



CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2025 ♦ Christmas Eve ♦ 9:00 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 from the Realms of Glory”

Henry T. Smart
arr. by Eddie Lewis

Trumpet ~ Tyler Pfledderer, Lauren Holtshouser

*Hymn 234, st, 1-4, 6 “O Come All Ye Faithful”

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

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.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Responsively

Advent Candle Lighters: Lisa and Ben LaVange

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.

Anthem "Little Road to Bethlehem" Michael Head
Soloist ~ Taylor Hambrick

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 "Ave Maria" Franz Schubert
Soloist ~ Jody Rapport
Sung in Latin:
Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen

***Gospel Reading** Luke 2:1-14 (NT, p. 1245)
The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Phillips Brooks
Soloist ~ Ti Berinson Lewis H. Redner

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

RESPONSE

***Hymn 240** "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Presentation of Our Gifts and God's Tithes

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

Offertory "In The Bleak Midwinter" Gustav Holst
Trumpet ~ Lauren Holtshouser, Tyler Pflедderer arr. by Alexander Brain

***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 Congregation

- 219 "What Child Is This"
- 238 "Angels We Have Heard on High"
- 218 "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"
- 217 "Away in a Manger"

Prayer after Communion

SENDING FORTH

The Candle Lighting

"O Holy Night"

Adolphe Adam

Soloist ~ Patricia Johnson

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	Wes Wallace

Visit universityumc.church for more information about upcoming events!

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