

Ardmore Moravian Church

December 21, 2025

WATCH WORD FOR THE WEEK:

*Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.*

Psalms 80:19

ARDMORE MORAVIAN CHURCH
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21, 2025

Prelude

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

arr. Chris Heckman

The First Reading

“The Word Became Flesh”

John 1:1-5

Response

O Come, O Come Immanuel MBW # 274

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

*O come, O wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!*

*O come, O bright and morning star,
and bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night*

*and turn our darkness into light.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!*

*O come, Desire of Nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!*

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting the Advent Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love

Barbara & Ed Blazer, Kristi Blazer Walls

The Second Reading "The Birth of Jesus Foretold to Mary"

Luke 1:26-38

Response

Lo, How a Rose Is Growing" MBW # 302

*Lo, how a rose is growing,
a bloom of finest grace;
the prophets had foretold it:
a branch of Jesse's race
would bear one perfect flow'r
here in the cold of winter
and darkest midnight hour.*

*The rose of which I'm singing,
Isaiah had foretold.*

*He came to us through Mary
who sheltered him from cold.*

*Through God's eternal will
this child to us was given
at the midnight calm and still.*

*This flow'r, so small and tender,
with fragrance fills the air;
his brightness ends the darkness
that kept the earth in fear.*

*True God and yet true man,
He came to save his people
from earth's dark night of sin.*

The Third Reading "The Birth of Jesus Foretold to Joseph"
Matthew 1:18-25

Response

"Once He Came In Blessing" MBW # 273

*Once he came in blessing
all our sins redressing,
came in likeness lowly,
Son of God most holy;
bore the cross to save us,
hope and freedom gave us.*

*Still he comes within us,
still his voice would win us
from the sins that hurt us;
would to truth convert us
from our foolish error,
ere he comes in terror.*

*Thus if we have known him,
not ashamed to own him,
nor have spurned him coldly,
but will trust him boldly,
he will then receive us,
heal us, and forgive us.*

*Those who then are loyal
find a welcome royal.
Come then, O Lord Jesus,
from our sins release us;
let us here confess you
till in heav'n we bless you.*

The Fourth Reading "Mary Visits Elizabeth"
Luke 1:39-45

Response "Mary's Song of Praise"
Luke 1:46-56

'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

For the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.

The Fifth Reading "The Birth of Jesus"

Luke 2:1-7

Response

"Away in a Manger" MBW # 301

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.*

*The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my cradle til morning is nigh.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus! I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care;
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.*

The Sixth Reading "The Shepherds and the Angels"
Luke 2:8-20

Response "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" MBW # 286

*It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heav'n's all-gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.*

*Still through the cloven skies they come,
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav'nly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.*

*O ye, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow;
look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing.*

*For lo! the days are hast'ning on,
by prophet bards foretold,
when with the ever-circling years
comes round the age of gold,
when the new heav'n and earth shall own
the Prince of Peace their King
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.*

The Seventh Reading "The Visit of the Wise Men"
Matthew 2:1-12

Response

"What Child Is This?" MBW # 305

*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!*

*Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, 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!*

*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!*

Offering Our Gifts

Offertory “Waiting for a King” Joseph M. Martin
Response “O Little Town of Bethlehem” MBW # 282

*How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive Him still,
the dear Christ enters in.*

Prayer

Hymn “From Heaven High I Come to You” MBW # 306

*From heaven high I come to you;
I bring you tiding glad and new,
such joyous tiding do I bring,
To all the world and gladly sing.

Now Christ, the Lord, our God, is born!
As solace to a world forlorn,*

*he comes as Savior, peace to win,
and he will cleanse you from all sin.*

*All praise to God in heaven above,
who gives his Son to us in love:
let us with angel choirs rejoice
and greet his birth with happy voice.*

The Eighth Reading "The Christ is in the World"
John 1:10-18

Response

By the tender mercy of our God,

the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow
of death,

to guide our feet into the way of peace.

For unto us a Child is born,

Unto us a Son is given.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that
everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have
eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world
to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be
saved through him.

Thanks be to God for this gift beyond words!

My eyes have seen your salvation,

Which you have prepared in the presence of all people.

Let your servants depart filled with hope, peace, joy, and love.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

“Joy to the World” MBW # 294

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her king;

let every heart prepare him room,

and heav'n and nature sing,

and heav'n and nature sing,

and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!

Let us our songs employ,

while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains

repeat the sounding joy,

repeat the sounding joy,

repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrows grow,

nor thorns infest the ground;

he comes to make his blessings flow

far as the curse is found,

far as the curse is found,


far as, far as the curse is found.

*He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.*


Benediction

Postlude “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Christopher Uehlein



*The Advent Wreath is given to the glory of God in loving
memory of Ira Kiger and Rita Kiger by Beth Kiger Mabe.
The White Candles are provided in memory of Ruth Duggins
Lee, a longtime member of our congregation.*





The lovely poinsettias are placed in the Sanctuary this morning to the glory of God:

In Honor Of:

Mary Alspaugh

Margaret Miller

Charlene Pfaff

Alice Pierce

Jim Story

Lee Story

By:

Her Secret Circle #4 Sister

Polly Story

Mom

Circle # 5

Mom

Mom

In Loving Memory Of:

James and Marie Adams

Alicia "Lee" Ebert

Kent Mabe, my grandfather

By:

Dennis and Lloyd Adams

Donna Ebert Williams

Emery Mabe

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 21 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30 AM Sunday School Classes

10:30 AM Worship Service – Rev. Joe Moore

Immediately following the worship service, the Joint Board will meet followed by individual Board of Elders and Board of Trustees meetings.

Tuesday, December 23

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 24

2:00 PM Christmas Eve Lovefeast & Candle Service

5:00 PM Christmas Eve Lovefeast & Candle Service

Thursday, December 25

Christmas

Sunday, December 28

9:30 AM Sunday School Classes

10:30 AM Worship Service – Rev. Joe Moore

PEOPLE FOR WHOM WE ARE PRAYING



Members

Cindy Clore
Beverly Dillon
Fanchon Funk
Julie Johnson
Adam Lefevre
Mike Meritt

Alice Pierce
Carolyn Spainhour
Polly Story
Frances Walker
Donna Ebert Williams

Friends

Dr. Bill J. Beason
Lizanne Butner
Dwayne Jones
Wanda Jones
Ray Shelton
Larry
Juan

Ann M^cCurdy
Terry Moore
Allison Murray
Marlyn Schauss
Jerry Seivers
Steven Starling

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Welcome to Ardmore Moravian Church
“Where Communion and Community Come Together”

We are a Christ-centered fellowship of people bound by love of Jesus and one another. Our greatest hope is that God will be glorified through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit among us. We have gathered to worship; celebrating the eternal life won for us by Christ through His death and resurrection as promised in the Bible.

God has created and called us into relationship with Himself (communion) and with one another (community). We need the Lord, and we need each other. As you draw close to God, may you also grow in friendship with those around you. We believe God has gifted people in every age. So our worship is marked by a variety of styles and expressions of music, liturgy, prayer and proclamation. We seek to blend these expressions in a way that pleases God and edifies one another.

The Moravian Church, while unfamiliar to many, is actually one of the oldest Protestant denominations in the world. Our roots and heritage run deep, even one hundred years prior to the Great Reformation. Yet our sense of mission is alive and active *today* as we serve the Lord in ministry together.

Jesus said to His disciples, “...you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.” At Ardmore Moravian we sincerely strive to live that promise. We worship, study the Holy Scriptures, fellowship and grow as Disciples of Christ together here at the corner of Hawthorne and Academy. We ask the Lord then to send us out and employ us for His glory as we share the Gospel - the Good News of Christ - locally, regionally and globally.

If you are searching for a meaningful relationship with God and productive friendships with other people, you’ve come to the right place, “Where Communion and Community Come Together.”



Minister: Rev. Joe Moore

Director of Music/Organist: Chris Heckman

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