



November 30, 2025—8:30 and 9:45 am
Sanctuary

Today marks the first Sunday in Advent, a season of hope, where Christians await the coming of Christ. For thousands of years, the prophets foretold the birth of the Messiah, the Anointed One, who would redeem God's people from the darkness of their sins. No matter how great the darkness, we find our hope in the Word Made Flesh, who promises the Light of His presence.

Prelude *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* arr. Fernando Ortega/Sharon Gerber

*The prelude is a bridge from our busy lives into this hour of worship.
Feel free to greet one another during this time, or to quiet your heart in prayer and reflection.*

Community Life Update

LONGING FOR RESTORATION

Call to Worship

Psalm 130:5-8

I wait for the Lord,
my soul waits, and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord...
more than watchmen for the morning.
O Israel, hope in the Lord!
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is plentiful redemption.
And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Lighting the Advent Candle of Hope

*Hymn of Anticipation

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.

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Words: Latin antiphons (12th century), Latin hymn (1710); tr. John Mason Neale;
Music: Plainsong, 13th century, arr. 2008; © Lifeway Publishing

PRAISING THE CREATOR

*Prayer of Adoration

** Please stand if you are able.*

*Affirmation of Faith

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Hymn of Hope

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! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!
Let me thy inner presence feel; Thy grace and love in me reveal.

So come, my Sovereign, enter in! Let new and nobler life begin!
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" Words: George Weissel, Public Domain, 1642; Music: Psalmodia Evangelica, Public Domain, 1789

Advent Reading

Isaiah 40:1-5

Choral Offering

I Wonder As I Wander

I wonder as I wander out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior had come for to die;
For poor ordinary people like you and like I; I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

How I, a mere mortal, may look up in awe, as Bethlehem's star beckons me through the dawn;
It shines on the manger, the Prince of all peace and bids me to wonder, "Is this gift for me?"

Emmanuel!

The gift in the manger is given for all, the strong and heroic, the lost and the small.
Christ bids to our stone hearts, "Come soften and give," and offers his own heart so others may live.

I wonder as I wander out under the sky, how the light of the heavens is born in this Child.
The universe dances with glory and grace and I gaze in the manger, and see Love's face.

Emmanuel!

I wonder as I wander out under the sky...I wonder under the sky...

Based on an Appalachian carol; Words: V1—John Jacob Niles, V2-4—Kyle Pederson; Music: arr. Kyle Pederson; © 1934, G. Schirmer, Inc.

LAMENTING THE FALL

Confession of Sin

Book of Common Prayer

Leader: Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets
to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation,

**All: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins,
that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

Moment of Silent Confession

CHERISHING REDEMPTION

Words of Grace and Peace

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

*Hymn of Expectation

K4-K5 may leave for Kids Ministry.

8:30 am—One parent will need to escort the child to volunteers in the Commons Area for Kids Church.

9:45 am—One parent will need to escort the child downstairs to join Kids Sunday School.

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 ev'ry nation, Joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Dayspring from on high, appear;
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end;
By his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

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.

"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" Words: Charles Wesley, Public Domain, 1744 Music: Rowland Pritchard, Public Domain, 1855

Journey Through Scripture 2026

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:5-25; 57-80

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon

Men in the Story of Jesus - Zechariah: Doubtful Belief

Andy Lewis

*Hymn of Response

Come behold the wondrous mystery in the dawning of the King.
He, the theme of heaven's praises, robed in frail humanity.
In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has come.
Look to Christ, who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous mystery; He the perfect Son of Man.
In His living, in His suffering, never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam; come to save the hell-bound man.
Christ the great and sure fulfillment of the law; in Him we stand.

Come behold the wondrous mystery; Christ the Lord upon the tree.
In the stead of ruined sinners, hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption; see the Father's plan unfold.
Bringing many sons to glory, grace unmeasured, love untold.

Come behold the wondrous mystery; slain by death the God of life.
But no grave could e'er restrain Him, praise the Lord; He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliverance, how unwavering our hope.
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when he comes.

"Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery" Words and Music: Papa, Boswell, Blecker © 2012 Blecker Publishing, Song No. 7026028, CCLI No. 789870

*Benediction

*Postlude

The flowers this morning were given in loving memory of Jackie Wallace by her family.

Giving is an act of worship. As we give, we ascribe worth to our God (Ps. 96:8), and it puts money in its proper place in our hearts (Matthew 6:21). Your giving to MRPC supports Gospel ministry on this campus, in our community, and among our global partners. Give online, via our app, or in the giving boxes, "As you feel led, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor. 9:7)

Assisting in Worship Today

Preacher: Andy Lewis, Lead Teaching Pastor

Liturgist: Neel Skelton, Worship and Formation Pastor

Next Sunday—Carol Sing at 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Make room in your heart for the birth of our Savior as our entire church family gathers to sing beloved carols! Acoustic praise, casual ambience, and a guest appearance from our kids choirs help us draw nearer to Jesus, our Emmanuel. Register for childcare for this event (crib—K3) on our Church Center App!

Check out our full Advent Schedule at mitchellroad.org/advents or the QR code below!

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