

Cheltenham United Methodist Church

ADVENT

G R E A T E X P E C T A T I O N S



Visit us online at:
www.cheltenhamumc.com

LIGHTNING OF THE CANDLES

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reader: Today, we come face to face with the scandal of Advent: Mary, the unmarried mother; God Incarnate growing in Mary's womb as a vulnerable baby; Joseph contemplating leaving Mary because of her pregnancy; God's love at work in ways that society and propriety could not understand; God calling Mary and Joseph to faithfulness despite the fear of disgrace.

LIGHTNING OF THE CANDLES

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**All: With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch,
and listen for the way of Love instead of
responding in fear to the world's judgment.**

Second Reader: We light this candle of love
as a sign of our faithfulness
as we seek, find, and follow Emmanuel, God with us.

UPDATES

Monday, December 22, 2025

Monday Methodists 9am

Knitting Circle 10am

Monday, January 12, 2026

**Planning Meeting & Church Council
12noon**

Tuesday, December 23, 2025

Advent Bible Study 11am

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

Christmas Eve Service 7 pm

M A R K Y O U R C A L E N D A R

GREETING

We gather today, seeking signs of God's presence among us.

**Love is the sign
—revealed in the One whom God is sending.**

We long to be assured that all things rest in God's care.

So we lift our voices in need and hope.

God hears us and responds with steadfast love.

Come, let our hearts be open and expectant
before the Holy One!

**Let us prepare to receive the gift of the Savior,
born in love and full of grace. Amen.**

PRAYER

**Loving and gracious Creator of all life and every season,
open our hearts
to receive your message of love and promise.
Like Joseph, may we place our trust
in your steadfast and abiding love,
knowing that your power brings hope
even in uncertainty.
Prepare us to welcome your wondrous gift
of love, grace, and peace. Amen.**

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

UMH 204

Words: Bob McGee, 1976 (Mt. 1:23)

Music: Bob McGee, 1976

Tune: McGee

© 1976 C. A. Music (div. of Christian Artist Corp.)

CCLI License Account #3551380



Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us,
his name is called Emmanuel.
(2x)



“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”



+PASSING OF THE PEACE

SPECIAL MUSIC

The background of the image is a dark, deep blue night sky filled with numerous small, white stars. Below the sky, there is a landscape of rolling sand dunes. The dunes are rendered in shades of dark blue and black, with some areas highlighted by a soft, ethereal blue light that creates a sense of depth and texture. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying.
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

*Writer: Ken Medema (1973)
© 1973, Hope Publishing Company
CCLI License Account #3551380*



“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”



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.**

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

UMH 203

Words: James Montgomery, 1821 (Ps. 72)

*Music: Gesangbuch der H. W. k. Hofkapelle, 1784, alt;
adapt. and harm. by W. H. Monk, 1868*

Tune: ELLACOMBE

© Public Domain. CCLI License Account #3551380

Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free;
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.

“Hail to the Lord's Anointed” v.1

He comes with succor speedy
to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying,
are precious in his sight.

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed” v.2

He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth.
Before him on the mountains,
shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness, in fountains,
from hill to valley flow.

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed” v.3

To him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his name shall stand forever;
that name to us is love.

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed” v.4

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19 NRSV

¹ Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth ² before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us! ³ Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. ⁴ O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19 NRSV

⁶ You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves. ⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

¹⁷ But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.

¹⁸ Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name. ¹⁹ Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Romans 1:1-7 NRSV

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Romans 1:1-7 NRSV

⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷ To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON

Love: The Perfected Imperative

Rev. Daein Park

OFFERTORY “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” UMH 216

*Music: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1599; harm. by Michael Praetorius, 1609, Tune: ES IST EIN ROS
St. 3 © 1940, 1943, renewed 1971 The Church Pension Fund. CCLI License Account #3551380*

To make a gift of your tithe or offering online, visit:

<http://www.cheltenhamumc.com/give>

or mail a check to:

Cheltenham UMC
P.O. Box 146
Cheltenham, MD 20623



DOXOLOGY

UMH 95. Words: Thomas Ken, 1674. Music: attr. to Louis Bourgeois. Tune: OLD 100th

© Public Domain. CCLI License Account #3551380

Played by Chiara Griffith

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. Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER



Angels from the Realms of Glory

UMH 220

Words: James Montgomery, 1816 (Lk. 2:8-20; Mt. 2:1-12; Mal. 3:1)

Music: Henry T. Smart, 1867

Tune: REGENT SQUARE

© Public Domain. CCLI License Account #3551380

Accompaniment Recording's Copyright © 2015

*The General Board of Discipleship
of The United Methodist Church,*

PO Box 340003, Nashville TN 37203-0003.

Website: www.umcdiscipleship.org

Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

*Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.*



“Angels from the Realms of Glory” v.1

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light:

*Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.*



“Angels from the Realms of Glory” v.2

Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star:

*Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.*



“Angels from the Realms of Glory” v.3

Saints, before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear;
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear:

*Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.*



“Angels from the Realms of Glory” v.4

+BENEDICTION

GOODBYE

SEE YOU NEXT WEEK

**To stay connected via e-mail, subscribe to the Weekly E-pistle:
<https://www.cheltenhamumc.com/weekly-e-pistle/>**