



O Come!

December 14, 2025

3rd Sunday of Advent

– We Gather –

PRELUDE

O Had I Jubal's Lyre
Alicia Luttrell

Handel

WELCOME AND PARISH NOTICES

Dr. Darren McClellan

Please take this time to sign the attendance pad located in your pew, or scan the CONNECT QR code located on the back of this bulletin.

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY *Three chimes signify the presence of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

❖CALL TO WORSHIP

Dennis Carroll

My soul magnified the Lord;

My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

The Mighty One has done great things.

Holy is God's name!

♪❖HYMN OF PRAISE

Once in Royal David's City

UMH 250

❖PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace. You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our foolishness, we go astray. We hide our eyes from your presence. We do not listen to your word. We are lifeless when we ought to dance and speechless when we ought to sing. Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace to our fearful hearts, strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees as we seek to follow in your holy way. Amen.

❖PASSING OF THE PEACE *As forgiven and reconciled people, let us pass the Peace of Christ with one another.*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY

The Alexander Family

We lit our first candle as a symbol of HOPE and our second candle as a symbol of PEACE. Today, we light this candle as a symbol of the JOY to be found in God's kingdom on earth.

For the Lord elevates the lowly, releases the captive, and brings sight to the blind. We rejoice in his justice and mercy, faithful to all generations.

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Today's Acolyte: George Wolf

❖ *Please Stand in body or spirit* **Bold Print** – *Congregation Reads Aloud*
Hearing amplifier devices are available. Please see an usher for assistance.

SUNG RESPONSE

Blest Be the God of Israel

Blest be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,
who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.

— *We Listen* —

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord God, in this dry and dusty place, pour out the power of your Spirit so that your Word may blossom in our lives; through Jesus Christ, our way in the wilderness. Amen.

CANTICLE OF MARY

UMH 199

Please join the choir in the sung response when indicated by the red R.

♪❖HYMN OF PREPARATION *My Soul Proclaims with Wonder*

1. My soul proclaims with wonder the greatness of the Lord; rejoicing in God's goodness, my spirit is restored. To me has God shown favor, to one the world thought frail, and every age will echo the angel's first "All hail!"
2. God's mercy shields the faithful and saves them from defeat with strength that turns to scatter the proud in their conceit. The mighty have been vanquished, the lowly lifted up. The hungry find abundance, the rich, an empty cup.
3. To Abraham's descendants the Lord will steadfast prove, for God has made with Israel a covenant of love. My soul proclaims with wonder the greatness of the Lord; rejoicing in God's goodness, my spirit is restored.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

After the children's moment, children may leave with our staff to go to the nursery. Following the service parents can meet their children in The Landing.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 35:3-8

³Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

May God bless the reading of the Word. **Thanks be to God.**

MORNING PRAYER AND 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

♪ACT OF PRAISE

Celtic Advent Carol
Chancel Choir

Martin

❖NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 11:2-11

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." ⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' ¹¹"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

May God bless the reading of the Word. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"Go Tell John"

Dr. Darren McClellan

— *WE RESPOND* —

❖AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—The Apostle's Creed

UMH 881

♪❖GLORIA PATRI **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

O Come, All Ye Faithful
Alicia Luttrell

arr. Wolaver

♪❖DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

— *WE GO FORTH* —

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

♪❖HYMN OF INVITATION

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

UMH 218

❖BENEDICTION

❖POSTLUDE

Irby

Gauntlett

✠ FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving and celebration of their 34th wedding anniversary by Kurt and Judy Coggin.



UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

December 14, 2025

- 9:00am Ascension Modern Service (FH)
- 10:00am Sunday School
- 11:00am Traditional Sanctuary Service (S)
- 5:00pm Youth Progressive Christmas Party

- Monday** Men's Study Group, 7:00am (WP)
- Tuesday** Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10:00am (FP)
- Wednesday** The Joseph Project, 9:30am (DW)
Longest Night Service, 6:00pm (S)
- Thursday** Men's Bible Study, 7:00am (WP)
The Joseph Project, 9:30am (DW)
Trivia Night, 7:00pm (206 State St.)

Friday Office Closed

FP-Fellowship Parlor, S-Sanctuary, WP-Wisteria Parlor
B-Basement, DW-Dumas Wesley, 126 Mobile Street

HANGING OF THE GREENS

If you would like to contribute toward the special Christmas floral and greenery arrangements that will adorn the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall on Christmas Eve, please complete a form and turn it in to the office, or use the link in your newsletter to contribute online. The deadline is Thursday, December 18.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS DINNER

The youth will be having a progressive dinner tonight from 5-7pm. Please bring a \$20 Dirty Santa gift (no gift cards please).

THE LONGEST NIGHT service will be held Wednesday, December 17, at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary. This worship service provides a space for people to acknowledge grief during the holiday season while looking toward the hope of Christ.

CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

December 23 open until noon
December 24-26 closed
December 31-January 2 closed

CHRISTMAS WEEK SERVICES

| | | |
|-------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 12/24 | Ascension Service (FH) | 3:00pm and 5:30pm |
| 12/24 | Traditional Service (S) | 5:00pm and 7:00pm |
| 12/28 | One Service (S) | 10:00am |

CIRCLE OF CONCERN

Please hold these persons in your prayers: Fay Adams, John Allen, John and Angela Bell, Jean Brown & son James Williams, Victor Brown (Dee Dee Cook's brother), Bob Cook, Braxton & Linda Lee Counts, Judie Crowther, Julie & Steve Dugan, Jake Elder, Mihyon Ellis, Phillip Fields, Bruce Finley, Missy Foose, *Russell Fountain, Marcia Golson, Curt Graf (Curtis Graf's father), Diane Holub (Angela Prine's mother), Barbara Hunt, Andrew Irby, Tyler Mazey, David Richards, Sara Robinson, Tom Root, Mary Davis Rutledge, Nancy Scott, Lonn Spencer, Jody Thompson (Pam Bostick's brother-in-law), Louise Thomson, Sherry Thomson, Suzannah Weeks, Robert Wheeler (Emily McGough's brother), Merrill Whitener, Kathryn Willingham, and all caregivers (**new concern this week*)

WELCOME

We want to thank you for choosing to worship with us at Ashland Place United Methodist Church. If you have questions about church activities, church membership, or the Christian faith, we would love to speak with you.



Are you visiting today? If so, please scan this QR code to complete a CONNECT card, or contact a staff member to assist you.

CONNECT

OUR CHURCH STAFF

- Senior Pastor** Dr. Darren McClellan
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FINANCIAL UPDATE

Offering Received 12/7/25 \$35,255



To support the many ministries of APUMC, please scan this QR code and donate online.

ONLINE GIVING

Hymns and Responses for December 14, 2025

Once in Royal David's City

UMH 250

1. Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed;
Mary, loving mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.
2. He came down to earth from heaven who is God and
Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle
was a stall. With the poor, the scorned, the lowly lived
on earth our Savior holy.
3. Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day, like us he
grew; he was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles
like us he knew; and he feeleth for our sadness, and he
shareth in our gladness.
4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own
redeeming love; for that child so dear and gentle is our
Lord in heaven above; and he leads his children on to
the place where he is gone.

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

UMH 218

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of
old, from angels bending near the earth, to touch their
harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to men [all],
from heaven's all-gracious King." The world in solemn
stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful
wings unfurled, and still their heavenly music floats o'er
all the weary world; above its sad and lowly plains, they
bend on hovering wing, and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.
3. And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are
bending low, who toil along the climbing way with pain-
ful steps and slow, look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing. O rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing!
4. For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of
old, when with the ever-circling years shall come the
time foretold when peace shall over all the earth its an-
cient splendors fling, and the whole world send back the
song which now the angels sing.

Canticle of Mary (Magnificat)

RESPONSE (*Advent & General*)

The glo - ry of the Lord shall
be re-vealed; all flesh shall see it to - geth - er.

R My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
 my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
 who has looked with favor on me, a lowly servant.
 From this day all generations shall call me blessed:
 the Almighty has done great things for me
 and holy is the name of the Lord,
 whose mercy is on those who fear God
 from generation to generation.
 The arm of the Lord is strong,
 and has scattered the proud in their conceit.
 God has cast down the mighty from their thrones
 and lifted up the lowly.
 God has filled the hungry with good things
 and sent the rich empty away.
 God has come to the aid of Israel, the chosen servant,
 remembering the promise of mercy,
 the promise made to our forebears,
 to Abraham and his children for ever. **R**

See Nos. 198 and 200 for metrical versions of this biblical text.

WORDS: Luke 1:46b-55, ICET, rev. ELLC; Response, Isaiah 40:5, adapt.

MUSIC: Richard Proulx

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