



*Photo by James Gardner*

Sunday, December 3, 2023

Culmore  
United Methodist Church

Welcome and  
Good Morning!

# Welcome and Announcements



rna



*Hope*





# O Come, O Come Emmanuel - UMH 211

O Come, O Come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go.

O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times once gave the law in cloud and majesty and awe.

O come thou Root of Jesse's tree, an ensign of thy people be  
Before thee rulers silent fall, all peoples on thy mercy call.



*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*



# Opening Prayer

Loving God,

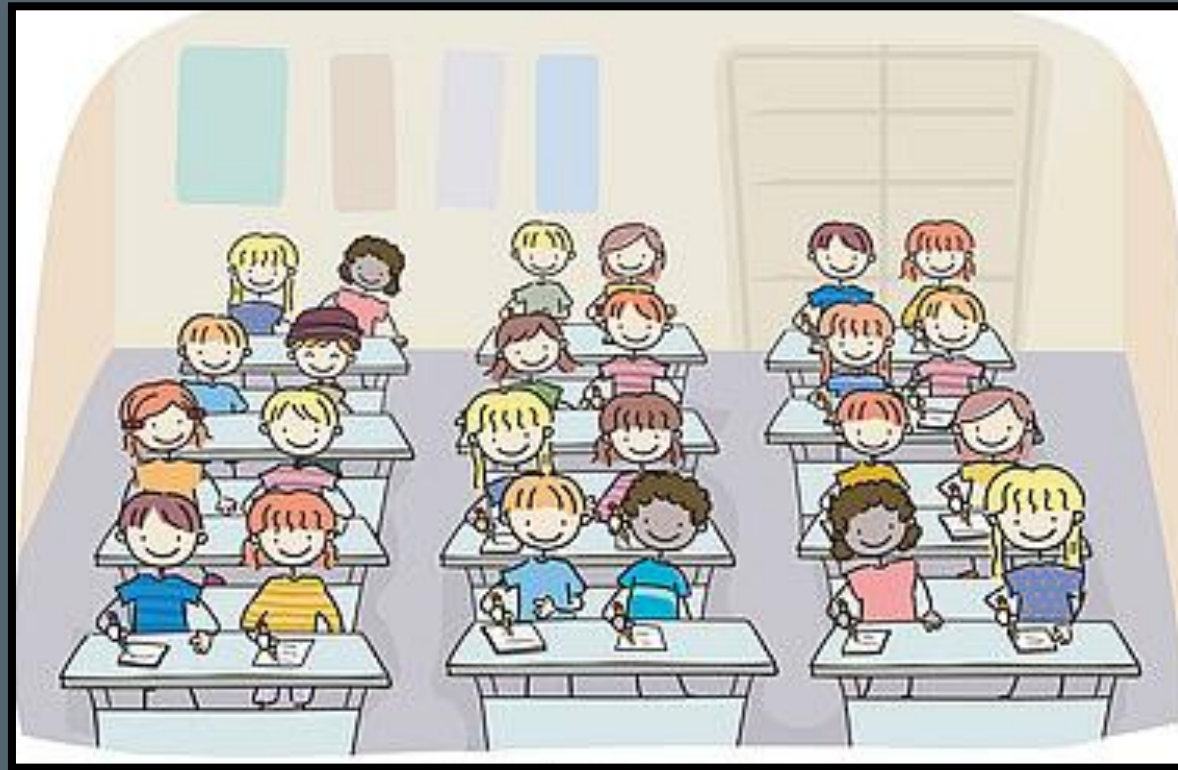
What joyful anticipation fills our hearts, as we celebrate the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. No more need we wander in darkness, lost and confused, for He has come. Praise God indeed! ***Amen***

The people walking in darkness have  
seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep  
darkness a light has dawned.

—*Isaiah 9: 2*



# Lessons for the Adults



Have you ever been in the house  
and the lights went out? How did  
it feel?



Didn't the even most familiar  
things seem strange?

In that dark, didn't it feel great to light a candle?



## Exodus 13:20-22

“...They camped at Etham on the edge of the desert. By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.





Christ's light overcomes our darkness. His light never ceases to shine.

**We wait for Jesus, the light of the world.**

# Lighting the Candle of Hope

Each Sunday of advent, we light another candle, reminding us of the hope, the joy, the peace, and love that Christ brought into the world. Today we light the first candle of advent: the candle of *hope*.

**All creation waits, in the stillness of the night for the Jesus the Light of the World.**

We wait for Jesus, our *hope*, the Light in our darkness.





## First Sunday of Advent

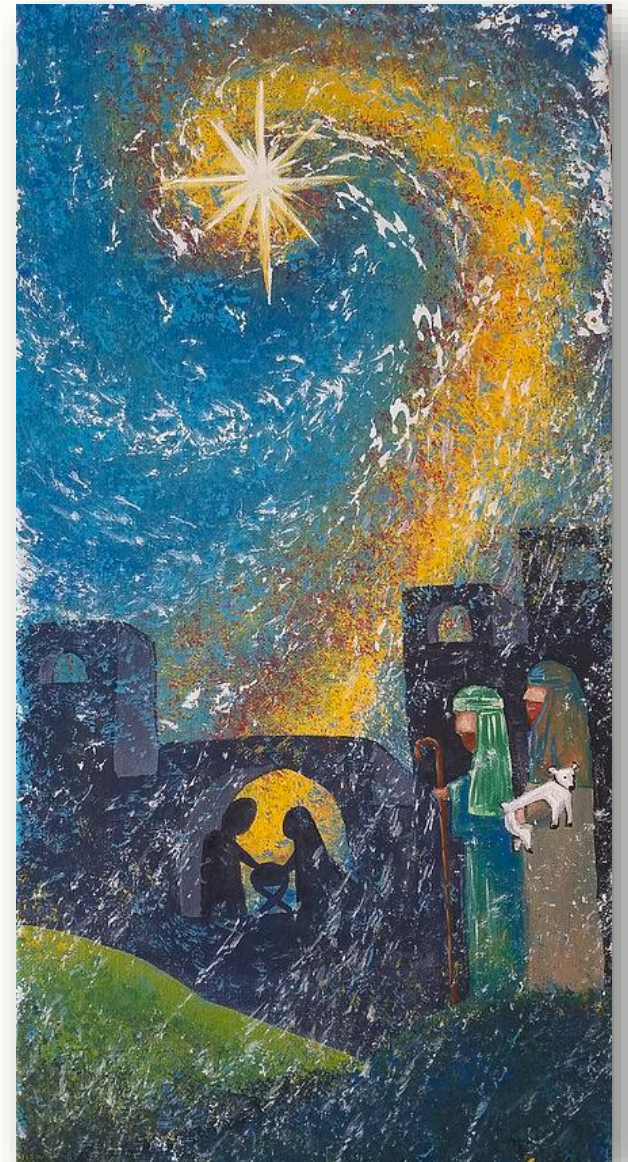


Light the Advent candle one  
Now the waiting has begun  
We have started on our way  
Time to think of Christmas day.

Candle, candle burning bright.  
Shining in the cold winter night  
Candle, candle burning bright  
Fill our hearts with Christmas light.

## Isaiah 9: 6-8

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.  
Authority rests upon his shoulders,  
and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.



His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onwards and for evermore.



# I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light - UMH 206

I want to walk as a child of the light.  
I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world.  
The star of my life is Jesus.



I want to see the brightness of God.  
I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path.  
Show me the way to the Father.

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.  
I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race,  
We shall know the joy of Jesus.



Prepare the Way



# Responsive Reading Isaiah 40: 3-5

A voice of one calling:

In the wilderness **prepare the way for the LORD;**  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.



Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain  
and hill made low.

**The rough ground shall become level,  
the rugged places a plain.**



And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,  
and all people will see it together.

**For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.**





For God so loved  
the world...

# Offering and Doxology

## UM Hymnal 95



We give thanks for this wonderful,  
generous community of faith.

# Community Prayer

LORD Jesus,

You came to be the Light of the World. The people waited for the Messiah to come after many years of darkness and silence. You came to drive out the darkness and let Your light forever shine on earth.

LORD, much in our lives gets in the way of our full service for the kingdom. But praise God, You promise to be with us to help us overcome all.

O come to be with us now, Emmanuel. We need You so much! ***Amen.***



# Communion

*Art by Sue Carroll*

# Holy Communion



My sisters and brothers, Christ invites us all to His table. He asks that we love him, confess our sins, and grow close to him in faith.

In this holy space, let us prepare our hearts and minds to receive his holy sacrament.

## **Prayer of Confession & Declaration of Forgiveness**

Our heavenly Father, You know how often we stumble. We don't come to this table trusting in ourselves; but instead, trusting in You and Your unfailing mercy.

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners, which proves His love and grace. We are a forgiven people. ***Amen***

# The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you;

***Congregation: and also with you.***

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

***Congregation: We lift them up to the Lord.***

Pastor: It is a good and joyful thing to always give thanks to you.  
Even when we turned away and our love failed, your love  
remained steadfast. And so we praise Your Holy name.



Leader: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,  
*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,*  
Leader: God of power and might,  
*God of power and might,*  
Leader: Heaven and earth are full of your glory  
*Heaven and earth are full of your glory*  
Leader: Hosanna in the highest.  
*Hosanna in the highest.*

Leader: Blessed is the one who comes  
*Blessed is the one who comes*  
Leader: in the name of the Lord.  
*in the name of the Lord.*  
Leader: Hosanna in the highest.  
*Hosanna in the highest.*



On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took the bread,  
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

*“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.*

*Do this in remembrance of me.”*



When the supper was over, he took the cup, he gave thanks to You, gave it to his disciples, and said, *“Drink from this all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”*

... And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.





Leader: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again**

Leader: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**



All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen, amen, amen.

*Amen, amen, amen.*



## Blessing of the Elements

Loving and eternal God, pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to the entire world, until Christ comes in final victory. ***Amen***

## Breaking of the Bread



## Lifting of the Cup



Just as there is one loaf, we who are many are one body.  
Just as we all partake of one loaf, the bread which we share  
is also a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing of the Blood of Christ.

# *Partaking of the Elements*





# Benediction

*Art by Sue Carroll*