



December 24, 2025 ♦ Christmas Eve ♦ 6:30 p.m.

Welcome to University United Methodist Church

*At **University UMC**, we are all guests in God's house. 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 evening.*



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

150 East Franklin Street • Chapel Hill, NC 27514
www.universityumc.church
919-929-7191

GATHERING

Words of Welcome

Please sign our pew pad or [online attendance pad](#) and visit the [announcements page](#) for more information about upcoming events! If you are unfamiliar with accessing our announcements online, please call the church office to get connected.

Prelude

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Traditional French
arr. by Eddie Lewis

Trumpet ~ Tyler Pfledderer, Lauren Holtshouser

Hymn 250

“Once in Royal David’s City”

Soloist ~ Audrey Fitch

Soloist sings 1st verse. Congregation sings remaining verses.

*Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed;
Mary, loving mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.*

**He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor, the scorned, the lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.**

**Jesus is our childhood’s pattern; day by day, like us he grew;
he was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Responsively

Advent Candle Lighters: the Whittington family

The night is still and expectant for the shepherds. Their wait is almost over. First one angel voice, “I bring wonderful, joyful news.” Then angels filling the sky with “Gloria!” The shepherds rush to the manger and there, held by humble hay and gentle hands, they find God’s gift. Jesus is born! We light this Christ candle to honor the story, a bright flame of thanks and praise.

Emmanuel, you have come. God with us, you are the light that shines in darkness. Together we look and listen and marvel. Together we celebrate, for Jesus is the light of the world, and darkness does not extinguish this light. We thank you for this Christmas gift! Amen.

Carol

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Chancel Choir

Chamber Ensemble

Traditional French
arr. by Taylor Scott Davis

PROCLAMATION

Prayer for Illumination

In Unison

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

Anthem

“A Maiden Most Gentle”

Youth Choir

Soloist ~ Caitlin Campbell

Traditional French
arr. by Andrew Carter

Gospel Reading Luke 2:1-14
The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

(NT, p. 1245)

Carol "Hark The Herald Angels Sing"
Chancel and Youth Choirs
Chamber Ensemble Charles Wesley
David Wilcox

Sermon "A Light Shines in the Darkness" The Reverend Justin Coleman

RESPONSE

***Hymn** "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen"
God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day
to save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father a blessed angel came
and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same;
how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy.

"Fear not," then said the angel, "Let nothing you affright;
this day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
to free all those who trust in Him from Satan's pow'r and might."
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy.

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,
and left their flocks afeeding, in tempest, storm, and wind,
and went to Bethlehem straightway, nthis blessed Babe to find.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Now to the Lord sing praises all you within this place,
and with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas all other doth deface.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Presentation of Our Gifts and God's Tithes

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

Responsively

Offertory "Gloria" (from *Mariazeller Messe*) Joseph Haydn
Chancel and Youth Choirs
Chamber Ensemble
Sung in Latin:

Glory to God in the highest! Peace on earth and good will to all.
We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you."

***Doxology**, Hymnal, p. 95

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

***Invitation to the Table**, Hymnal, p. 12

***Confession and Pardon**

Responsively

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.

All pray in silence.

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Glory to God. Amen.

***The Great Thanksgiving**, Hymnal p. 17

Responsively

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

... we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

... as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

... all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

***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.

***The Breaking of the Bread and the Taking of the Cup**

The Giving

The body of Christ broken for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ shed for you. **Amen.**

In the United Methodist tradition, the Table is open to all who desire the Sacrament, including children. If you wish to celebrate communion by intinction, dip the bread into the cup so as to receive both elements together. After you receive the elements, you are invited to respond, "Amen" or "Thanks be to God." You may stand or kneel at the chancel rail in prayer as long as you wish. We invite you to consider leaving an offering to support neighbors in need. We use bread from Wegmans and Welch's grape juice. [Visit our website for allergen information.](#)



Gluten-free wafers and a dedicated chalice are available upon request at the station just left of the center aisle. Wafers are free of gluten, wheat, yeast, dairy, egg, soy, nut, and corn.

Carols During Communion

Sung by Choirs and Congregation

- 234 "O Come All Ye Faithful"
- 246 "Joy to the World"
- 228 "Il est Né, le Divin Enfant"
- 218 "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"
- 219 "What Child Is This"

Prayer after Communion

SENDING FORTH

The Candle Lighting

"O Holy Night"
Soloist ~ Eliza Scott

Adolphe Adam
John S. Dwight

Benediction

*Hymn 239

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;
radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

*As you depart, you may recycle your candles by placing them in the baskets
located at the Sanctuary exits.
Merry Christmas!*

How to Participate:

We are all held by this liturgy, together as one community.

You may speak the words in **bold**, if speaking is available to you.

You may sing the words of the hymns, if singing is available to you.

When you see an asterisk (*), you may stand, if standing is available to you.



Clergy & Ministers

Ministers.....	All the People of University United Methodist Church
Senior Pastor	The Reverend Justin Coleman
Executive Pastor.....	The Reverend Jamison Doehring
Pastor of Outreach.....	The Reverend Asya Coles
Pastor to Kindred Church.....	The Reverend Daniel Childs
Pastor to Senior Adults	The Reverend Denise Waters
Pastor to Youth.....	The Reverend Charlie Baber
Director of the Ministry of Music	Ti Berinson
Director of Children and Family Ministries	Rebecca Dyck
Organist and Pianist.....	Andrew Berinson
UNC Wesley Campus Minister	The Reverend Ryan Spurrier
Lector	Sally Merryman

Chamber Ensemble

Violin ~ Patricia Stone, Abigail Stone, Graham Dyck

Viola ~ Chris Cooper

Cello ~ Nathaniel Stone, Brent Wissick

Oboe ~ Ernie Baker

Percussion ~ Ben LaVange

Trumpet ~ Tyler Pfladderer, Lauren Holtshouser

Visit universityumc.church for more information about upcoming events!

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