Sunday, December 14,2025

Culmore
United Methodist Church

Welcome and
Good Morning!

Art by Sue Carroll

Welcome and Announcements

Happy Birthday

Once again it's your birthday. Once again the time is here.
What a loving gift from Jesus, He has given you one more year.
Happy time is your birthday, happy time this year.
What a loving gift from Jesus, He has given you one more year.
Oh happy birthday to you, oh happy birthday to you.
For you have Jesus Christ everyday of your life.
Oh happy birthday to you, oh happy birthday to you.
The Lord bless and keep you.
Happy birthday to you. And to Jesus with you.
God bless you and keep you. Happy birthday to you.

We Light the Candle of Joy

Today we light the third candle of advent, the candle of Joy.
God so loved the world that he has sent His only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

No greater gift has ever been given to the world.

Let us rejoice!

Let us rejoice indeed. Just like the shepherds, who saw and heard the angels sing out the ***good news***, may we also share this joy with everyone.

A Candle is Burning

A candle is burning, a candle of Joy.
A candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy,
Our hearts fill with wonder,
and eyes light and glow,
As joy brightens winter like
sunshine on snow.

Angels We Have Heard on High – UMH 238

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavn'ly song?

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing.
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

See him in a manger laid,
Whom the choirs of angels praise.
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid
While our hearts in love we raise

Gloria, Gloria in excelcis Deo.

Opening Prayer

Loving God,

Make us truly open to the joy, the love, the hope, of Christmas.

Let us realize anew all that the birth of Jesus means, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate in our world so that we may see each other as You see us. Let every gift we bring be wrapped in loving kindness. Keep us looking up to You and Your peace which surpasses all understanding.

May we embrace the joy of advent, and keep this joy in our soul throughout the year. May we rejoice in being Your children, full of grateful thoughts and devotion to You. ***AMEN***

Luke 2: 8-20

There were shepherds abiding in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were sore afraid.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. **I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.** Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

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Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, **"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."**

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

So, they hurried off …

… and found Mary and Joseph,

and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Why?

Rise Up Shepherd and Follow – TFWS -2096

Ne'Kiya Jackson and Calcea Johnson

Community Prayer

How we love to sing praises to You, LORD Jesus!

What does it tell us that the angel choir singing at Your birth sang to the lowest of the low—shepherds alone in the fields, caring for the sheep on the lonely hillsides? You wanted to make sure we knew that no one is ever left out!

The door to God's presence is now wide open to all who want to come. Status in this world no longer matters. That is the way things are now. We rejoice that this is so. **AMEN**

Offering and Doxology

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb,

If I were a wise man, I would do my part,

Yet what can I give Him — Give my heart.

Benediction