



O Come!

December 21, 2025

4th Sunday of Advent

— We Gather —

PRELUDE

Joy to the World
Alicia Luttrell

arr. Hopson

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.

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

❖CALL TO WORSHIP

Caroline Hinds

God-with-us, Immanuel, comes to give us our own Holy Family, here with the body of Christ this day.
Rejoice and be glad!

Amen.

♪❖HYMN OF PRAISE

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

UMH 236

❖PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shepherd of Israel, God of hosts, we have turned away from you, neglecting the welfare of your creation, ignoring the plight of your people, trampling on the creatures and the plants you have made, taking from Earth what we cannot give back. We have not helped our neighbors in need, kept peace within our families, or tended the vine you have planted in our own lives. Forgive us and lead us to a more gracious life. In your compassion, turn us to your way. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. Amen.

❖**PASSING OF THE PEACE** *As forgiven and reconciled people, let us pass the Peace of Christ with one another.*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

Amber and Greg Bostwick and Family

We lit our first candle as a symbol of HOPE, our second candle as a symbol of PEACE, and our third candle as a symbol of JOY. Today, we light this candle as a symbol of God's love for us and our love for one another. For the Lord rejoices over us with gladness and renews us in his love. He exults over us with singing and turns our shame to praise.

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Today's Acolyte: Henry Bostwick

❖ *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

Now from the house of David a child of grace is given;
a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven.
Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,
The prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.

— *We Listen* —

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

As your Holy Spirit spoke to Mary, the mother of our Lord, speak to us now through your Word that by hearing we too may receive faith and be strengthened to do your will. Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALTER

Psalm 80:1-7

UMH 801

Please join the choir in sung response #1 when indicated by the red R.

♪❖HYMN OF PREPARATION

What Child is This

UMH 219

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

After the children's moment, children may leave with our staff to go to the nursery. Following the service parents can meet their children in The Landing.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 7:14-16

¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.
May God bless the reading of the Word. **Thanks be to God.**

MORNING PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

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.

♪ACT OF PRAISE

He is Born
Chancel Choir

arr. Sherman

❖NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

May God bless the reading of the Word. **Thanks be to God.**

— *We Respond* —

❖ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH — The Apostle's Creed

UMH 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*

♪❖ GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Mary's Boy Child
Joe Stuart

Hairston

♪❖ DOXOLOGY

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.

— *WE GO FORTH* —

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

♪❖ HYMN OF INVITATION

Angels from the Realms of Glory

UMH 220

❖ BENEDICTION

❖ POSTLUDE

Regent Square

Irby



UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

December 21, 2025

- 9:00am Ascension Modern Service (FH)
- 10:00am Sunday School
- 11:00am Traditional Sanctuary Service (S)

Tuesday Church Office Closes at Noon

Wednesday Church Office Closed

- Ascension Christmas Eve Service, 3:00pm (FH)
- Traditional Christmas Eve Service, 5:00pm (S)
- Ascension Christmas Eve Service, 5:30pm (FH)
- Traditional Christmas Eve Service, 7:00pm (S)

Thursday Church Office Closed

Friday Church Office Closed

FP-Fellowship Parlor, S-Sanctuary, WP-Wisteria Parlor

B-Basement, DW-Dumas Wesley, 126 Mobile Street

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The church office will close at noon on December 23, be closed December 24-26, December 31, and January 1-2. If you miss us, please email us or put correspondence in the mail slot on the office door. We will be coming by periodically to check on things during the holidays. The office will reopen on Monday, January 5 with regular business hours of M-Th, 9-4.

YEAR-END GIVING

Please use the following schedule for 2025 contributions.

- **In Person** – Contributions should be delivered by December 31. The office will be closed, but you may drop it in the mail slot on the office door. Our administrator will be here from 9-4 on Tuesday, December 30.
- **Online** – Contributions should be submitted by midnight on December 31. To give safely online, please visit www.apumc.com, then click the "Give" tab, or use the QR code at the bottom left of this page.
- **USPS** – Mail must be postmarked by December 31st.

CHRISTMAS WEEK SERVICES

- | | | |
|-------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 12/24 | Ascension Service (FH) | 3:00pm and 5:30pm |
| 12/24 | Traditional Service (S) | 5:00pm and 7:00pm |
| 12/28 | One Service (S) | 10:00am |

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, Russell Fountain, 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*)

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.



CONNECT

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

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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Children	Linda Noble Linda.q.noble@gmail.com
Nursery	Caitlyn Lambeth children@apumc.com
Membership	membership@apumc.com
Preschool	Camille Hieronymus preschool@apumc.com
Building Steward	Danny White building@apumc.com

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Offering Received 12/14/25 \$31,390



ONLINE GIVING

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

Hymns and Responses for December 21, 2025

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

UMH 236

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground, the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around, and glory shone around.
2. "Fear not!" said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind. "Glad tidings of great joy I bring to all of humankind, to all of humankind.
3. "To you, in David's town, this day is born of David's line a Savior, who is Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign, and this shall be the sign:
4. "The heavenly babe you there shall find to human view displayed, all meanly wrapped in swathing bands, and in a manger laid, and in a manger laid."
5. Thus spake the seraph and forthwith appeared a shining throng of angels praising God on high, who thus addressed their song, who thus addressed their song:
6. "All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace; good will henceforth from heaven to earth begin and never cease, begin and never cease!"

What Child Is This

UMH 219

1. What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.
2. Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.
3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him; the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him. This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Angels from the Realms of Glory

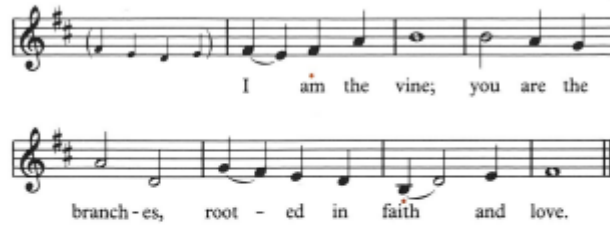
UMH 220

1. Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth; ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.
2. Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night, God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.
3. Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar; seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.
4. Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear; suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Psalm 80

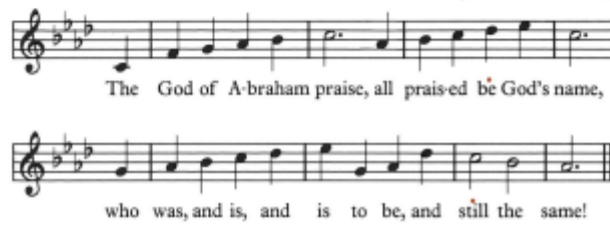
RESPONSE 1 (*Advent & General*)

Jn. 15:5; Eph. 3:17
Carlton R. Young



RESPONSE 2 (*General*)

From the Yigdal
paraphrase by Thomas Olivers
Hebrew melody, from *Sacred Harmony*



R

- ¹ Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth!
- ² In the presence of Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,
stir up your might, and come to save us!
- ³ Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!
- ⁴ O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
- ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears,
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
- ⁶ You make us the scorn of our neighbors;
and our enemies laugh among themselves.
- ⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved! **R**