



First United Methodist Church
Graham, NC

www.fumcgraham-nc.org

303 North Main Street, Graham, NC 27253

336/226-4343

*Second Sunday of Advent
December 7, 2025*



Our Mission

To make disciples for Jesus Christ through love and service

Our Vision

A loving and diverse community meeting the real needs of our neighbors through spirit-filled worship, intergenerational discipleship, and caring service

Come, Let Us Worship the Lord

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025

Gathering

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne

arr. Sykes

†CALL TO WORSHIP

A shoot shall come forth from the root of Jesse,

and the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him.

He will judge the poor with righteousness, and the meek with equity;

He will be clothed with righteousness and faithfulness.

The wolf and the lamb will live peacefully together, the leopard and the kid will lie
down side by side.

And a little child will lead them all.

†OPENING HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, vv.1, 2, 6, 7

(UMH #211)*

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show
and cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

6. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thy justice here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

7. O come, Desire of nations bind
all peoples in one heart and mind.
From dust thou brought us forth to life;
deliver us from earthly strife.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

†SHARING THE PEACE

Please greet your neighbor and pass the Connect pads to register your attendance.

Proclamation

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH: Peace

Reader: Advent reminds us that we are people who share a story, the story of Jesus, who enacts peace by judging in favor of the poor and deciding with equity for the meek of the earth. We long for the day when “the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them” (Isaiah 11:6).

All: Today, we choose to live the story of peace, believing that true peace comes when we seek the flourishing of all God’s creation.

Reader: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to bring Light to the places the world seeks to hide until that day when all creation lives together in harmony and abundance.

SHARING FAITH WITH ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

Chris Fulkerson

Childcare is available for children ages 5 and under in Room 121. Red drawstring “Worship Kid Kits” with children’s bulletins are available in the entrance area each week for children to use throughout worship.

ANTHEM

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Rowan

Laura Khorozov, soloist

Prepare, prepare the way of the Lord!
Prepare the way! Make straight His path.
Prepare the way! Make straight His path.
Prepare the way! Make straight His path,
make straight His path.

Prepare, prepare the way of the Lord!
Prepare the way! Make straight His path.
Prepare the way! Make straight His path.
Prepare the way! Make straight His path,
make straight His path.

Every valley shall be exalted, every hill made low;
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough places plain.
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all mankind shall see it, shall see it together.

Prepare, prepare the way of the Lord!
Prepare the way! Make straight His path.
Prepare the way! Make straight His path.
Prepare the way! Make straight His path,
make straight His path. Prepare the way!
Make straight, make straight His path.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming, make us to be people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

†SCRIPTURE READING

[Matthew 3:1-12](#)

³ ¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹ Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

SERMON

“The Gift of Judgment”

Pastor Duane

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Holy Communion

INVITATION

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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, as we come to share in the richness of Your table, we confess our reluctance to share Your blessings. We cannot take bread and forget those who are hungry. We cannot drink the cup and forget those who are thirsty. We cannot hear Your words of peace and forget a world at war. We cannot celebrate the feast of Your family and forget our divisions. Put our prosperity at the service of the poor. Put our fullness at the service of the empty. Turn our desire for power into a desire for peace. Heal Your church in every brokenness. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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!

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

GREAT THANKSGIVING WITH MUSICAL SETTINGS

(TFWS #2257a-d)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord;

God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna in the highest!

Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, whom you sent in the fullness of time to be a light to the nations. You scatter the proud in the imagination of their hearts and have mercy on those who fear you from generation to generation.

You put down the mighty from their thrones and exalt those of low degree. You fill the hungry with good things, and the rich you send empty away. Your own Son came among us as a servant, to be Emmanuel, your presence with us. He humbled himself in obedience to your will and freely accepted death on a cross.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna in the highest!

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen, amen, amen,

Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna in the highest!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(UMH #895)*

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom com,

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.

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Sending Forth

†CLOSING HYMN

"The People That in Darkness Sat"

(Tune: *"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night"*)

1. The people that in Darkness sat
a glorious light have seen;
the Light has shined on them who long
in shades of death have been,
in shades of death have been.
2. For unto us a child is born,
to us a Son is given,
and on His shoulder ever rests
all pow'r in earth and heaven,
all pow'r in earth and heaven.
3. His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
the everlasting Lord,
the Wonderful, the Counselor,
the God by all adored,
the God by all adored.
4. Lord Jesus, reign in us we pray,
and make us Thine alone,
who with the Father ever art
and Holy Spirit one,
and Holy Spirit one.

†THE BLESSING

†CHORAL RESPONSE (Choir and Congregation)

(UMH #213)*

**Redeemer, come, in us abide;
our hearts to Thee we open wide;
let us Thy inner presence feel;
Thy grace and love in us reveal. Amen.**

†CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

†POSTLUDE

Prepare Thyself, Zion

Bach

†Please stand if you are able.
*Songbooks are located in pew rack.