



# Cheltenham United Methodist Church

THE LITTLE CHURCH WITH THE BIG HEART

Sunday, December 21, 2025

10am

# ADVENT

G R E A T   E X P E C T A T I O N S

**Worship with via Zoom**

**<https://bit.ly/CUMCSundayServices>**

**Via Facebook**

**[www.facebook.com/CheltenhamUMC](https://www.facebook.com/CheltenhamUMC)**

**To Call In:**

**Dial +1 (301) 715-8592**

**Meeting ID: 861 6676 4909#**

**Password: 001873**



**Scan it to access the church's webpage**

**Sunday, December 21, 2025  
(4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent)**

**GATHERING**

WELCOME

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.

**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.

CONGREGATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.**

+HYMN

“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

UMH 204

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

*Music: Bob McGee, 1976*

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

+PASSING OF THE PEACE

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.**

+HYMN

"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*

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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.

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.

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.

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.

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON  
NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Romans 1:1-7

SERMON "Love: The Perfected Imperative" Rev. Daein Park

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

+OFFERTORY "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" UMH 216

+DOXOLOGY UMH 95

*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.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

## GOING FORTH

+HYMN "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*

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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:

*Refrain*

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

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

*Refrain*

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

*Refrain*

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

*Refrain*

+BENEDICTION

## ***Upcoming Events***

### **Monday, December 22, 2025**

Monday Methodists 9am

Knitting Circle 10am

### **Tuesday, December 23, 2025**

Advent Bible Study 11am

### **Wednesday, December 24, 2025**

Christmas Eve Service 7 pm

*\*If you need to connect with the pastor for a meeting, you can send an email to [cumcpastorpark@gmail.com](mailto:cumcpastorpark@gmail.com) or give him a call at 202-802-4302*

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### **Monday, January 12, 2026**

Planning Meeting & Church Council 12noon

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS

**Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 NRSV** • <sup>1</sup> Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth <sup>2</sup> before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us! <sup>3</sup> Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. <sup>4</sup> O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? <sup>5</sup> You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure. <sup>6</sup> You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves. <sup>7</sup> Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

<sup>17</sup> But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself. <sup>18</sup> Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name. <sup>19</sup> Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

**Romans 1:1-7 NRSV** • <sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup> which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup> the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup> 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, <sup>5</sup> 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, <sup>6</sup> including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, <sup>7</sup> 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.