

Worship Director: Susan Thompson

Organist: Virginia Paul

Soloist: Douglas Maze

Advent Reading: Terry, Janelle and Sailor Welch

Scripture Reader: Doug Shoemaker

For Unto Us a Child Is Born" - Handel 1999 Lorenz Publishing Co.

"How Many Kings" Arr. Dave Williamson ©2006 Centricity Music Publishing/Germain and Martel Publishing.

Advent Wreath Reading: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/an-advent-song-of-ascents/third-sunday-of-advent-year-a-lectionary-planning-notes/third-sunday-of-advent-year-a-candle-lighting-liturg>

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Prepare for the fourth Sunday in Advent, reading Matthew 1:18-25 and Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19. This week we have arrived in the familiar Christmas story...after a fashion. The first 17 verses of Matthew's account of Jesus' life recount Jesus' genealogy. If you want the full experience of anticipating the arrival of Jesus, please take the time to read those names out loud—thinking about how many people and years passed as God's people waited. With this auspicious set up (Abraham to David, David to exile, exile to Jesus) we might expect a different opening to the action than what we encounter. An unplanned pregnancy, a surely disappointed Joseph, and a shocking revelation from a messenger from God all leading to the most astounding news of all: "he will save his people from their sins." Just as Isaiah foretold it, here is God with us after all of that time. Thinking back on the ground we have covered on our way here, do you hear this familiar story any differently? How does this demonstrate God's work to restore his people?

Need someone to talk to? Contact Pastor Miriam. Central also offers **Stephen Ministers**—lay Christian friends trained to help through times of crisis. The pastor can get you in touch with one.



There will not be a **Lunch Bunch** on Wednesdays until after the new year. An announcement will be made when they are starting back up.

The **Children's Play**, Rooty's Christmas Wish, is on Sunday, **December 11**, at **6 pm** in the fellowship hall.

If you would like to donate to **honor a loved one** towards the purchase of poinsettias to decorate the fountain, please pick up a form at the church. The deadline is **Dec 16** and the names will be in the **Dec 23 bulletin**.

On December 21, there will be a **Longest Night Service** in the sanctuary at 6:30 pm.

Christmas Eve candlelight services will be at **5 pm** and at **11 pm** on Dec. 24.

December Financials

Needed Weekly	\$15,559
Received Dec 4	\$13,110
Needed for Dec	\$62,235
Received for Dec	\$13,110

Last Week's Attendance

In-person:	136
Online:	136



Calendar

Sunday, December 11

9:15 AM Crossroads (Rm 209)
9:30 AM Children, Youth 3rd Fl), Cornerstone (LFH), Agape (L), Lovett (Rm 208), Bates/Godwin (Rm 213), Young Adult (Rm 211)

10:30 AM Worship Service

6:00 PM Children's Christmas Play, *FH*

Tuesday, December 13

5:15 AM Exercise Class, *G*

8:00 AM Centering Prayer, *CH*

2:30 PM Prayer Team

Wednesday, December 14

5:15 AM Exercise Class, *G*

6:00-6:45 PM Chancel Choir

6:30 PM Charge Conference, *FH*

6:45-7:30 PM-Voices of Praise

Thursday, December 15

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study-JJ

Friday, December 16

5:15 AM Exercise Class, *G*

9:00 AM, Women's Java Jaay Bible

CH— Chapel, *FH*- Fellowship Hall

LFH- Lower Fellowship Hall

L - Library *S*- Sanctuary *G*- Gym

Check our website for up-to-date calendar.



SEE THE GLORY

ISAIAH 35:1-10: PSALM 146:5-10

Central's mission:

Love God, love others, and serve the world

December 11, 2022

3rd Sunday of Advent

10:30 AM

Please silence electronic devices.

**Stand at these points, as you're comfortable.*

Musical Gift "For Unto Us a Child Is Born"

Handel

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

This is the season of holy waiting;

We wait for the time when the desert will bloom abundantly.

We watch for the day when all God's people will come together with singing.

We wait while the dawning light appears on the horizon.

Come let us walk in the light of God!

*Opening Hymns #213 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here!

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come, with us abide; our hearts to thee we open wide;
Let us thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in us reveal.

Thy Holy Spirit lead us on until our glorious goal is won;
Eternal praise, eternal fame be offered, Savior to thy name.

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<https://CentralUnitedMethodist.com>

Sunday School – 9:30 AM

Worship – 10:30 AM

*Affirmation of Faith

The Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
The third day he rose from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic* church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**universal*

*Greeting

Hymn #224 “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: News, news! Jesus Christ is born today!
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today, Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: News news! Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and ye are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: News, news! Jesus Christ was born to
save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!

Prayers of the People

**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 for ever. Amen.**

Children's Message

Alicia Mullican

Special Music “How Many Kings”

Dave Williamson

Follow the star to a place unexpected.
Would you believe, after all we've projected,
A child in a manger;
Lowly and small, the weakest of all,
Unlikeliest hero wrapped in his mother's shawl, just a child;
Is this who we've waited for?

‘Cause how many kings stepped down from their thrones?
How many lords have abandoned their homes?
How many greats have become the least for me?
And how many gods have poured out their hearts to romance a world
that is torn all apart?
How many fathers gave up their sons for me?

Bringing out gifts for the newborn Savior;
all that we have, whether costly or meek,
because we believe.
Gold for His honor and frankincense for His pleasure
And myrrh for the cross He'll suffer;
Do you believe, this is Who we've waited for?

‘Cause how many kings stepped down from their thrones?
How many lords have abandoned their homes?
How many greats have become the least for me?
And how many gods have poured out their hearts to romance a world
that is torn all apart?
How many fathers gave up their sons for me?

Only One did that for me.
All for me. All for you.

Bible Reading — Isaiah 35:1-10

**Lord, open our hearts and minds
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed,
we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

The desert and the dry land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom
like the crocus. They will burst into bloom, and rejoice with joy and singing. They will
receive the glory of Lebanon, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon. They will see the
Lord's glory, the splendor of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and support the unsteady knees.

Say to those who are panicking: “Be strong! Don't fear!

Here's your God, coming with vengeance; with divine retribution
God will come to save you.”

Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be cleared.
Then the lame will leap like the deer, and the tongue of the speechless will sing. Wa-
ters will spring up in the desert, and streams in the wilderness.

The burning sand will become a pool, and the thirsty ground, fountains of water. The
jackals' habitat, a pasture; grass will become reeds and rushes.

A highway will be there.

It will be called The Holy Way. The unclean won't travel on it, but it will be for those
walking on that way. Even fools won't get lost on it; no lion will be there, and no predator
will go up on it. None of these will be there; only the redeemed will walk on it.

The Lord's ransomed ones will return and enter Zion with singing, with everlasting joy
upon their heads. Happiness and joy will overwhelm them; grief and groaning will flee
away.

—
The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Message — See the Glory

Rev. Miriam Smith

*Closing Hymn #218 “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

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, from heaven's all gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

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.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way with painful 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!

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 ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

*Sending Forth

Musical Gift “Hail to the Lord's Anointed”

Balcombe