

Armstrong Chapel — December 24, 2025 — 8:00pm



Christmas Eve Worship

PROCESSIONAL

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
-arr Kile

SPECIAL MUSIC

Carol of the Bells
-arr Leontovich

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Adapted from Ministry Matters

Leader: On this wondrous night,
we run with the shepherds,
we ponder and dream with Mary,
Jesus is born, come let us adore him...

PEOPLE: Behold the newborn king.

Leader: From the darkness of Creation,
God brought forth Light!
From the fear and alienation,
from the cries of the people,
from the yearning of the spirit...

PEOPLE: Behold the newborn king.

*HYMN

It Came upon the Midnight Clear
#218

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains,
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

Words: Edmund H. Sears (1849)
Music: Richard Storrs Willis (1850)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Larry & Jolene White



Armstrong Chapel — December 24, 2025 — 8:00pm

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-20 (RSV)

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among all
with whom God is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

SPECIAL MUSIC

My Lord Has Come

-arr Todd



CONFESSONAL PRAYER

Adapted from Rev. Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy

Almighty God, we have waited for a long time for your hope, your joy, your love, your peace to shine in the darkness of this world. Even now, in our gathering, we await you. We confess that we have gone astray and have left Your light. We follow the dim lights of the world of success and fortune.

Yet you did not come into this world in a show of power and glory. You did not shine forth for all of creation to behold. A tiny spark – a newborn baby, visible to parents and curious animals. A host of angels –away from the populated areas, singing to shepherds.

Open our hearts, merciful God, to the sparks of your presence still in this world, that we might behold your presence in the least likely of places, and among the least likely of people.

God with us, kindle your spark within us, that together we may shine forth your light, we might banish the shadows of this world, and we might be the continuation of the Christmas miracle: Emmanuel is in the world, God is with us, now and evermore.

Illumine our hearts, gracious God, that we might speak anew the words your Son will teach us...
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.

Armstrong Chapel — December 24, 2025 — 8:00pm

ASSURANCE

Hear the good news of Christmas.
Tonight, God reveals to us
the wonders of divine love.
“For unto us a Child is born;
unto us a Son is given.
His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
the Mighty God,
the Everlasting Father,
the Prince of Peace.”
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Ding Dong! Merrily on High
-arr Jennings

SCRIPTURE

Titus 2:11-14 (NIV)

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

The Word of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God.

OFFERING

Wexford Carol
-arr Hagenberg

MESSAGE

Eager to Share Christmas Joy
Rev. David W. Brown

SPECIAL MUSIC

Little Innocent Lamb
-arr Bartholomew

PASSING OF THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

The ushers will share the light from the Christ Candle. Allow the person with the lit candle to hold theirs upright. Tip the unlit candle and receive the light. Following the last verse please extinguish the candles. Please assist children that are participating.

HYMNS

O Come, All Ye Faithful
#234

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;

Refrain: *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; (Refrain)

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;
(Refrain)

Words & Music: John F. Wade 1743

Angels We Have Heard on High
#238

Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o’er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: *Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly songs? (Refrain)

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. (Refrain)



Armstrong Chapel — December 24, 2025 — 8:00pm

See him in a manger laid,
whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while our hearts in love we raise. (refrain)

Traditional French carol; trans. Crown of Jesus, 1852, alt.
© 1964 Abingdon Press, harm. By Austin Lovelace, 1964

Silent Night, Holy Night #239

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!

Words: Joseph Mohr, 1818
Music: Franz Gruber, 1818

BENEDICTION

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock

Beloved, go in the blessing of Emmanuel, God-with-us, the joy of the world, and may you carry this gift of joy everywhere you go, working for peace, unity, justice, and mercy for all people.

In the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer we pray. Amen.

*POSTLUDE

**Stand in body or in spirit*

Organist: Stacy Haney
Choral Director: Ben Basone



ATTENDANCE



GIVING



A Welcoming Community Alive in Serving Christ

Stay connected with  **Armstrong**
CHAPEL United Methodist Church
5125 Drake Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45243
513-561-4220
acumc@armstrongchapel.org
Follow us on...   

armstrongchapel.org

Rev. David Brown, Lead Pastor
Rev. Elizabeth Brown, Congregational Care Pastor
Rev. Brandon Long, Director of Discipleship
Amy Voss, Director of Preschool
Shanon Rice, Director of Digital Communications

Armstrong Chapel — December 24, 2025 — 8:00pm



Poinsettias

IN MEMORY OF...

My Husband, Tom Ader given by Sandy Ader
Our Parents, Wayne and Virginia Brown and Bud and Vinnie Ader
given by Sandy Ader
Joan Ostendarp Tarkington, Beloved Friend given by Sandy Ader
My Dear Wife, Jane given by Hanlin Bavely
Tom and Ruth Brock given by Andre and Jeanie Affatato
Nicholas and Lillian Affatato given by Andre and Jeanie Affatato
Our Parents: Ben and Dorcas Basone and Jack and Mary
Shiverdecker given by Ben and Darlene Basone
Our Parents given by Barbara Bell and Victor Rodriguez
William H. and Nancy H. Stafford, Barbara's Uncle and Aunt given
by Barbara Bell and Victor Rodriguez
Lisa's Parents, Frank and Doreene Cleveland given by Mike and Lisa
Sylvester
Parents, Brown and Alice DeWitt and Jack and Doris Wetterstroem
given by Jay and Jackie DeWitt
Our Parents given by Jay and Jackie DeWitt
Jim Farley given by Bobbie Farley and family
Bryan, Jennifer, and Mollie given by Jon and Jane Florer
My Parents, John and Wahnita Hackman given by Elizabeth
Hackman
Corey Hamilton, Son; and George and Gladys Nickles, Parents given
by Ann Hamilton
My Beautiful Mother, Trina Hunt, on this first Christmas without
her given by Jennifer Hamilton
Mary Blair Hamm given by James, Vicki, Jim and Vera Hamm
Gary's Parents, Charlie and June Hartman given by Gary and Janice
Hartman
Janice's Parents, Al and Marion Jorgensen given by Gary and Janice
Hartman
Our Parents: Jerry Rose, Andy Hauck, Sue Rose, and Gerry Hauck
given by Andy and Barb Hauck

My Husband, Dr. Ronald K. Irvin; and Our Parents given by Marlene
Irvin
Our Granddaughters, Hannah Asbury Krehbiel and Penelope Claire
Krehbiel given by Dr. and Mrs. Richard Jackson
Our Parents, Frank and Emma Santin and Donald and Dorothy
Kilday given by Gary and Eileen Kilday
Our Parents, Si and Betty Jane Nielsen and Agnes Lucien given by
Ted and Molly Lucien
My Wife, Treva Miles given by Alan Miles
Audrey's Parents, David and Verna Korn given by Audrey Miller
Greg's Parents, Garth and Marva Miller given by Audrey Miller
Husband, Father and Grandfather, Garth Gregory Miller given by
Audrey Miller and Family
Our Parents and Grandparents given by Chip and Robin Nielsen
My Parents, Albert and Mildred Crew; and Alan Crew given by
Marilyn Owen
My Mother, Rebecca Patterson; and My Grandparents given by
Ginger Patterson
Nelle and Bob Quisno, Carol's Parents given by Jim and Carol Pearce
Louise and Jim Pearce, Sr., Jim's Parents given by Jim and Carol
Pearce
Ralph F. Lewis, Husband given by Charlene Pfingstag Lewis
My Parents, Dr. Charles W. Simons DDS and Helen Simons given by
Charlene Pfingstag Lewis
My Husband, Jim Porter given by Sue Porter
Our Parents, Barbara and Joe Eveland and Eppa Rixey III; Jack
Gottschalk and Our Loved Ones given by Eppa and Buffie Rixey
Jim and Jill Sauter given by The Sauter Family
Col. Jack and Ouida Scholtz given by John and Denise Scholtz
Son, Michael Sylvester given by Mike and Lisa Sylvester

IN HONOR OF...

Our Pastors
Ralph Burchenal given by Jack and Kirsten Burchenal
Ruth Allen given by Jack and Kirsten Burchenal
Our Parents given by Katie and Jamie Burchenal
Children and Grandchildren given by Katie and Jamie Burchenal
Adie and Isaac given by Jon and Jane Florer
James L. Hamm given by Vicki, Jim, and Vera Hamm
Our Family Members (including our 4-legged ones) and Our Friends
given by Andy and Barb Hauck
Our Children given by Dr. and Mrs. Richard Jackson
To the Glory of God in honor of the birth of our Lord and Savior,
Jesus Christ given by Dr. and Mrs. Richard Jackson
Our Children and Grandchildren, Mike, Janet, Vivi, Otto, Scott,
Courtney, and Jay Lucien given by Ted and Molly Lucien
Hal Merten, Susan's Father given by John and Susan Roberts

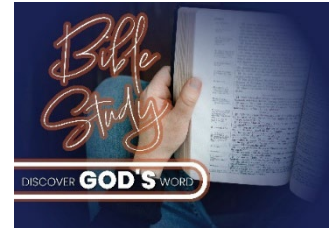
Loved Ones given by Galen and Shannon Mills
Our Children and Grandchildren given by Chip and Robin Nielsen
My Three Sons and their Families: Stephen, Mark, and Douglas
given by Charlene Pfingstag Lewis
Our Children, their Spouses and our Grandchildren: Carol, Ellie &
Jack Sullivan, Sarah, JP, Caroline, Molly & Towner Pharr, Quint,
Maggie & Nancy Rixey; and Parent: Nancy Gottschalk given by
Eppa and Buffie Rixey
Don and Pat Paull given by John and Denise Scholtz
Lynn Rush and the entire Schweitzer Family given by Andi and
Andrew Simon
Our Family: Helen Webster, Christina and Chris Stanek, Paul, Anna,
and Grace given by Andy and Julie Webster
The Armstrong Chapel Choir given by Andy and Julie Webster

Armstrong Chapel — December 24, 2025 — 8:00pm

WOMEN'S STUDIES

ArmstrongChapel.org/womenunited

- **Mondays at 9:30am** in the Armstrong Room. New study begins 1/12. *The Good Shepherd: Caring for People Even When It's Difficult* by Heather Thompson Day. In John 10, Jesus famously called himself the Good Shepherd, inviting us into a life of flourishing when we follow him. But what makes a shepherd good, and how can we recognize true spiritual leaders in our midst? Explore the way Jesus modeled the qualities of a good shepherd, showing us what it means to shepherd others in grace and truth. Led by Serena Tsuang.
- **Mondays at 6:00pm** in the Armstrong Room. New study begins 1/19. *The Chosen Season 5: The Stronghold of the Chosen* by Amanda Jenkins, Dallas Jenkins, Dr. Douglas S. Huffman. This study follows each episode in Season 5 and teaches readers to run to Jesus when life is hard or confusing and to trust Him as their place of refuge. If you haven't seen *The Chosen*, it is highly recommended to view Seasons 1-4 in *The Chosen* app, or at www.thechosen.tv, or through Amazon Prime prior to participating in this class. This foundational knowledge will enhance your discussions and understanding of the themes presented. We watch each episode and complete each lesson in advance, so we are prepared for every class. For more details and to register for class, please reach out to Victoria Rhodus.
- **Tuesdays at 9:45am** at the home of Julie Holland. Short study (TBA) beginning in January before reading the new Laurie Short book, *Tracking God in your Life*, in late February.
- **Thursdays at 6:45am** in the Armstrong Room. Reading William Barclay's study of Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. Led by Jan Bell.



MEN'S STUDIES

ArmstrongChapel.org/men

- **Friday Morning Bible Study:** Verse-by-verse study of scripture led by Pastor David Brown. Fridays at 7:00am in the Armstrong Room and via Zoom.
- **Burgers, Brews & the Bible:** 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:00pm at 50 West Burger Bar. Studying Romans. Led by Gordon Miller. Arrive at 6:30 if you plan to eat.
- **715BC:** Breakfast Wednesdays at 7:15am at the National Exemplar in Mariemont. Studying the Galatians. Led by Garen Wisner.
- **Armstrong Men "Nooners":** 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at noon for lunch at Ferrari's in Madeira. Discussion on the life application questions from the *Upper Room* devotional. Led by Bryan Holland.

ROOT KIDS IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

RAINFOREST FALLS

Exploring the Nature of God

Vacation Bible School

Registration Opens

January 26

Show kids what it means to be rooted in relationship with God, their safe place in life's storms.

INSPIRATIONAL TALK AND LUNCHEON

How to See God's Work in Your Past, Experience His Presence, and Trust Him with Your Future

Women UNITED at Armstrong Chapel

Featuring **LAURIE POLICH SHORT**

CALLING ALL WOMEN

Invite family and friends
All ages welcome!

JANUARY 24

in the Worship Center
Followed by lunch in the Atrium

For complete details and registration, visit armstrongchapel.org/womenunited/