

December 14, 2025

# Reflecting the Sacred

"Sacred Space"



WELCOME

PASSING OF THE FRIENDSHIP FOLDERS

PRELUDE *All Glory Be to God on High*  
arr. Zachau

MOMENT OF CENTERING

INTROIT *Upon this Moment* Chuck Bell

CALL TO WORSHIP

Loving God, Christ our Mystery, Spirit of Joy,  
we give you thanks for this time and space to  
gather—both here in person and online.

**We come with grateful hearts, ready to  
receive your joy.**

As we take in the joy you offer, help us to  
reflect your light in our lives and in our world.

**Let your light shine through us, in all we say  
and do.**

May the sacred we find right here reach  
out and become the sacred we share  
everywhere.

**May our worship shape us into bearers of  
your joy. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN NO. 147

*All Things Bright and Beautiful*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Today we light the candle of Joy. Joy is the  
song of the soul that knows God is near.  
When we see the beauty around us, we are  
reflecting the sacred joy of creation.

*(The first, second, and third candles are lit.)*

Prayer:

**God of Joy, fill us with wonder and delight.  
Help us notice the sacred moments that  
make our hearts sing. 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 Isaiah 35:1-10

ANTHEM *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*  
J.S. Bach

Chancel Choir  
Emily Garbenis, flute

SCRIPTURE Luke 1:46-55

MESSAGE *Sacred Space*

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](http://umcwc.org), through the  
mail, by automated giving through Realm,  
or by dropping it off at our office. Thank you for your  
generosity.*

OFFERTORY *Loving Mother* Arlen Clarke  
Small Ensemble

## 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 hope for all of us.  
Haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the Word of time eternal.**

CLOSING HYMN Worship and Song No. 3149,  
vs. 1,2,3,5

*A Place at the Table*

**For everyone born, a place at the table,  
for everyone born, clean water and bread,  
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,  
for everyone born, a star overhead.**

Refrain

**And God will delight  
when we are creators of justice and joy,  
yes, God will delight  
when we are creators of justice,  
justice and joy!**

**For woman and man, a place at the table,  
revising the roles, deciding the share,  
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,  
for woman and man, a system that's fair.**

Refrain

**For young and for old, a place at the table,  
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
the hands of a child  
in hands that are wrinkled,  
for young and for old, the right to belong.**

Refrain

**For everyone born, a place at the table,  
to live without fear, and simply to be,  
to work, to speak out,  
to witness and worship,  
for everyone born, the right to be free.**

Refrain

## 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 joy 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

*Behold, the Morning Star*

Ellacombe/Ellson

***Bold text indicates congregational response.***

### **Worship Participants**

Message: Rev. Cyndi Stouffer  
Liturgist: Rev. Allen Keller  
Reader: Pete Rozea  
Message for Growing Christians: Kelly Lynn  
Lighting the Advent Candle: Mike and  
Grace Muzzo  
Chancel Choir Director: Jeannie Nelson  
Organist: Steve Campitelli  
Live Stream Team: Tim Case, CC Clark,  
Brad Rush, Jacqueline Rush, Cory Smith

### **HAPPENING THIS WEEK**

#### **Today, December 14**

8:45 AM - Worship (Sanctuary)  
10:00 AM - Sunday School  
11:00 AM - Worship Café (Fiesta Center)  
1:00 PM - Family Advent Celebration (Fiesta Center)  
5:30 PM - Youth Group (Youth Room)

#### **Monday, December 15**

6:30 PM - Lillian Circle (Chapel)  
7:00 PM - Digital Disciple I (via Zoom)  
7:00 PM - Narcotics Anonymous (Fiesta Center)  
7:00 PM - Boy Scouts (Rm 4)

#### **Tuesday, December 16**

9:00 AM - Children's Center Practice (Sanctuary)  
10:00 AM - Mary Jane Circle (Chapel)  
1:00 PM - Sunshine Memory Café (Fiesta Center)  
7:30 PM - West Chester Band Concert (Sanctuary)

#### **Wednesday, December 17**

7:30 AM - Men'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 18**

9:00 AM - Stephen Ministry Supervision (Chapel)  
4:00 PM - Children's Center Christmas Program (Sanctuary)  
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

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** - Today is the last day to order 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. Order cards are in the Gathering Area. For questions call the church office. The poinsettias will be in the sanctuary on Sunday, Dec. 21 and on Christmas Eve.

**Family Advent Event** - "Waiting for Jesus", Today 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.

**Planning Ahead** - On Sunday, Dec. 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.

