

UNITED CHURCH *of* CHAPEL HILL

FESTIVAL WORSHIP



DECEMBER 7, 2025 | 10:30 A.M.
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Please stand, as able, when indicated by asterisk. **Bold text indicates congregational response.**

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Variations on *Veni, Veni Emmanuel*

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

In the morning and in the night,
in the darkness and in the light,
all creation groans in waiting.

What is it that we're waiting for?

We wait for a light to shine in the darkness;

We wait for God to light our way.

While we wait for illumination,
while we hope and pray and play,

We will lift our hearts to the God of all the earth.

Let us worship our holy God.

*COLLECT IN ESPAÑOL

Ven, ven, Emmanuel. Tú eres nuestra esperanza para que crezca el amor en nuestros corazones y en el mundo. Esperamos el nacimiento de tu gracia en la vida tierna y vulnerable de un niño. Prepáranos para el don de la salvación, para el nacimiento de Jesucristo. Amén.

Come, come, Emmanuel. You are our hope for love to grow in our hearts and in the world. We await the birth of your grace in the tender and vulnerable life of a child. Prepare us for the gift of salvation, for the birth of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 122

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

STUTT GART

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 11:1-10

Pew Bible page 558

Matthew 3:1-12

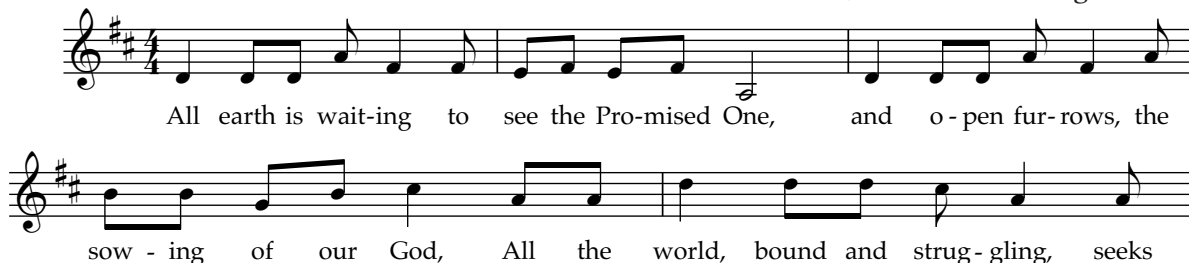
Pew Bible page 784

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

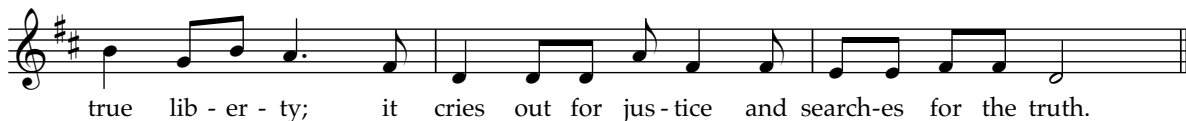
Congregational response: **We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Toda la Tierra (All Earth is Waiting)



(Continued on next page)



CHILDREN'S RESPONSE

Away in a Manger

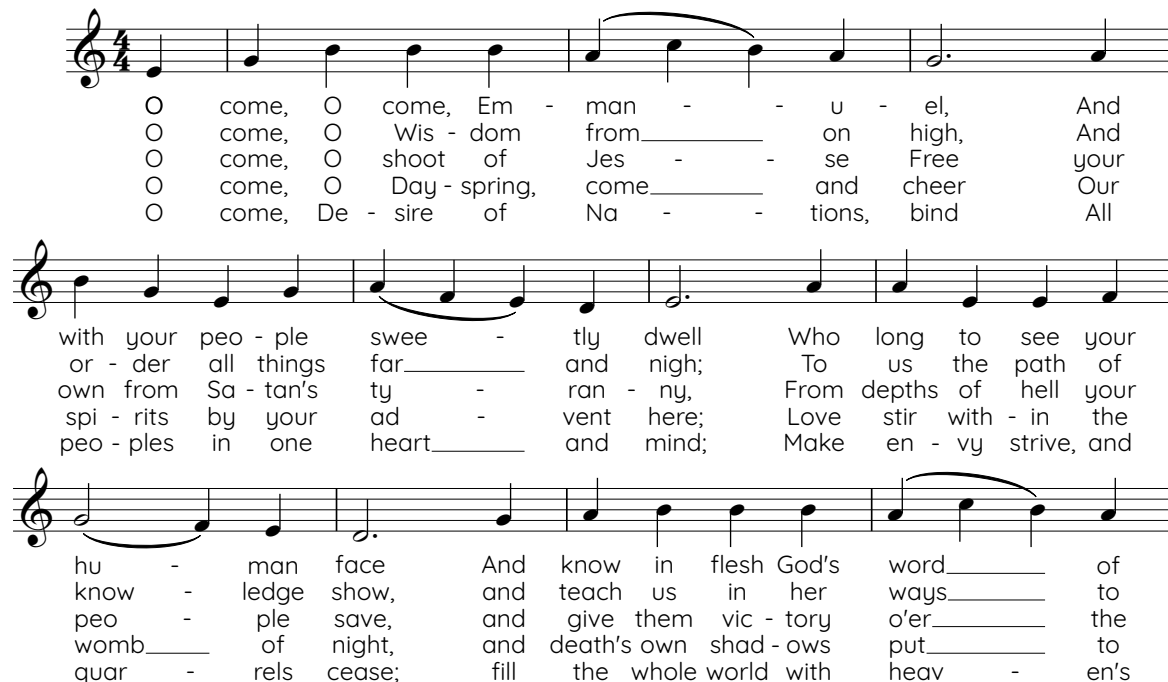


SERMON

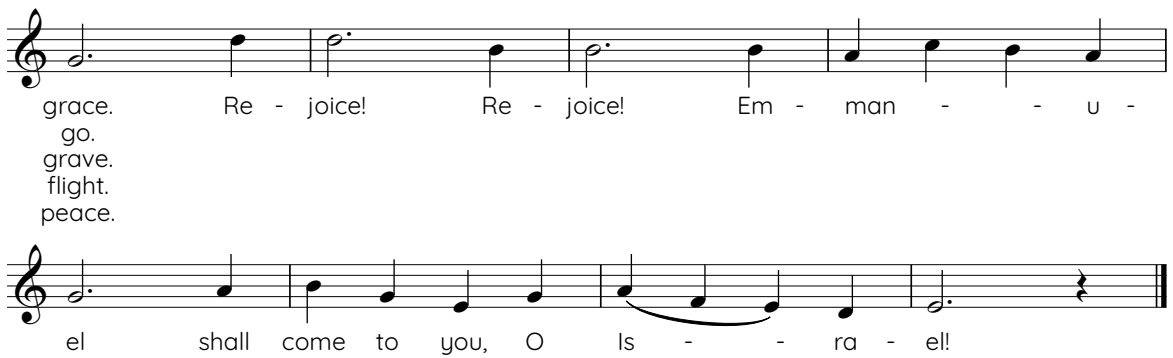
Rev. Cameron Barr

*HYMN OF THE DAY

O Come, O Come Emmanuel



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CALL TO SHARING

ANTHEM

I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes

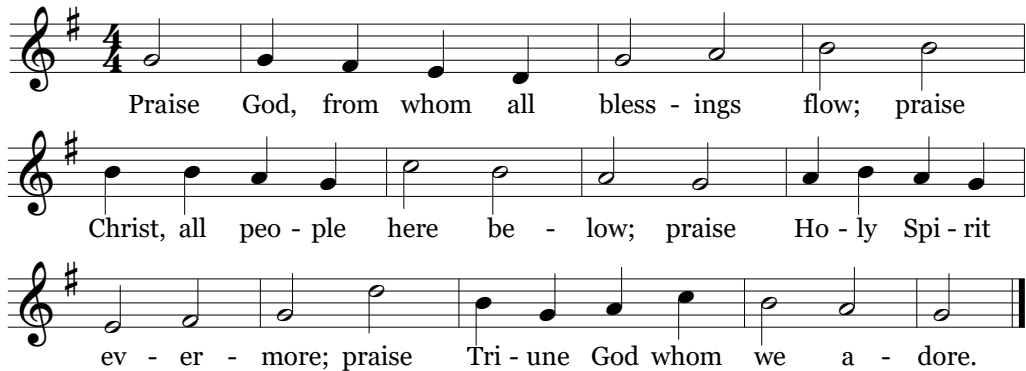
Ian Higginson

Program notes: On the second Sunday of Advent, we hear Isaiah's promise of a shoot from the stump of Jesse as a sign of new life, and John the Baptist's call to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. Ian Higginson's setting of Psalm 121 echoes this longing with a declaration to lift our eyes in hope for Christ's guidance and renewal.

*PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH



*INVITATION TO AN OPEN TABLE

We gather around the table of hope,

Knowing that God meets us here.

We gather around the table of peace,

Grateful for the presence of our neighbors.

We gather around the table of joy,

Waiting for the Spirit to renew us.

We gather around the table of love,

Trusting that Christ has saved us a seat.

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God of might.

Heav'n and earth are full of your grace and glo - ry.

Ho - - - san - na in ex - cel - sis!

Ho - - - san - na in ex - cel - sis!

Please come forward to receive the bread and cup. We offer a gluten-free option in the basket with purple linens and serve only non-alcoholic grape juice. Raise your hand if you would like a pastor to bring the elements to you. Communion cups may be left in the openings on the back of the pews.

COMMUNION HYMN 127

Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming

ES IST EIN' ROS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give thanks, gracious God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Vom Himmel Hoch
(From Heaven Above to Earth I Come)

trad. Advent chorale

YEAR-END GIVING

Please remember the church in your year-end giving by supporting the general fund, the Pillars of Promise Capital Campaign, or any of our special ministries. There are many ways to support the church or other institutions that are important to your practice of generosity at the end of the year, including gifts of cash or noncash gifts such as stock or other appreciated assets. For those who are 70 1/2 and older, you may consider Qualified Charitable Distributions from an IRA.

**GIFTS FOR THE GENERAL FUND
AND/OR THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**



Give online here:
onrealm.org/ucch/give/now

2026 PLEDGE FORM



Pledge online here: bit.ly/ucch2026 or put your pledge card in the offering plate or mail.

GRATITUDE CORNER

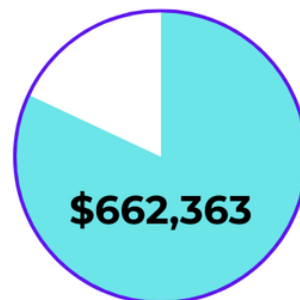
'Twas the night before Sunday school and all through the house,
Not a teacher was stirring, not even a mouse.
They were all wide awake thinking hard through the night
Tomorrow's class is upon us and something's not right.
The lesson is ready and the story is clear,
But the craft is a dud and gives us no cheer.
The children with glee will ask, "What's there to do?"
And at this point we'll just have to cry Boo Hoo Hoo.
And then to the rescue Miss Tania comes through
With paper and ribbon and scissors and glue.
Her genius is keen and her smile effervescent.
She graces us all like a fine Christmas present.'

Thank you Tania Osborn for your many talents!
—The children of UCCH Sunday School

Submissions needed! If you can name something about our church community that makes you want to give thanks and sing in less than 200 words, we'd love to print it here. Send your submission to mmee@unitedchurch.org.



**STEWARDSHIP
CAMPAIGN PROGRESS**



**81.7% of our
\$810,000 goal**
UPDATED DECEMBER 3, 2025

TODAY: UCCH 101 FOR PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Are you interested in becoming a member of UCCH? Let's make this official! Visit "bit.ly/UCCH101" to RSVP and join us for this series of meetings leading up to membership day on January 25. We will discuss spirituality, our church community and denomination, and share open question time, all within a casual lunch/snack setting.

Sundays at 12 p.m. in the library:

December 7: Covenant & Community

January 18: Lunch with pastors & preparing to join

GIVING TREE ENDS TODAY

Thank you to everyone who has supported the UCCH Giving Tree this year! Today is the deadline for placing gifts under the tree. We are still accepting online gifts (visit "onrealm.org/ucch/give/now" and select the Giving Tree fund) and \$25 Wal-Mart gift cards (place in the box by the tree--no need to sign up). Contact Anitra (agrove@unitedchurch.org) with questions.

LESSONS & CAROLS AND LAS POSADAS CHRISTMAS PARTY NEXT SUNDAY

Our annual Lessons & Carols service will take place in the **Sanctuary next Sunday, December 14 at 10:30 a.m.** This bilingual, joint service will incorporate special Advent readings and classic Christmas hymns and songs. As the service ends, we will move into a musical procession inspired by the Mexican tradition of *Las Posadas Navideñas*. The congregation will be led through the church to a symbolic "posada" (inn), representing the journey that Joseph and Mary made from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of a safe place for Jesus' birth. The *posada* ends with the breaking of piñatas, then we'll continue our Christmas party in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to bring Christmas cookies to share (savory foods will be provided).

CHRISTMAS CAROLING WITH UCCH

Next Sunday, December 14, starting at 4:00 p.m.

You and your family are invited to help bring holiday joy to those who can't leave home this holiday season. We'll meet at United Church to carpool and share Christmas cheer around town. Reindeer antlers, Santa hats, and ugly sweaters are welcome! If you'd like to join part of the route or meet us along the way, indicate that in the RSVP form. The schedule will be sent to participants a few days before caroling. Questions? Contact Minister of Music Reyna Alston at ralston@unitedchurch.org. Scan the attached QR code to RSVP.



SPECIAL ADVENT & CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

Advent III | Sunday, December 14

Lessons & Carols Joint Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Las Posadas Christmas Party after worship

Christmas Caroling at 4 p.m.

Longest Night Service | Friday, December 19 at 7 p.m.

Near the longest night of the year, we gather to honor the darkness many experience, even during the brightness and cheer of the Advent season.

Christmas Eve | Wednesday, December 24

Family Service at 4 p.m.

Candlelight Service at 7 p.m.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY FORUM

Sunday, December 14 at 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Join us next Sunday as Rev. Nan de Andrade leads us in "Lessons and Carols- a Tradition of Living Word and Song." This will help us prepare for the service of Lessons and Carols that will follow at 10:30.

UCCH YOGA: DECEMBER CLASSES

Join Melanie Joiner for an all-levels yoga class focused on building resilience and community on **Fridays at 9 a.m. in the Assembly Hall: December 5, 12, and 19** (no yoga on December 26 or January 2). Questions? Please contact Melanie at melanie.spence@gmail.com.

ADDITIONAL PARKING ON SUNDAYS

If you're able, please consider parking in the UNC lot on Homestead Road to leave closer spaces available for visitors and those with mobility needs. The lot entrance is marked with a "Homestead Operations Center" sign between MLK Jr. Blvd. and Aquatic Drive. You can walk to the church from the UNC lot using the gravel path beside the IFC shelter.

MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS IN ENEWS

Our e-newsletter is sent weekly on Tuesdays (English) and Fridays (Spanish). Sign up at unitedchurch.org.

FROM THE UCCH LIBRARY

- ★ Peterson, E.H. Holy God and holy stump. In "The Jesus Way," p138-147. 232 Pet J
- ★ Borg, M.J., & Crossan, J.D. Jesus as the fulfillment of prophecy. In "The First Christmas," p199-225. 232.9 Bor F
- ★ Levine, A.-J. John the Baptist. In "Great Figures of the New Testament, Part 1." A/V 225.9 Lev G Part 1 CD
- ★ Peace, R. Talking about repentance. In "Holy Conversation: Talking about God in Everyday Life," p71-76. 248.2 Pea H

These items are on the small wooden rack in the center of the library, along with items related to Advent and Christmas. A volunteer, Rev. Jo Watson, will be in the library after the worship service, to assist you in finding library materials.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

SERVICE NOTES

MUSIC: Chancel Choir

LEAD DEACON: Kaselehlia Sielken

GREETER: Sharon Hanson

READER: Karen Setty

LIVESTREAM: Brian Moore

SOUNDBOARD: Bob Sielken

COFFEE HOSTS: Erica Tillman

COVER ART: *Lion and Lamb* by Edie Mae Herrel, 1978. From Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

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UNITED CHURCH STAFF

SENIOR PASTOR: Rev. Cameron Barr

ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR COMMUNITY &

BELONGING: Rev. Caleb Wolf

MINISTER TO CHILDREN: Anitra Grove

MINISTER TO YOUTH AND FAMILIES: Jackson Ringley

MINISTER OF MUSIC: Reyna Alston

PROGRAM ORGANIST: Julie Mitchell

ADJUNCT MUSIC STAFF: Charles Bradshaw (United Voices of Praise Director), Jennifer Anderson (Junior Choir Director)

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: Kati Ruark

BUSINESS MANAGER: Duane Gilbert

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER: Marisa Mee

SEXTON: Bruce Thomas

KITCHEN STEWARDS: Hser Nay Htoo & Zoila Fonseca

NURSERY DIRECTOR: Alison Robertson

NURSERY ASSISTANTS: Harper Gray, Kallista Mela, Mimi Reeves, Anna Grove, Jack Tanner, & Josh Hart

Bienvenido. Welcome. Visitors are invited to take a contact card from the Narthex or Sanctuary pew pockets to fill out and place in the offering plate. / *Se invita a los visitantes a coger una tarjeta de contacto de los bolsillos de los bancos del Nártex o del Santuario para rellenarla y depositarla en el plato de las ofrendas.*

Or complete the form online:
[O rellene el formulario en línea:](#)



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PHONE

919-942-3540

A PLACE of BELONGING FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN