

*Central
United Methodist Church*

Hanging of the Greens



*First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2023 | 11:00 a.m.*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

† Please stand in body or spirit. | UMH - United Methodist Hymnal | Congregational responses in **bold**.

PRELUDE

Of the Father's Love Begotten

arr. Wilbur Held

WELCOME

The Lord be with you!
And also with you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIMES OF THE HOLY TRINITY

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hill; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say:

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that God may teach us God's ways and that we may walk in God's paths."

With what shall we come to God's house?

Bring branches of cedar and holly, bring evergreens and a pine tree, hang wreaths and garlands. Make the church fragrant with the smell of living things and our holy play. In acts of hanging greens and listening to the words of prophets and seers let us make our hearts and this space a place of inward and outward preparation for the One who comes to give us second birth.

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

Good Lord, by your mercy guide our outward actions in such ways that our inward being is formed in faith, hope, and love. May the decorations we offer engage our senses during the days of Advent and enliven our praise and worship, in the name of the child of Bethlehem, our risen and coming savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

† OPENING HYMN

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

UMH 213

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

The Shupe Family

Isaiah 60.2-3: "For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn."

We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Hope. May the light sent from God shine in the darkness to show us the way of salvation. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ADVENT WREATH

MUSICAL OFFERING

O Come, Let Us Adore Him
Central Ringers

Arnold B. Sherman

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BELLS

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-5

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STAR

HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, *Stanzas 1 & 2*

UMH 211

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CANDLES

HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, *Stanzas 3 & 4*

UMH 211

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 41:17-20

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HOLLY AND THE IVY

HYMN

The Holly and the Ivy

1. The hol - ly and the i - vy, when they are both full grown, of ____
2. The hol - ly bears a blos - som, white as the lil - y flower, and ____
3. The hol - ly bears a ber - ry, as red as an - y blood, and ____
4. The hol - ly bears a prick - le, as sharp as an - y thorn, and ____
5. The hol - ly bears a bark, ____ as bit - ter as an - y gall, and ____

all the trees that are in the wood the ____ hol - ly bears the ____ crown.
Mar - y bore sweet Je - sus Christ to ____ be our sweet Sav - ior.
Mar - y bore sweet Je - sus Christ to ____ do poor sin - ners ____ good. The
Mar - y bore sweet Je - sus Christ on ____ Christmas day in the morn.
Mar - y bore sweet Je - sus Christ for ____ to re - deem us ____ all.

ri - sing of the sun ____ and the run - ning of the deer, the ____

play - ing of the mer - ry or - gan, sweet sing - ing in the choir.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF POINSETTIAS

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Revelation 22:12-14, 17

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CHRISMON TREE

HYMN

O Christmas Tree

O Christ - mas tree, O Christ - mas tree, how green thy bran - ches ev - er. O
O Christ - mas tree, O Christ - mas tree, thy dress so green would teach me. O
O Christ - mas tree, O Christ - mas tree, what gold - en light a - dorn thee. O
O Christ - mas tree, O Christ - mas tree, how lov - ing hands have decked thee. O

Christ - mas tree, O Christ - mas tree, how green they bran - ches ev - er. Thou
Christ - mas tree, O Christ - mas tree, thy dress so green would teach me. Fair
Christ - mas tree, O Christ - mas tree, thy gold - en lights a - dorn thee. Like
Christ - mas tree, O Christ - mas tree, how lov - ing hands have decked thee. Thus

still art green when sum - mer wanes and win - try winds sweep o'er the plains. O
hope, and trou - ble in dis - tress, is felt to be a sweet car - ress. O
stars that shine in beau - ty bright, to fill each heart with pure de - light. O
God's own love will make of me for par - a - dise a shi - ning tree. O

Christ - mas tree, O Christ - mas tree how green thy branch - es ev - er.
Christ - mas tree, O Christ - mas tree, thy dress so green would teach me.
Christ - mas tree, O Christ - mas tree, what gold - en light a - dorn thee.
Christ - mas tree, O Christ - mas tree, how lov - ing hands have decked thee.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CHRISMONS

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CHRIST IN OUR LIVES

THE UNITY PRAYER

Holy Father, as we pause, now, at the beginning of this Advent season, we are reminded that the Christ child we are awaiting with anticipation and excitement is the same Jesus who taught us, by his words and by his actions that we are to love each other, actively and truly, love each other. We ask that you hear the prayers of our hearts as we entreat you to help us, show us, enable us to be the one who makes the first move:

To forgive -- first.

To make reconciliation -- first

To be gentle -- first

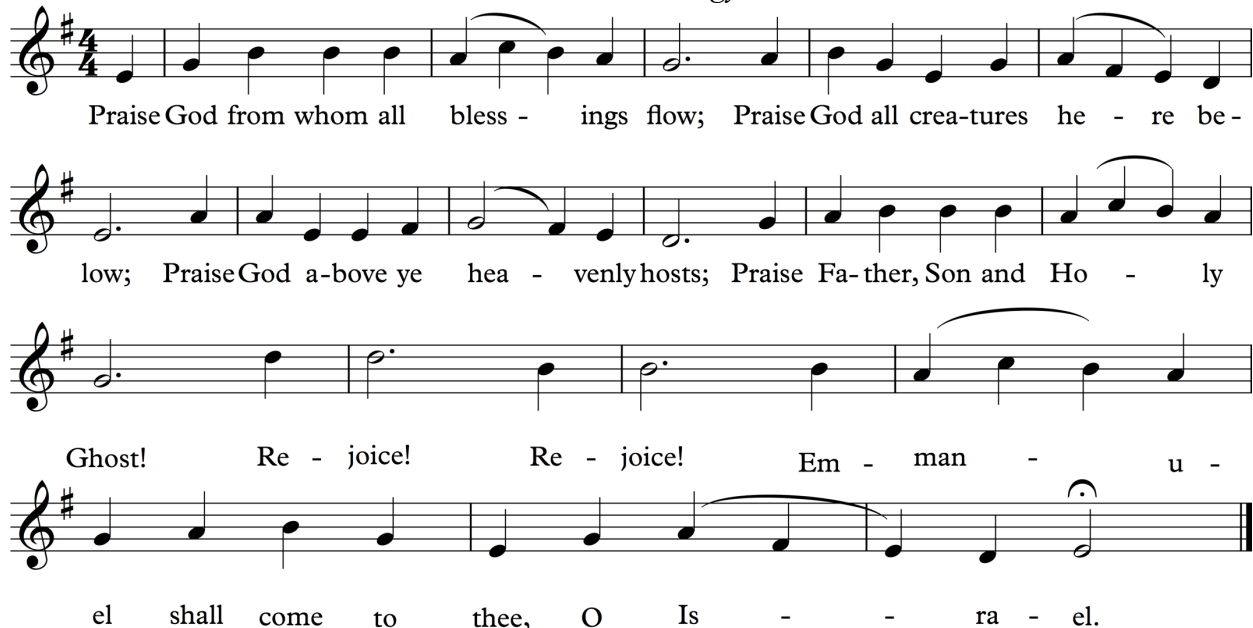
To love in all the ways you show us -- first

So that during this Advent season, within this congregation, among our families, and in our homes, on our jobs, in our schools, and in our community, wherever we go, we shall be transformed into people who make peace and maintain good will on earth as it is in heaven-not just for our own sakes, but in the name of Jesus, the living Christ, Amen.

OFFERING

† DOXOLOGY

Advent Doxology



Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise God all crea-tures he - re be -
low; Praise God a-bove ye hea - venly hosts; Praise Fa-ther, Son and Ho - ly
Ghost! Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u -
el shall come to thee, O Is - - ra - el.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

UMH 12

† HYMN OF DEDICATION

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

UMH 196

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



Serving in Worship Today

Preacher: Rev. Lanny Lancaster | Liturgist: Rev. Sigrid Mottram

Music: Sung by Central Chancel Choir; Jamie Bryson, organist/director; Kristi Shupe, pianist