



December 7, 2025 | Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 A.M. ASCENSION WORSHIP

**Grace and Peace, friends.** We are so glad to share this time of worship with you. May you find yourself in the hope-filled presence of God. We invite you to share your attendance, your prayer concerns, and any steps you are taking in faith by filling out the Connect Card or by scanning the QR code card. Both are found in the card holder on the back of the pews. Finally, we love children here. If a nursery is helpful, ask one of our greeters or ushers for assistance.

*\*People standing, as able.*

**Prelude**      Where Have The Happy Shepherds Gone?      Claude Balbastre

**The Life of the Church**      Jay Jackson  
*Please register your attendance at this time and check in on Facebook!*

**Greeting**  
Pastor:    The grace of our Lord be with you.  
**People:**   **And also with you.**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**      The Scoggins Family  
Reader: This Advent, we awaken. Today, we awaken to **Love** – love that crosses differences and calls strangers family. We awaken love by choosing compassion, forgiveness, and welcome, until every table is full and every person knows they belong.

**All:**      **This Advent, we awaken as the people of God, as the church of Christ, as neighbors, friends, and family being remade in love. We awaken to the God who has come, who is coming still, who stirs the world awake with joy and love, until all creation is made new.**

**Invitation**      Jay Jackson  
Pastor: Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**Confession and Pardon**  
**All:**      **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.**

*(Silent Confession)*

Pastor: 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!

**People:** **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**  
**All:**      **Glory to God. Amen.**

**\*Hymn of Praise**      Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus      UMH 196

**Offertory Prayer**      Ricky Ricks  
*You can also text your offering to 903-417-0707, and through the Church App, or PayPal*

**Offertory**      Jubilate      Douglas E. Wagner  
Hurst Handbells

**\*Doxology**      My Tribute  
**To God be the glory, to God be the glory, to God be the glory for the things he has done. With his blood he has saved me, with his power he has raised me; to God be the glory for the things he has done.**

**Pastoral Prayer**      Ricky Ricks

**\*A Reading from the Gospels**      Matthew 5:43-48      Page 5 N.T.

Lay Reader: John Kirk  
Lay Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
**People:**      **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**      “Awakening to a Broader Way to Love”      Jay Jackson

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion**      Page 13  
*Donations left in communion baskets benefit our mission partners*

**Communion Music**      Hurst Handbells

**\*Invitation**      Jay Jackson

**\*Hymn of Invitation**      Be Thou My Vision      UMH 451

**\*Sending Forth**      Jay Jackson

**\*Postlude**      In Dulci Jubilo      J.S. Bach

**A Celebration of Christmas!**

**NEXT Sunday, December 14 | 8:30 & 10:45 Worship Services**

Our amazing **Chancel Choir** will be joined by a large **orchestra** for a special worship service featuring many of your favorite carols!

**Join us as we celebrate the Birth of the Messiah!**

**Christmas with the East Texas Men in Harmony**



The East Texas Men In Harmony is an all-male *capella chorus that sings in four-part barbershop harmony.*

Join us in our beautiful sanctuary for an afternoon of festive cheer as this talented choir perform many of your favorite carols in *a cappella barbershop harmony!*

**NEXT Sunday, December 14 | 3:00 p.m. | FREE event | Sanctuary**