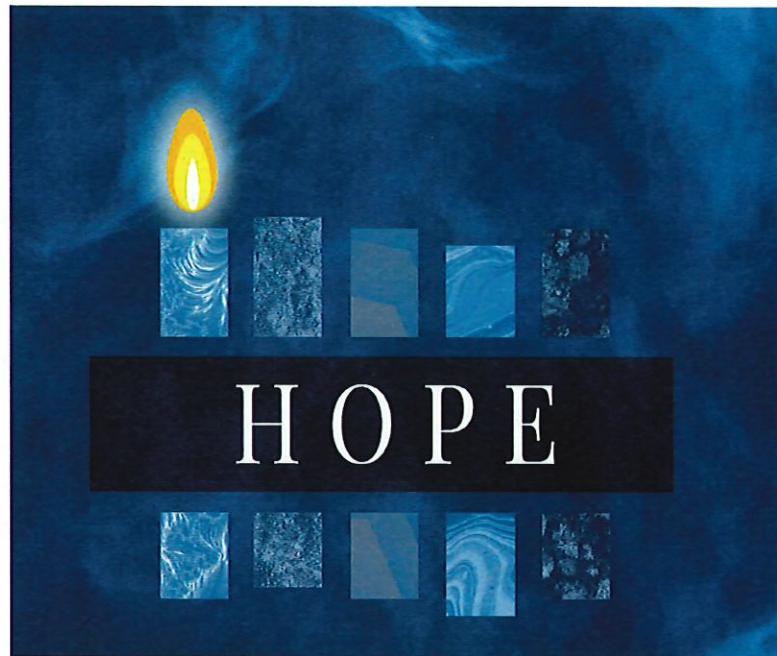


# Central United Methodist Church



**First Sunday in Advent**

**December 1, 2024**

**10:45 a.m.**

*Our Vision:*

***Making Christ known by extending hospitality,  
serving the community, pursuing justice and embracing all.***

**201 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Knoxville TN 37917**

**[www.knoxcentralumc.org](http://www.knoxcentralumc.org)**

# ***We Gather to Praise God***

**Prelude**

*Fantasy on Ode to Joy*

arr. Danny Calhoun

**Welcome**

**The Peace of Christ be with you! And also with you!**

Rev. Jimmy Sherrod

**Opening Prayer**

Rev. Diana Brown Taylor

## **† Call to Worship**

In God's house, we can be joyful.

**We can be grateful. We can be hopeful.**

In God's house, we can be weary.

**We can be anxious. We can be grieving.**

In God's house, we can be honest—

**inspired or tired, delighted or doubtful, connected or curious, and everything in between.**

This is God's house. You are welcome exactly as you are.

**Let us worship our loving God.**

## **† Opening Hymn**

*Watchman, Tell Us of the Night (tune to Hark! The Herald Angels Sing)*

Watchman, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are.  
Traveler o'er yon mountain's height see that glory beaming star!  
Watchman, does its beauteous ray any joy or hope foretell?  
Traveler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel. [repeat]

Watchman, tell us of the night, higher yet that star ascends.  
Traveler, blessedness and light, peace and truth, its course portends.  
Watchman, will its beams alone gild the spot that gave them birth?  
Traveler, ages are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth! [repeat]

Watchman, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn.  
Traveler, darkness takes its flight; doubt and terror are withdrawn.  
Watchman, let your wandering cease; hasten to your quiet home!  
Traveler, lo, the Prince of Peace, lo, the Son of God is come! [repeat]

## **Lighting the Candle of Hope**

Tiffany Mynatt

The Gospel of John speaks of Christ as the true light coming into the world. In commemoration of that coming, we light candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas and reflect on the coming of Christ. It is significant that the church has always used that language--the coming of Christ--because it speaks to a deep truth. Christ IS coming. Christ IS ALWAYS coming, always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart. And so we light the first candle, the candle of HOPE, and dare to express our longing for peace, for healing and the well-being of all creation.

**Loving God, as we enter this Advent season we open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing light of Christ. Show us the power of HOPE. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. O Come, O Come Emmanuel.**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

### ***We Listen to Hear God's Voice***

† Scripture

Philippians 4:4-7

*This is the Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God!*

A Time for Young Christians

Emalie Dockery

*Sunday school for nursery through 5th grade is offered every week following children's time except on  
Sundays when we celebrate Holy Communion (typically the first Sunday of each month).*

Anthem

*Advent Cry*

Joseph Martin

Sermon

Rejoice in the Lord...Always?

Rev. Sherrod

### ***We Respond to God's Great Love***

Hymn

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear (v. 3)

UMH 218

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!

Announcements

Offering our Gifts

Offertory

*Do You Hear What I Hear*

arr. Harry Simeone

† Dedication of Gifts

(Veni-Emmanuel - tune of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Celebration of Holy Communion

As we come to this table, we are reminded that this is the table of Jesus Christ,  
a banquet prepared for everyone. All who seek to be nourished and sustained  
in the journey of faith, all who seek wholeness and compassionate paths to peace and justice,  
are welcome here.

## Prayer of Confession

Because it is so hard to wait, it is not easy to live through Advent's days.  
But watch what God does during this time.  
God waits for us to turn from our old ways to find the right paths;  
God waits for us to admit what we have done, and failed to do,  
so we might be forgiven and graced with new life.  
Let us approach the One who waits - for us!

## Unison Prayer of Confession

It is never easy for us to confess our sins, Waiting God.  
There are the hurts we have caused to our families and friends,  
which we would like to forget.  
There are those we believe are impossible to love,  
and so we don't try.  
There are people who live on the edge of our society,  
and we ignore their cries for help.

Forgive us, God who comes near to us.  
When we have lost our way, show us yours.  
Lead us in humility down the streets of your kingdom.  
Teach us your truth,  
so we might be able to keep your Word,  
revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

## Assurance of Pardon

God does not remember our sins,  
but does remember the promises which have been made to us.  
God does not shame us, but lifts us to new life.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are, indeed, forgiven. **Thanks be to God. Amen!**

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, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.  
You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.  
When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.  
You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,  
and spoke to us through your prophets,  
who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they  
learn war anymore.

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

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

*On the night in which he gave himself up for us....  
When the supper was over...*

And so in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving 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.**

*Pour out your Holy Spirit ...*

The 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.**

## ***We Are Scattered to Serve God in Our World***

† Closing Hymn

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

UMH 196

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

† Benediction

Postlude

*Carol Medley*

arr. Mark Hayes

All music licensed for performance and streaming via: ONELicense: Limited Podcast/Streaming License, Category C. M401423

† Please stand in body or spirit

## Looking Ahead ~ Our Calendar

### Weekly:

Builder's Class Bible Study via Zoom, Tuesday at 6:30 pm  
Bible Study, Tuesday, 6:30-8:00 pm, Room 209  
Bible Study, Wednesday, 10:00-11:30am, Room 209  
Handbell Rehearsals, Wednesday at 5:30-6:15 pm  
Choir, Wednesday at 6:15 – 7:45 pm  
Worship, Sunday at 10:45 am

### Monthly:

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday – Prayer Group, 10am, Room 213  
Caswell Manor Lunch Prep  
1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday – Serve Caswell Manor Lunch  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday – VMC Lunch Prep  
3<sup>rd</sup> Friday – Serve VMC Lunch  
4<sup>th</sup> Thursday – Help at Minvilla Manor  
Second Harvest Food Pantry

December 6	Sunshine Christmas Party
December 8	Christmas at Central, 5pm
December 15	Christmas Concert, 3pm, Sanctuary
December 16	4 <sup>th</sup> and Gill Neighborhood Meeting, 6:30 pm, Room 210
December 17	Beta Christmas Party, 6pm, Fellowship Hall
December 20	Centro Christmas Party, Fellowship Hall
December 22	Blue Christmas service, 6pm, Sanctuary
December 24	Christmas Eve Services, 5pm and 10:45pm

**We are excited to celebrate Christmas at the Beta Party on Tuesday, December 17th from 6-8pm!** We need food, drinks, money for pizza, gifts, and volunteers! Please sign up on the bulletin boards for donations, and take one or more gift items to wrap for our friends. Thank you! Any questions contact Jeanette at 865-228-2699.

**WOW brown bag meal and deep cleaning** – Monday, December 9. Check the board for a Sign Up sheet!

**Christmas at Central, our annual Christmas event,** will be Sunday, December 8, starting at 5:00. We will enjoy a soup supper together followed by Christmas games, crafts, and coloring sheets for kids of all ages! We will round out the evening outside in our Pray and Play area roasting marshmallows and s'mores. This is a special event that has been enjoyed by young and old alike...all are invited. There is a sign up sheet across from church office for soup and/or bread.

**Prayer List**  
**Sunday, December 1, 2024**

**Linda Stalsworth Honea** (friend of Susie Knable and former member) is recovering from hip replacement surgery.

The **family of Tim Sellers** (friend and co-worker of Tim Sellers) who died November 19 of liver failure.

**Nic** (friend of In Mendenhall) has been moved out of the ICU, but he is finding being confined to bed, while his broken pelvis heals, very difficult. Cards can be sent c/o Tim Mendenhall (865 Barksdale Dr, 37918).

Tiffany Mynatt asks prayer for a family she is working with whose son is going through a rough time emotionally.

Please continue to remember **Pat Cowart** (Melanie Gangaware's mother), **Emalie and Haley Dockery** (5215 E Sunset Rd, 37914), **Lena Frye** (friend of Lauren Gangaware), **Brenda Bacon Goble** (friend of Susie Knable), **David Helms** (801 E Inskip Dr, 37912), **Karen Till Johnson** (friend of Susie Knable), **Larry Ketron** (Jodie Overton's father), **Peter Keyes** (2806 N Decatur Rd, Apt. 514, Decatur, GA 30033), **Diane Lowe** (7125 Meadowbrook Cir, 37918), **Joan Moon** (7655 Apple Cross, Corryton, 37721), **Nancy Morgan** (3105 Atoka, 37917), **Donna Shirley** (Larry Ward's sister, 4133 Stephanie, Jonesboro, AR 72405), **Mike O'Tool** (Ron O'Tool's grandson), **Charles Sartwell** (Ann Sartwell's father and former CUMC member, Ivy Park at Monterey, 1110 Cass St, Apt 101, Monterey, CA 93940), **Billy Varnell** (4121 Riverstone Ln, 37918), **Carroll and Lucy Varnell** (4408 High School Rd, 37912), **Kathy Whaley** (friend of Penney Helms, 200 Nodding Oak, Chapel Hill, NC, 27516), **Bill Winans** (1658 Wisteria View Way, 37914), and **Rev. Grady Winegar** (5503 Pinecrest Rd, 37912).

## Welcome Visitors!

If you are visiting with us today, we invite you to let us know you were here. In front of you, in the pews, you will find a visitor card. If you are willing, leave us your name and phone number, or e-mail address so that we can connect with you and find out more about you and share more about who we are as well.

## Care and Prayer

If you have a prayer request, let us know so we can be in prayer for you. Either use the visitor cards in front of you or e-mail Kathy Gant at [gants@att.net](mailto:gants@att.net)

## Sunday Morning Coffee

The coffee is on! Every Sunday morning at 9:30 am, you are invited to join us for coffee. Connect with Central folks for fellowship and conversation. Coffee is available from 9:30 until 10:45 am.

## The Central Hub

Keep up with what's going on each week by subscribing to our weekly e-newsletter. You can subscribe by going to [knoxcentralumc.org](http://knoxcentralumc.org) and fill out the form at the bottom of the page.

## Spiritual Discipline of Giving and Financial Update

Giving financially is a spiritual discipline and has the power to shape and transform us. When we give, it expresses priorities in our lives. All are encouraged to give out of the abundance that God has provided us. We aren't currently passing the offering plates, but we do ask you to consider giving to the ministries of Central Church in one of the following ways.

- Place your gift in the offering Plate on Sunday Morning. You'll find them as you exit the sanctuary.
- Mail a check to 201 Third Ave. or bring it by the office.
- Give online (text to give) and through the Vanco Mobile App.
- Set up an automatic withdrawal through your checking account. Please reach out to Laurie in the office to sign up.
- Scan the PayPal QR code to donate through PayPal.



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

Sign up for our weekly e-letter, The Central Hub, on our website,  
[www.knoxcentralumc.org](http://www.knoxcentralumc.org)



## Pastoral and Administrative Staff

Office: 865-524-1659

Rev. Diana Brown Taylor, Deacon in Residence	Rev. Jimmy Sherrod, Senior Pastor	865-805-5373	Jimmy@knoxcentralumc.org	Laurie@knoxcentralumc.org
Brandon Coffey, Music Director and Organist	<a href="mailto:brandon@knoxcentralumc.org">brandon@knoxcentralumc.org</a>		Laurie Speranza, Administrative Assistant	
Jeff Criswell, Custodian			Katie Chait, Preschool Supervisor	
Ron O'Tool, Building Coordinator			Doug Johnson, Facilities Manager	<a href="mailto:doug@knoxcentralumc.org">doug@knoxcentralumc.org</a>
			Madie Shehan, Director of Families with Children	<a href="mailto:madie@knoxcentralumc.org">madie@knoxcentralumc.org</a>

Facebook: Central United Methodist Church, Knoxville, TN