UNITED CHURCH *of* CHAPEL HILL

FESTIVAL WORSHIP



First Sunday of Advent: Vigilant Hope

NOVEMBER 29, 2026 | 10:30 A.M.

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Wachet Auf BWV 645 J.S. Bach, arr. Wilhelm Kempf for Piano

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather together in this place:
prophets and dreamers, singers and poets,
we who dare to imagine a world renewed;
we who dare to dream God's dream.
We proclaim expectation with Isaiah!
God's redemption is near!
Through tears and through trials,
we hold fast to our hope.
Do not fear, for God is faithful.
Our redemption rises with the dawn.
Come and worship, all you who dream and wait.
We have come to wonder and praise.

COLLECT IN ESPAÑOL

Dios misericordioso, que nos llamas a amar a nuestro prójimo como a nosotros mismos, nos has bendecido con muchas lenguas para alabar tu santo nombre. Oramos por la unidad de la iglesia, por todos los que celebran su culto en inglés o en español, y por los inmigrantes que viven de la fe en un país desconocido. Por Cristo Jesús, que hace un hogar para todos tus hijos. Amén.

Merciful God, who calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves, you have blessed us with many tongues to praise your holy name. We pray for the unity of the church, for all who worship in English or Spanish, and for immigrants who live by faith in an unfamiliar country. Through Christ Jesus, who makes a home for all your children. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 112

Keep Awake, Be Always Ready WACHET AUF

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Wesner Family

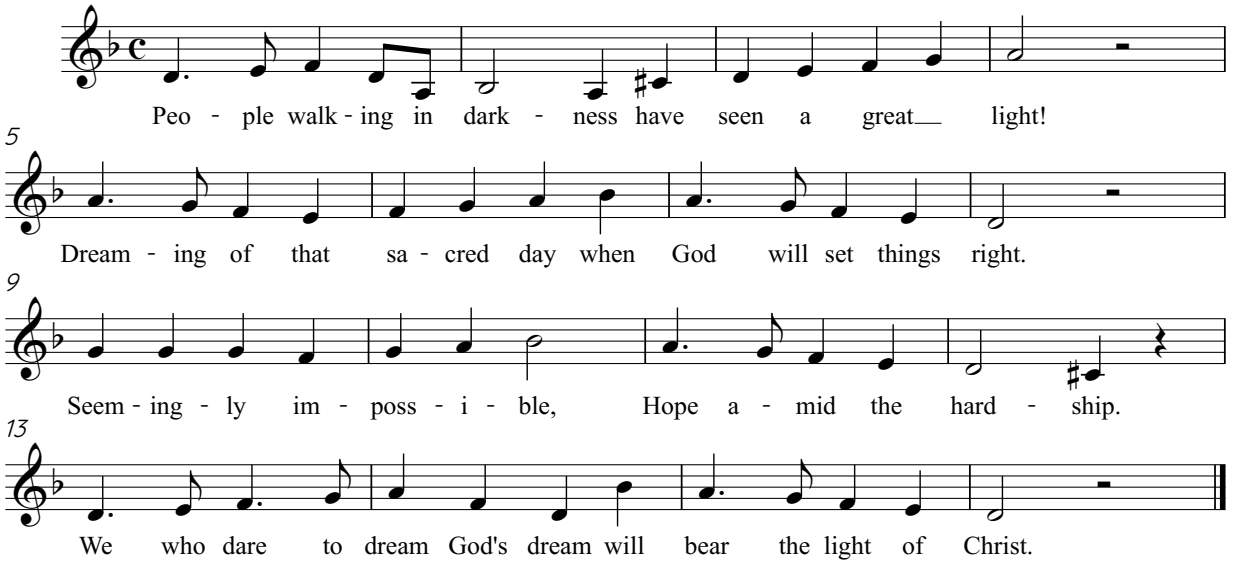
On this First Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of hope and say together:

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

We Who Dare to Dream

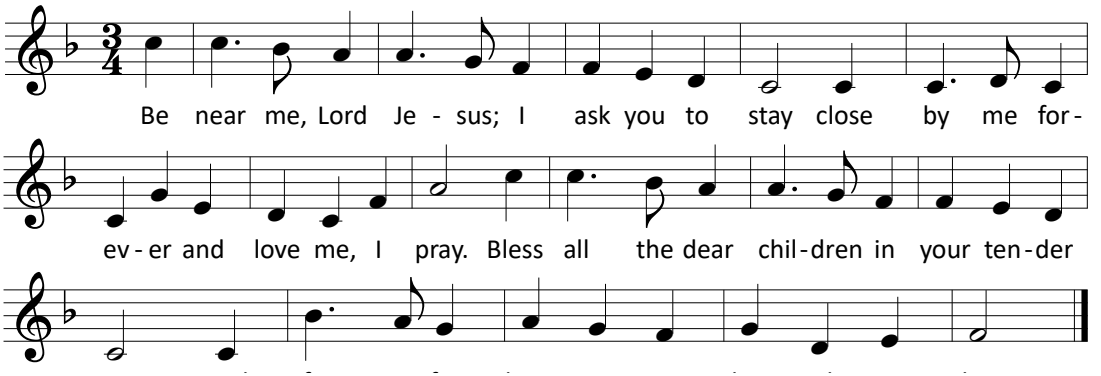
Music and lyrics by Jackson Ringley and Reyna Alston



CHILDREN'S MOMENT

CHILDREN'S RESPONSE

Away in a Manger



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 2:1-5
Mark 13:24-37

Pew Bible page 550
Pew Bible page 826

SERMON

Like Those Who Dream

Jackson Ringely

"When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream." – Psalm 126:1

CALL TO SHARING

ANTHEM

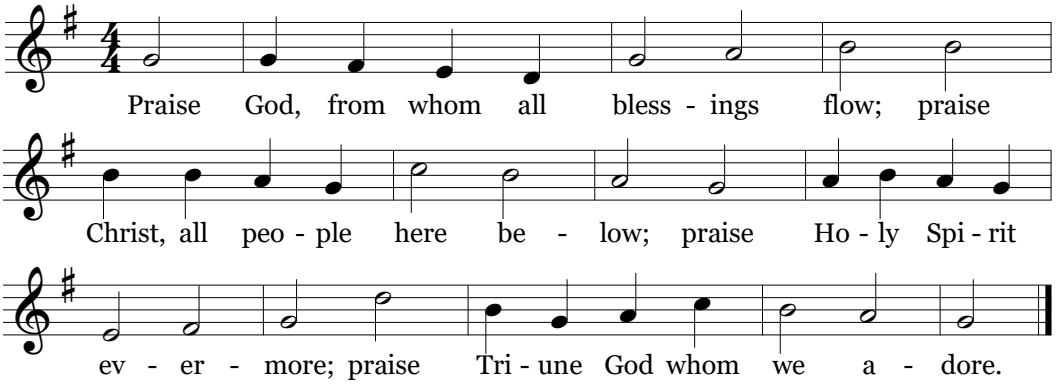
Refuge and Strength

Music and Lyrics by Mark Hayes,
adapted from Psalm 46:1-7

Program note: In the season of Advent, we prepare for the birth of Christ, who comes to redeem the world from suffering and spiritual darkness. Today's anthem is a setting of Psalm 46, which proclaims God's presence in times of turmoil. It speaks to the fragility of the natural world, "The earth will change and crumble into the sea," resonating with the apocalyptic language of our Gospel reading. When Heaven and Earth pass away, Christ's words endure. As we hold the tension of uncertainty and hope, we cling to God as our Refuge and Strength.

*DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH



PASTORAL PRAYER

God of grace,
Hear our 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.

INVITATION TO AN OPEN TABLE

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 345 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* PICARDY

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.

*HYMN OF BLESSING 110 *Now Bless the God of Israel* FOREST GREEN

*BENEDICTION

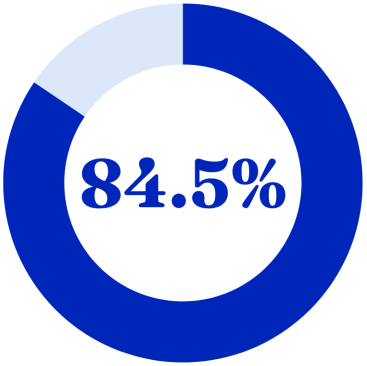
CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Voluntary III* Maurice Green

UNITED CHURCH of CHAPEL HILL
2027 GENEROSITY CAMPAIGN

In Christ We Are One: *Woven Together by Love*

unitedchurch.org/giving

Woven Together by Love
Campaign Progress



November 24, 2026

Pledges: **$760,231**

Goal: **$900,000**

Thank you to the 160 families who have pledged over $760,000 toward our $900,000 goal. We are more than 80% of the way to a fully funded ministry in 2027. Please make your pledge today!

GRATITUDE CORNER

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 share your thoughts in our weekly worship bulletins and newsletters. Send your submission to mmee@unitedchurch.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME!
If you are new to United Church, we are so glad you are here. Please stop by the Welcome Table to fill out a contact card and take a gift bag with more information about our congregation. We also invite you to introduce yourself to a pastor and join us in Fellowship Hall for coffee and refreshments following worship.

CHURCH EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN
UCCH has a response plan in place for health/safety emergencies or other unexpected situations. If you'd like more details please contact a Deacon or Pastor.

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET ITEMS FOR SALE
Continuing the ministry of the AGM, items from Church World Service and pecans supporting the Prison Ministry will be available for purchase in the narthex today. Olive oil and za'atar will also be available at the Palestinian Justice Partners table outside the library.

GOD'S BIDDING ONLINE AUCTION IS OPEN!
https://www.32auctions.com/GodsBidding2026
Proceeds support Church World Service to assist people facing displacement, disaster, hunger, and poverty. **Bidding is open until 11:45pm on December 4.**

UCCH YOGA & PILATES CLASSES
Join us for yoga with Melanie Joiner and pilates-style classes led by Karen Setty! All levels welcome. **Fridays at 9am in the Assembly Hall. Dec. 4 & 11 - Pilates; Dec. 18 - Yoga.** Questions? Contact melanie.spence@gmail.com or karen.setty@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY FORUM NEWS
Sundays at 9:15am in the Fellowship Hall
Watch recorded Forums on our YouTube channel!
December 6, 13, & 20 - *Shine! Light for All People:* On the last three Sundays of Advent, members of our congregation will lead an Advent study exploring the themes "The Light in the Window," "The Light of the World," "Shine a Light!" and "The Horizon Is Bright." Each session stands alone - you don't need to attend all three.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING NEXT SUNDAY
Join us for an afternoon of bilingual caroling on **Sunday, December 6, at 4:00pm!** We'll divide into groups and carpool to share the joy of music throughout our community, then gather at Carol Woods for even more singing, hot cider, and cookies. All are welcome! If you need transportation or have any questions, please contact Reyna Alston (ralston@unitedchurch.org).

NEW MEMBERS - *SUBMIT YOUR BIO!*
Everyone who joined the church last Sunday (Nov. 22) is encouraged to fill out the new member form so we can tell the congregation a little about you and include you in our member database: https://bit.ly/ucchbios

GIVING TREE | *November 21-December 13, 2026*
Help provide holiday gifts for families in our community! Visit the Giving Tree by the church office on any workday or Sunday through Dec. 13. Find details and instructions at the tree when you select a Giving Tag. This year's Giving Tree supports Covenant Place, Refugee Support Center, Seawell Elementary families, Fisher Memorial United Holy Church of America, and community members (reach out to a pastor for individual needs/requests: cbarr@unitedchurch.org).

UCCH STREAM TEAM
Enjoy Advent outside! The last UCCH stream monitoring event of the year will be held on **Saturday, December 12, 2:30-4:30pm.** Dress in warm clothes and boots that let you wade in the water. All are welcome, and children should bring an adult. Sign up here: https://bit.ly/streamteamw26

ADVENT WITH UCCH
Mark your calendars for these upcoming Advent programs at United Church!
Sunday, 12/6: *Second Sunday of Advent*
- Caroling at 4:00pm (bilingual)

Sunday, 12/13: *Third Sunday of Advent*
- Lessons & Carols Joint Worship (bilingual)
- Giving Tree ends

Sunday, 12/20: *Fourth Sunday of Advent*
- *Las Posadas* after Festival and La Mesa worship

Monday, 12/21:
- Longest Night service at 7:00pm

Thursday, 12/24: *Christmas Eve*
- Family Service at 4:00pm
- Service of the Nativity at 7:00pm (bilingual)

MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS IN ENEWS
Our email newsletter is sent weekly on Tuesdays (English) & Fridays (Spanish). Sign up at unitedchurch.org.

FROM THE UCCH LIBRARY
Happy new (liturgical) year! Come to the library and get a good start on the new year by getting acquainted with some resources for Advent and Christmas. Just grab your coffee and a snack and come on in. Volunteers Linda Sellars and Barbara Wildemuth will be on hand to greet you and assist you in finding library materials.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

SERVICE NOTES

MUSIC: James Rice, guest organist; Chancel Choir
DEACON: Peter Schay
GREETERS: Peter Barnes, Seth Murray
READER: Jeff Hall
SOUNDBOARD: Sonic AL
LIVESTREAM: Bill Siddall
COFFEE HOST: Fellowship Board "Thanksgiving Leftovers - Savory or Sweet"
ALTAR FLOWERS: Given by Doug Zabor, in honor of Madga Schijff's birthday and Celebration of Life (November 28).

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UNITED CHURCH **STAFF**

SENIOR PASTOR: Rev. Cameron Barr
ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Rev. Caleb Wolf
MINISTER TO CHILDREN: Anitra Grove
MINISTER TO YOUTH AND FAMILIES: Jackson Ringley
MINISTER OF MUSIC: Reyna Alston
ORGANIST: Julie Mitchell
JUNIOR CHOIR DIRECTOR: Elizabeth Brown
LA MESA CHOIR DIRECTOR: Adrián Valiente
PRINCIPAL ACCOMPANIST: Brendan Smith
ADJUNCT MUSIC STAFF: Charles Bradshaw (United Voices of Praise Director)

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: Kati Ruark
BUSINESS MANAGER: Duane Gilbert
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER: Marisa Mee
BUILDING & EVENTS MANAGER: Jonathan Collins
SEXTON: Bruce Thomas
KITCHEN STEWARDS: Hser Nay Htoo, Zoila Fonseca
NURSERY ASSISTANTS: Brody Tapper, Connor Gilmore, Elizabeth Hall, Ella Law, Jack Tanner, John Grove, Karleigh Purcell, Lauren Shultz, Luke Atkinson, Parker Shultz, Sylvia Sadgrove, Wylie Kenan

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:

Your support of UCCH makes our worship and ministry possible.
Give online: onrealm.org/ucch/give/now | Venmo: @UCCHNC

WEBSITE	**FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, & YOUTUBE**	**PHONE**
unitedchurch.org	/unitedchurchofchapelhill	919-942-3540

A PLACE *of* BELONGING FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN