



O Come!

December 7, 2025 2nd Sunday of Advent

– We Gather –

PRELUDE *Entrance of the Queen of Sheba* Handel
Strings

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY *Three chimes signify the presence of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

❖ **PROCESSIONAL HYMN** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (v. 1-4) UMH 234

CHORAL ANTHEM *O Come, All You Unfaithful* arr. Sorenson
Chancel Choir with Valencia Montgomery and Joe Stuart

WELCOME AND PARISH NOTICES Rev. Jennifer Porto
Please take this time to sign the attendance pad located in your pew, or scan the CONNECT QR code located on the back of this bulletin.

❖ **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Christ, the One who was, and is, and is to come, welcomes you to this place.

As one body, with one voice, we honor and glorify the giver of wisdom, counsel, knowledge, and joy.

Amen.

So be it.

– We Listen –

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE The Stabler Family
We lit our first candle as a symbol of HOPE. Today, we light our second candle as a symbol of PEACE, the purity of heart only God can bring.

Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God (Matthew 5:9).

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Today's Acolytes: Frances and Mae Stabler

❖ *Please Stand in body or spirit* **Bold Print** – *Congregation Reads Aloud*
Hearing amplifier devices are available. Please see an usher for assistance.

SUNG RESPONSE

Blest Be the God of Israel

Blest be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,
who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

— A Service of Lessons and Carols —

LESSON ONE

Genesis 3:8-9, 17-19, 22-23

Morgan Taylor

⁸ They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

¹⁷ And to the man he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

²² Then the LORD God said, "See, the humans have become like one of us, knowing good and evil, and now they might reach out their hands and take also from the tree of life and eat and live forever" — ²³ therefore the LORD God sent them forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which they were taken.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Come to Us

Sorenson

Chancel Choir with Harper Ann Booker

LESSON TWO

Isaiah 9:2

Melton Luttrell

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.

Canticle of Light and Darkness

UMH 205

We will read together and sing response #1 where indicated by the red R.

Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

❖ CONGREGATIONAL HYMN *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (v. 1-5)

UMH 211

LESSON THREE

Micah 5:2, 4-5a

Calvin Montgomery

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth, ⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
Chancel Choir

Sorenson

LESSON FOUR

Luke 1:26-35, 38

Erica Tanner

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

❖ **CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

UMH 196

LESSON FIVE

Luke 2:1-14

Melton Luttrell

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room. ⁸ Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

❖ **CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** *Angels We Have Heard on High*

UMH 238

LESSON SIX

Luke 2:15-19

Calvin Montgomery

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹ and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Sleeping Adonai
Chancel Choir with Allegra Fuller

Sorenson

LESSON SEVEN

Matthew 2:1-11

Morgan Taylor

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' " ⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

❖ CONGREGATIONAL HYMN*In the Bleak Midwinter*

UMH 221

LESSON EIGHT

John 1:1-14

Erica Tanner

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

CHORAL ANTHEM*Come You Unfaithful*

Boggs

Chancel Choir with Daniel O'Keefe

*– We Go Forth –***OFFERTORY***The Four Seasons*
Strings

Vivaldi

♪❖ HYMN OF INVITATION*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

UMH 240

❖ BENEDICTION**❖ POSTLUDE***Hornpipe from Water Music*
Strings

Handel

Choir Members

Soprano

*Allegra Fuller
Karen Gochey
Leslie Ann Middleton
Valencia Montgomery
Brenda Ogburn
Sandy Tones*

Tenor

*Hugh Bostick
Dwight McGough
Joe Stuart*

Alto

*Lisa Burch
Janell Kyranakis
Phebe Lee
Averell Stuart*

Bass

*Don Bowden
Daniel O'Keefe*

Strings

*Silvia Rath, violin
Daniela Pardo, viola
Joe Sunderland, cello
Joshua Titford, bass*

Readers

*Melton Luttrell
Calvin Montgomery
Erica Tanner
Morgan Taylor*

*Thank you to our choir members, instrumentalists,
and readers who have worked so hard to provide
us with the beautiful service today.*



WELCOME

We want to thank you for choosing to worship with us at Ashland Place United Methodist Church. If you have questions about church activities, church membership, or the Christian faith, we would love to speak with you.



Are you visiting today? If so, please scan this QR code to complete a CONNECT card, or contact a staff member to assist you.

CONNECT

OUR CHURCH STAFF

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Senior Pastor | Dr. Darren McClellan dmcclellan@apumc.com |
| Associate Pastor | Jennifer Porto jporto@apumc.com |
| Music Director | Alicia Luttrell musicdirector@apumc.com |
| Administrator | Kim Brown admin@apumc.com |
| Youth and Technology | Joseph Griggs youth@apumc.com |
| Communication | Leslie Johnston communication@apumc.com |
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| Membership | membership@apumc.com |
| Preschool | Mary Hunter Fuller Camille Hieronymus preschool@apumc.com |
| Building Steward | Danny White building@apumc.com |

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Offering Received 11/30/25 \$11,119



ONLINE GIVING

To support the many ministries of APUMC, please scan this QR code and donate online.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

December 7, 2025

| | |
|---------|-----------------------------------|
| 9:00am | Ascension Modern Service (FH) |
| 10:00am | Sunday School |
| 11:00am | Traditional Sanctuary Service (S) |
| 5:30pm | Youth |

Monday Men's Study Group, 7:00am (WP)
Women's Bible Study (FP)

Tuesday Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10:00am (FP)

Wednesday Choir Practice, 6:00pm
Children's Nativity, 6:30pm (S)

Thursday Men's Bible Study, 7:00am (WP)
Trivia Night, 7:00pm (206 State St.)

Friday Office Closed

FP-Fellowship Parlor, S-Sanctuary, WP-Wisteria Parlor
B-Basement, DW-Dumas Wesley, 126 Mobile Street

THE JOSEPH PROJECT CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas Cards – You may still use the link in your newsletter to order online, but the deadline for preaddressed envelopes is TODAY.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

If you would like to contribute toward the special Christmas floral and greenery arrangements that will adorn the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall on Christmas Eve, please complete a form and turn it in to the office, or use the link in your newsletter to contribute online. The deadline is Thursday, December 18.

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD will meet on Wednesday, December 10 at 12:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY

Please join us for the Children's Nativity program on Wednesday, December 10 at 6:30pm. The children will gather for a final practice at 5:00pm, dinner at 5:30pm, and performance at 6:30pm.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST

The children will gather for a Christmas breakfast on Sunday, December 14 at 10:15am.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS DINNER

The youth will be having a progressive dinner on December 14 from 5-7pm. Please bring a \$20 Dirty Santa gift (no gift cards please).

CIRCLE OF CONCERN

Please hold these persons in your prayers: Fay Adams, John Allen, John and Angela Bell, Jean Brown & son James Williams, Victor Brown (Dee Dee Cook's brother), Bob Cook, Braxton & Linda Lee Counts, *Judie Crowther, Julie & Steve Dugan, Jake Elder, Mihyon Ellis, Phillip Fields, Bruce Finley, Missy Foose, Marcia Golson, Curt Graf (Curtis Graf's father), Diane Holub (Angela Prine's mother), Barbara Hunt, Andrew Irby, Tyler Mazey, David Richards, Sara Robinson, Tom Root, Mary Davis Rutledge, Nancy Scott, Lonn Spencer, Jody Thompson (Pam Bostick's brother-in-law), Louise Thomson, Sherry Thomson, Suzannah Weeks, Robert Wheeler (Emily McGough's brother), Merrill Whitener, Kathryn Willingham, and all caregivers (**new concern this week*)

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