual .....	Davis Brown, Chris Cooper, Molly Cobb
Generosity Moment .....	Carol Walker
Advent Candle Lighters.....	The Pomykal Family

## Flowers

The Chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and by Kathy and Arrel Toews in honor of their family.

The wreaths on the front doors are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Tapp Wood by his brother, Matt Wood.