

Armstrong Chapel Worship Resource—December 7, 2025



And His Name Shall be Called

Our Advent theme this year will feature the four prophetic names of Jesus given by the prophet Isaiah 9:6 – Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace – and experience the inspiration they provided for the English language oratorio composed in 1741 in London England by George Frideric Handel that we know as Handel's *Messiah*.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Adapted from a writing by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

Leader: Eager for the coming of Christ,
we behold the mystery of God's dawning
presence among us.

People: **God of mercy, we long for your grace.**

Leader: We long for the coming of Christ,
to heal the sin of our lives and the
brokenness of this world.

People: **Loving God, we open our hearts to you,
and await your gracious coming.**

***HYMN**

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates
UMH #213

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!

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!

Text: Georg Weissel (17th century)
Translator: Catherine Winkworth (1855)
Music: Psalmodia Evangelica (1789)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *The Apostles' Creed* #881

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and
the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Universal

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 11:2-3a (NIV)

²The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—
³and he will delight in the fear of the Lord...

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

TIME SINGING OUR FAVORITE HYMNS—8:20am

TIME WITH CHILDREN—9:40AM

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HYMN

People, Look East

#202 UMH, refrain only

People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Words: Eleanor Farjeon, (1928)
Music: by Martin Shaw (1928)
by permission of Oxford Press

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Adapted from writing by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

O Coming One,
give us a steadfast spirit
to wait for Your grace.

Give us patience to listen
for Your still small voice of conviction and repentance.

Give us courage to trust
even in the unseeing darkness.

Give us wisdom to see
Your acts of tenderness and compassion,
when we would be judgmental and severe.

Hear the silent confessions of our hearts:
(Silent Prayer)

Unison Prayer:
**Holy Child, help us to repent,
to become people of peace and compassion.
Loving God, you birth new life within us.
With open hearts, we await your coming.
In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God of peace, break into our chaos.
Prepare a way among our desires.
Clear a path straight to our hearts.
Grant us grace to make room for your coming.
Thanks be to God for mercy, grace, and love! Amen!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Offer the peace of Christ by saying:
The peace of Christ be with you.
Respond: And also with you!

HYMN

People, Look East

#202 UMH, refrain only

People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Words: Eleanor Farjeon, (1928)
Music: by Martin Shaw (1928)
by permission of Oxford Press

GIVING

*RESPONSE

#95, UMH

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.

SCRIPTURE

Romans 15:5-7 (NIV)

⁵ May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶ so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God...

The Word of God for the People of God.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

MESSAGE

Accepting as Christ
Rev. David W. Brown

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

based on Isaiah 40: 1-11 by Moira Laidlaw

The God who speaks comfort to us calls us here.
The God who addresses us with tenderness meets us here. The God who guides us with gentleness cares for us here. We come to prepare a way for the Lord. We come to ready ourselves for the transformation of our lives. For the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Adapted from writing by Fr. Rick Morley

God is with you.
And also with you.
Let us open our hearts.
We open our hearts to God and one another.
Let us give thanks.
We thank God with joy.

In the hushed anticipation of your coming, O Lord, kindle in us the desire to remain awake; that we might be ready for your coming, and eager to pray.

In your Kingdom, O Lord, wolves lie down with lambs.

In your Kingdom, O Lord, even the wilderness and dry land are glad and rejoice.

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In the fulness of time, O God, you sent your son, to be born of Mary. And his name was Emmanuel: God With Us. We thank you for your Presence with us, and we pray that you might be always present.

On the night before his suffering, he took bread, and gave you thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying "Take and eat, this is my body, broken for you."

We remember too, how when the meal was over, he took the cup, and having given you thanks, gave it to his disciples, saying "Take and drink; this is my blood of a new covenant for the forgiveness of sins, poured out for many" ... Remember me whenever you do this.

Remembering your boundless love for us in Jesus Christ, we offer you our praise, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

In this holy meal help us rejoice with the people who sit in darkness, for upon us Light has come. May we know Christ in the breaking of this bread.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

The elements are gluten free for all to share. Receive a piece of bread and dip it into the cup. There are also gifts of communion in a sealed bag by the grand piano. Extend the Table of the Lord for all to dine.

During Holy Communion, please consider singing softly the following hymns:

<i>It Came Upon the Midnight Clear</i>	vs. 1	#218
<i>What Child Is This</i>	vs. 1	#219
<i>Infant Holy, Infant Lowly</i>	vs. 1	#229
<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	vs. 1	#230

RESPONSE TO GIFTS OF GRACE

Now with our lives overflowing, we share the prayer Jesus taught saying: **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.**

*HYMN

My Soul Gives Glory to My God
#198 UMH

My soul gives glory to my God.
My heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness
In many marvelous ways.

My God has done great things for me;
Ye, holy is this name.
All people will declare me blessed,
And blessings they shall claim.

From age to age, to all who fear,
Such mercy love imparts,
Dispensing justice far and near,
Dismissing selfish hearts.

Love casts the mighty from their thrones,
Promotes the insecure,
Leaves hungry spirits satisfied,
The rich seem suddenly poor.

Praise God, whose loving covenant
Supports those in distress,
Remembering past promises
With present faithfulness.

Author: Miriam Therese Winter, 1987 (Lk. 1:46b-55)
Arranger: Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813;
harm. by Charles H. Webb,
© 1978, '987 Medical Mission Sisters, 1989 UM Publishing House

BENEDICTION

based on 1 Corinthians 1: 7-9

As we leave from here, remember this:
All God's gifts are right in front of you!
Not only that, but God is right alongside,
to keep you steady and on track until Jesus returns.
God, who got you started in this spiritual adventure,
will do this, for God is faithful.
God will never give up on you.
In the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.
Amen!

**Stand as you are able*

Liturgist at 8:20 – Greg Bailie

Lighting the Advent Candle at 8:20 – Carol & Rachel Ney

Liturgist at 9:40 – Beth Eberle

Lighting the Advent Candle at 9:40 – Brandon & Amy Jo Jones

Greeters at 9:40 – Pat Smith and Carol and Jim Pearce

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Gather for coffee and treats in the Atrium following the 9:40am service!

REGISTER YOUR
ATTENDANCE



ONLINE
GIVING





bring a friend for a fun time of LAUGHTER, SONG, AND FELLOWSHIP

JOIN US FOR A
**ALL CHURCH
COOKIE & CAROLS**

Celebrate the Season singing beloved Christmas Carols around the piano. Cookies and drinks provided.

DECEMBER 7
2:00 pm
in the Atrium



Hosted by Julie Holland's Tuesday morning Women's Bible Study.

IPM Food Pantry's CHRISTMAS TOY STORE



Help our mission partner, Inter Parish Ministry, this Holiday season as they give toys and gifts to 500 families in need!

New, unopened toys and gifts should be brought in by Sunday, December 14.

You can find a list of ideas on IPM's website along with their Amazon wish lists links at <https://www.ipmfoodpantry.org/christmas-giving>. Printed lists are also available in the Atrium.

Surviving the Holidays

Grief is harder around the holidays. Know how to deal with the challenges. Our *Surviving the Holidays* seminar helps participants discover:

- How to deal with emotions
- What to do about traditions
- Helpful tips for surviving social events
- How to find hope for the future

Monday, December 8 @ 6:30pm
in the Wesley Room
Sponsored by Stephen Ministry
Led by Jill Croswell & Andy Mauk

Poinsettia ORDERS

Poinsettias will decorate the Sanctuary starting in mid-Advent. You may purchase a plant in honor of or in memory of loved ones. \$20 per plant. You may take your poinsettias home with you on Christmas Eve. Orders are due by Wednesday, December 10.

Online order form: <https://bit.ly/45uhV6G>; write a note on the back of your Connect Card; or mail a note to the church office: include your payment = \$20 per plant, and who you'd like a plant in memory or in honor of (attn: Joy, 5125 Drake Rd, 45243).



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
armstrongchapel.org



Rev. David Brown, Lead Pastor

Amy Voss, Director of Preschool

Rev. Brandon Long, Director of Discipleship

Rev. Elizabeth Brown, Congregational Care Pastor

Shanon Rice, Director of Digital Communications

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Share in a morning of fun to get your kids ready for the holidays!
This Christmas Bash is fun for the whole family!

All Church Event
SWEETS
WITH *Santa*
DECEMBER 13
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM
activities in the Children's Center

- Treats,
- Coloring
- Face Painting
- & Pictures with Santa

ASKING FOR DONATIONS FOR IPM...2 OR 3 ITEMS

SPONSORED BY
Armstrong **PRESCHOOL**
A Ministry of Armstrong Chapel



Stop by the Armstrong Room and see Santa before you leave.


Women United
Monthly
Luncheon
DECEMBER 10
Ladies,
Share in a festive Holiday Lunch filled with laughter, fellowship, and the joy of the season.
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm
National Exemplar
6880 Wooler Pike

Come enjoy a relaxing afternoon together—and don't forget to invite a friend to share in the warmth and connection!

HANDBELL *Choir*
Holiday Performance
Sunday
December 14
9:40 am Worship Service



RIVER'S EDGE
BRASS BAND

Monday **DECEMBER 15** 7:00 pm

Armstrong Chancel Choir
and local musicians
Concert
Handel's
Messiah
Part I

December 21
7:00 pm
in the Sanctuary

