



O Come!

December 24, 2025

Christmas Eve

5:00pm and 7:00pm

PRELUDE

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring
Alicia Luttrell

Bach

WELCOME AND PARISH NOTICES

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

Caine O'Rear/Calvin Montgomery

Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy.

To us is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!

Let us go now to Bethlehem.

♪❖HYMN OF PRAISE

The First Noel (v. 1-4)

UMH 245

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

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Stubbs Family/George Hardesty and Nancy Stine

We light the Christ candle to symbolize God's promise fulfilled. 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. Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to all on whom his favor rests.

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

SUNG RESPONSE

Blest Be the God of Israel

On prisoners of darkness the sun begins to rise
The dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes,
To guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace;
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

Today's Acolytes: Katherine and Jacqueline Stubbs (5:00)

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Loving God, by the gift of your Spirit, teach us, like Mary, to treasure your words and ponder them in our hearts; through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For 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. ⁷Great 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.

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

♪❖HYMN OF PREPARATION

O Little Town of Bethlehem

UMH 230

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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

♪ACT OF PRAISE

Come You Unfaithful (5:00)
Daniel O'Keefe

Boggs

O Come, All You Unfaithful (7:00)
Valencia Montgomery

arr. Sorenson

❖GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:8-20

⁸Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And 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!" ¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

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

❖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.

INVITATION, CONFESSION AND PARDON

In Jesus Christ our Lord the grace of God has appeared, bringing light to us all. With confidence and joy, let us confess our sin.

Great and glorious God, through Jesus Christ our Savior you have shown us that the blessed age of grace has appeared and the hoped-for time of salvation has come. We choose to walk in darkness, unwilling to see the evil your light exposes. Cleanse us and free us; break the yoke we choose to carry through Christ, who gave himself for us, so that we might be your people, holy and whole. Amen.
All pray in silence.

Hear this good news of great joy: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!
Glory to God in the highest, And peace to God's people on earth.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY *O Holy Night* arr. Wolaver

♪❖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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING Service of Word and Table II UMH 13-15

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.

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

♪❖HYMN OF INVITATION *Silent Night, Holy Night* UMH 239

❖BENEDICTION



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.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The church office will 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.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

There will be one worship service on Sunday, December 28, at 10:00am in the Sanctuary.

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 below.
- **USPS** – Mail must be postmarked by December 31st.

CIRCLE OF CONCERN

Please hold these persons in your prayers: Fay Adams, John Allen, John and Angela Bell, Jean Brown & son James Williams, 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), *Holly Hastings (Dee Dee Cook's sister), Diane Holub (Angela Prine's mother), Barbara Hunt, Andrew Irby, Tyler Mazey, David Richards, Sara Robinson, Tom Root, Mary Davis Rutledge, Nancy Scott, Lon 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*)

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor	Dr. Darren McClellan dmcclellan@apumc.com
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Music Director	Alicia Luttrell musicdirector@apumc.com
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ONLINE GIVING

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



Hymns and Responses for December 24, 2025

The First Noel

UMH 245

1. The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.
2. They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.
3. And by the light of that same star three Wise Men came from country far; to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.
4. This star drew nigh to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest; and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

UMH 230

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie; above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to-night.
2. For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!
3. How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given; so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.
4. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Silent Night, Holy Night

UMH 239

1. 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.
2. 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!
3. 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, the Lord, at thy birth.
4. 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!