

December 21, 2025

Reflecting the Sacred

"Sacred Knowing"



WELCOME

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

PASSING OF THE FRIENDSHIP FOLDERS

SUNG RESPONSE No. 191, vs. 1

PRELUDE *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*
Mendelssohn/Gehrke

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.**

MOMENT OF CENTERING

INTROIT *Upon this Moment* Chuck Bell

CALL TO WORSHIP

Loving God, Christ our Mystery, Spirit of
Peace, we give you thanks for this time and
space to gather—

We come together with grateful hearts.

As we take in the peace you offer,

**Help us reflect your light in our lives and in
our world.**

May the sacred we find right here

**Reach out and become the sacred we
share everywhere. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying,
"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be
deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz
said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the
LORD to the test." Then Isaiah said, "Hear
then, O house of David! Is it too little for you
to weary mortals that you weary my God
also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you
a sign. Look, the young woman is with child
and shall bear a son and shall name him
Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by
the time he knows how to refuse the evil and
choose the good. For before the child knows
how to refuse the evil and choose the good,
the land before whose two kings you are in
dread will be deserted.

OPENING HYMN THWS NO. 2171

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Today we light the fourth candle—the candle
of **Peace**.

When Christ's light lives in us, we become re-
flections of peace. God's sacred light calls us
to heal, to listen, and to love.

(Four candles are lit)

Prayer:

**God of Peace, calm our hearts and still our
minds. Let your sacred light shine through
us, bringing peace to our world. Amen.**

ANTHEM *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*

J.S. Bach

Chancel Choir
Emily Garbenis, flute

SCRIPTURE Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took
place in this way. When his mother Mary had
been engaged to Joseph, but before they
lived together, she was found to be
pregnant from the Holy Spirit.

SIGNS OF PEACE AND UNITY IN CHRIST

Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

MESSAGE *Sacred Knowing*

PRAYER HYMN NO. 204 *Emmanuel*

TIME OF PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 *O Come, Little Children*
arr. Susan Geschke
Carillon Choir

OFFERING RESPONSE

(sung to No. 219 "What Child Is This?")
Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God all heavens and the earth
reflecting the sacred story.

This, this is Christ the One
who mirrors peace for all of us.
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
the Word of time eternal.

OFFERING PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN NO. 431

Let There Be Peace on Earth

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 peace 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 *Angels We Have Heard on High*
arr. Held

Bold text indicates congregational response.

The rose on the Lord's Table is in celebration of the birth of Paxton Thorne Czajkowski, son of Morgan Gilligan and Justin Cajkowski, brother of Colton, grandson of Tammi and Ben Carter, and great grandson of Carolyn LeFevre, born December 17, 2025.

Worship Participants

Message: Rev. Cyndi Stouffer
Liturgist: Rev. Allen Keller
Reader: Curtis Gainer
Message for Growing Christians: Jacqui Rothera
Lighting the Advent Candle: The Mancini and
Mentzer Family
Chancel Choir and Praise Team Director:
Jeannie Nelson
Organist: Steve Campitelli
Live Stream Team: Tim Case, CC Clark,
Brad Rush, Jacqueline Rush, Cory Smith

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).

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

1:00 PM - Worship with Holy Communion

4:00 PM - Family Candlelight Service

7:00 PM - Service of Lessons and Carols

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Today, December 21

8:45 AM - Worship (Sanctuary)

10:00 AM - Sunday School

11:00 AM - Worship Café (Fiesta Center)

5:30 PM - Youth Group (Youth Room)

6:00 PM - Sprouts (Rm 4)

Monday, December 22

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

7:00 PM - Narcotics Anonymous (Fiesta Center)

7:00 PM - Boy Scouts (Rm 4)

Tuesday, December 23

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

Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve

1:00 PM - Worship and Communion (Sanctuary)

4:00 PM - Candlelight Family Service (Sanctuary)

7:00 PM - Service of Lessons and Carols (Sanctuary)

Thursday, December 25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS

Next Sunday, December 28th, we will only be having one worship service at 10 am in the Fiesta Center. It will be preceded by a continental breakfast at 9:15 am. Please join us.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEWS

Give a gift of Christmas to someone working. Pick up a packet of cookies in the Gathering Area or the narthex. Stop somewhere in your travels this week and give it to someone who is working. Thank them for their service during the Christmas Season. (Take more than one packet if you can give to multiple people.)

Rise Against Hunger - Registration is now open for our Rise Against Hunger Event on January 19, 2026. Sign up on the church website. We're getting closer to our goal of \$14,000 to pack 35,000 meals. Right now we have raised a little over \$11,000. Thank you for your support. With your help we will reach our goal.

The church office will be closed from December 24 until January 5,

Please continue to bring in the following items for

Actnow: shampoo, conditioner, bar soap, deodorant, dish soap, toothpaste, mouthwash, baby lotion/wash, all purpose cleaner, laundry pods, toilet paper, and paper towels. Items can be placed at the table in the lounge area.

Year End Giving - All tithes and offering need to be in the office by Dec. 31 to be counted towards your 2025 taxes.

Don't forget to return your 2026 Commitment Card to the church office or fill it out online at UMCWC.org.