

December 7, 2025

Reflecting the Sacred

"Sacred People"



WELCOME

PASSING OF THE FRIENDSHIP FOLDERS

PRELUDE Noel Suisse Daquin

MOMENT OF CENTERING

INTROIT *Upon this Moment* Chuck Bell

CALL TO WORSHIP

Loving God, Christ our Light, Spirit of Love—we
gather, grateful to be called your people.

**You fill us with your love and remind us that we
belong to one another.**

As we open our hearts to you this morning,
shine your presence into every corner of our lives.

**Help us to reflect your light in the ways we speak,
the ways we care, and the ways we serve.**

Let your sacred presence shine through us in this
time of worship and beyond,

that all may feel your love made real. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 202 *People Look East*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Today we light the second candle—the candle
of **Love**. Love is how God's light takes shape in us.
When we love one another, we reflect the heart
of Christ.

(The first and second candles are lit.)

Prayer:

**God of Love, you are sacred presence among
us. Teach us to see you in every person and to
reflect your love in all we do. Amen.**

SIGNS OF PEACE AND UNITY IN CHRIST

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

SUNG RESPONSE No. 191, vs. 1 *Jesus Loves Me*

**Jesus loves me! This I know,
for the Bible tells me so.**

**Little ones to him belong;
they are weak, but he is strong.**

**Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 3:1-12

ANTHEM

Of the Father's Love Begotten
arr. John Rodgers

Chancel Choir

MESSAGE

Sacred People

OFFERING

You may give your offering by text— UMCWC
\$50 to 73256, by using the QR code on your
screen, at umcwc.org, through the mail,
by automated giving through Realm, or by
dropping it off at our office. Thank you for your
generosity.

OFFERTORY

Sing We Now of Christmas
arr. Mark Hayes
Men's Ensemble

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always
and everywhere to give thanks to you, Word of
God, Logos from the beginning. You made us
reflective of your image and set us ablaze with
the breath of life. When we turned away,
and our love dulled, your love remained as light
for our lives. You delivered us from captivity,
made covenant to be our sovereign God, and
spoke to us through your prophets.

And so, with your people on earth and all the
company of heaven, we praise your name and
join their unending hymn:

[Tune: "What Child is This no. 219]

**Praise God, Praise God of pow'r and might,
Praise God whose presence shines through our night.
Praise God of glory, hosannas sing,
reflecting the sacred story.
This, this is Christ the One z
who mirrors love for all of us.
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
the Word of time eternal.**

Holy are you and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. A reflection of this purpose, and anointed as his disciples, Christ's birth is our awakening, Christ's suffering is all suffering, Christ's death and resurrection is the pattern of all things. We are his Body in the world— the Body of Christ— renewed by water and the spirit. He has been, is, and always will be with us, One in Three, Three in One, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit. On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took 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, 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 and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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

Christ has died; Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

Anoint this community with your Holy Spirit, and pour out your Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them a reflection of your life and love for the world, so that we may be for the world a Christ Mirror, radiating and multiplying this love in the world. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sung Response:

This, this is Christ the One

who mirrors love for all of us.

**Haste, haste to bring him laud,
the Word of time eternal.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION HYMNS NOS. 206, 204

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

CLOSING HYMN TFWS NO. 2095

Star-Chil

BENEDICTION

When you see lights twinkle, when you catch a reflection in a mirror, when sunlight dances across a surface or a nightlight glows in the darkness— let these be signs that the Christ Light is revealed again and again in and through this world.

Go now, knowing that your brilliant presence is pouring more love into a weary world. God loved us by becoming us— and this means you are already reflecting the sacred. Go in peace, and let the light of Christ shine through you. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*

arr. Zachau

Bold text indicates congregational response.

The roses on the Lord's table are in celebration of the birth of twins, Dylan Craft Murray and Claire Constance Murray, children of Tommy Murray and Janelle Heinig, and grandchildren of Deb and Tom Murray.

Worship Participants

Message: Rev. Cyndi Stouffer

Liturgist: Rev. Allen Keller

Reader: Marilyn Light

Message for Growing Christians: Kristi Largoza

Lighting the Advent Candle: Tom and Sue Haugh

Chancel Choir Director: Jeannie Nelson

Men's Ensemble Director: Mike Muzzo

Organist: Steve Campitelli

Live Stream Team: Tim Case, CC Clark,

Brad Rush, Jacqueline Rush, Cory Smith

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Today, December 7

8:45 AM - Worship (Sanctuary)

10:00 AM - Sunday School

11:00 AM - Worship Café (Fiesta Center)

6:00 PM - Web Dance (Youth Room)

Monday, December 8

10:00 AM - Coffee with the Pastor at Gramm's Diner

7:00 PM - Digital Disciple I (via Zoom)

7:00 PM - Narcotics Anonymous (Fiesta Center)

7:00 PM - Boy Scouts (Rm 4)

Tuesday, December 9

1:00 PM - Sunshine Memory Café (Fiesta Center)

6:00 PM - El Buen Charge Conference (Rm. 10)

Wednesday, December 10

7:30 AM - Men's Bible Study (Chapel)

9:30 AM - Women's Bible Study (Chapel)

5:45 PM - Wednesday Night Out Dinner

6:30 PM - Digital Disciple III (Chapel)

6:30 PM - Children's Choir (Rm 10)

7:30 PM - Carillon Choir (Rm 12)

Thursday, December 11

6:30 PM Chancel Choir (Rm 10)

Education and Growth Opportunities

Sunday School for all ages is at 10:00 AM

Children's Sunday School (Rm 4-5)

Youth Sunday School (Youth Rm)

Adult Sunday School

Mustard Seed (Rm 12)

Seekers (Rm 7)

Upper Room (Chapel)

Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 9:30 AM

Men's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 7:30 AM

Youth Group

Sundays at 6:00 PM

PM

Pastor Jo Higgins Children's Library - Books for 1 year olds through teenagers. Located on the lower level.

Connection and Sharing Opportunities

Chancel Choir (Adults)

Thursdays at 6:30 PM

Children's Choir

Wednesdays at 6:30 PM

Praise Team

Wednesdays at 7:15 PM

Carillon Choir

Wednesdays at 7:30 PM

Sunshine Memory Café

Tuesdays at 1:00 PM

A welcoming place for persons with memory loss and their care partner.

Coffee With the Pastor

2nd Monday, 10 AM, at

Gramm's Diner Wednesday Night Out Dinner

Wednesdays at 5:45 PM

Retired Men's Lunch Group

2nd Wednesday at 11:30 AM

United Women in Faith

1st Tuesday at 6:30 PM,

Sept-May

Circles meet at various times throughout the month.

Web Dance

1st Sunday of each month, 6:00 pm,

Sept-May

High school hosted themed dance party for adults with intellectual disabilities

Opportunities for Growth, Fellowship, and Service

ACT Now (formerly Act In Faith) - Items for their Community Cupboard can be dropped off at the table in the Gathering Area. Donations of paper towels, toilet paper, dish soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, shampoo, all purpose cleaner, and laundry detergent are needed, as these items are not available at other cupboards.

Unused hotel toiletries needed - Items go to Ronald McDonald House, Safe Harbor, and Salvation Army. Place items in the basket by the elevator in the Gathering Area.

Stephen Ministry - Stephen Ministry is a one-to-one confidential lay caring ministry for people who are going through a tough time. If you would like more information about how one of our trained Stephen Ministers can walk with you during this time, contact Kelly Lynn (Kelly@umcwc.org).

PRAYER NEEDS - The full list of prayer concerns can be found on the round table in the Gathering Area. Requests are also sent through our "Prayer Link". To receive the prayer link contact Luanne Sims (lsimsumcwc@gmail.com). To submit a prayer request, please sign the form in the friendship folder or contact Pastor Cyndi (pastorcyndi@umcwc.org).

UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEWS

Poinsettia orders - Decorate the church this Christmas with a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one. Cost of a plant is \$15. You can also give a mission donation. This year the gift to mission will go to our Rise Against Hunger meal packaging event. Orders must be placed by Dec 14. Order cards are in the Gathering Area. For questions call the church office.

Coffee with the Pastor - Join Pastor Cyndi on Monday, Dec. 8, at 10 am at Gramm's Diner for coffee and conversation.

Family Advent Event - "Waiting for Jesus", Sunday, December 14 from 1 -3 pm in the Fiesta Center. Join us for this fun interactive event and experience the wonder of Advent season. Sign up at UMCWC.org. Contact Kelly Lynn at Kelly@umcwc.org for more information.

West Chester Band Christmas Concert—Tuesday, December 16th, at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary. Tickets will be available at the door.

Wednesday Night Out - Give yourself a break from cooking during this busy time and enjoy a delicious meal each Wednesday in the Fiesta Center. Dinner begins at 5:45 pm. Cost: \$10/adults and \$5/children. No reservations necessary.

The Pastor Jo Higgins Children's Library has received many new books from our Amazon Christmas Wish List. THANK YOU for all the generous gifts to the Library. Today, there will be a table up again in the Gathering Area showcasing all the beautiful new books. God has given us a wealth of riches. Thanks to all of you, Sally Bopp.

Rise Against Hunger Update - At this point we have raised \$6,509 toward our goal of \$14,000. Thank you for your support.

