



ST. JOHN'S
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

Richmond † Texas

**ORDER OF WORSHIP
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 14, 2025
8:30AM & 11:00AM**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR LIVE WORSHIP

You are invited to use this bulletin during our live worship service at 11:00am on Sunday morning. To access our live worship, please [click here](#).

PRELUDE

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Psalms 146*)

Leader: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God,

People: who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;

Leader: who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free;

People: the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

Leader: The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

All: The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!

SONG OF PRAISE

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" #234

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,
Lo, He shuns not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

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LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

8:30 *Phillips Family*

11:00 *Failing Family*

Reader: We want everything to look nice: the decorations of the season, our homes with their lights and tinsel, wreaths and ribbons. We want to lighten the darkness around us, bring beauty to the ugliness that wears us down. We decorate, because it is tradition. Because it lifts our hearts. Because it makes us feel like children again. We deck our halls because company is coming.

The prophet Isaiah smiled when he said, "God will give a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit." No matter how far we feel from the spirit of the season, God promises to decorate us with love and with joy.

We light these candles of HOPE, LOVE and as a sign of our JOY in the beautiful things of this season – not just the things that glitter and flash, but the deeper things, the beauty of the heart and the soul, the beauty of love shared in service and hospitality. We light this candle of JOY that so that the GIFT of CHRISTmas might infect us with a contagious JOY.

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 have trespassed 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.

SHARING OUR GIFTS

"Unto Us"

Created & Arranged by Cliff Duren

Creed with O Come All Ye Faithful

Matt Wallace, soloist

He Will Save

His Glorious Name

Breath of Heaven

Diane Nichols, soloist

A Great Light

Tim Benson, soloist

Unto Us

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

O For a Thousand Tongues

Carol Edwards, soloist

Go Tell It

Chuck Wharton, soloist

He Shall Reign Forever

SCRIPTURE & HOMILY

“Contagious Joy”

Rev. Richard Luna

SENDING FORTH

CHORAL RESPONSE

“Be Born in Us”

Be born in us, O Holy Child,
And let the light of Your love shine within our lives.
Be born in us, O Prince of Peace,
Let the hope You bring this world be born in me.

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GOING FORTH

Blessed by God’s love and strengthened by God’s Grace,
let us be the church to the people we are with. Amen.

*The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by
Jennifer Pratorius. A JOY-filled happy birthday to all of
the cool kids born in December!*

*QR Code provided for your tithes and offerings.
Thank you.*

