

# Duke Memorial United Methodist Church

Service of Worship • Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024 • 10:55 AM

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## TOWER BELLS

## GATHERING

### WELCOME

Justis Mitchell

### WELCOME STATEMENT

Karl Knapp

As our Lord Jesus Christ calls us to love and accept every person, Duke Memorial United Methodist Church welcomes into our life together those of every age, race, ethnic background, nationality, gender identity, sexual orientation, family or socioeconomic status, educational background, and physical or mental ability. In our commitment to the reconciliation of all persons as beloved children of God, we celebrate our diversity and recognize the sacred worth and dignity of all. We invite you to join us in our faith journey toward discipleship in Christ with mutual respect, understanding, and love.

### PRELUDE

Al Strong Ensemble

Ave Maria

Bach/Gounod arr. Al Strong

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Katelyn MacDonald and Justis Mitchell

In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

**Let us begin together. Let us begin arm in arm. Let us begin by holding each other up, instead of tearing each other down. Let us begin with words of peace. Yes, let us begin with peace...**

Today we light the candles of hope and peace.

**May these lights remind us of what could be. May these lights mark a new beginning. May peace flow like a river, and may it start with us.**

Arm in arm, hand in hand, side by side. May we begin again. Amen.

### RESPONSE SONG

Sanctuary Choir

WS (green) 3049 | Wait for the Lord

WAIT FOR THE LORD

### \*OPENING HYMN

Of the Father's Love Begotten (see insert)

W ZLOBIE LEZY

*\* Please rise as you are comfortable*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Mick Raynor

I have tried to make my own way. I have tried to lace my own shoes, to build my own house, to kindle my own faith. I have said a thousand times, “turn back,” as if I am fine on my own. But the days are long and I am forgetful. I need your help. Can you remind me? **We will remind you of this everlasting truth: You are not alone. Where you go, God goes. You are held in grace. Trust in this good news.**

Thanks be to God! I remember. I believe. **Now we need your help. We, too, have tried to make our own way. We have tried to lace our own shoes, to build our own houses, to kindle our own faiths. We have said a thousand times, “turn back,” as if we are fine on our own. But the days are long and we are forgetful. We need your help. Can you remind us?** I will remind you of this everlasting truth: You are not alone.

Where you go, God goes. You are held in grace. Trust in this good news.

**Thanks be to God! We remember. We believe. Alleluia! Amen.**

*silence for personal confession*

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**

**Glory to God. Amen.**

## PASSING THE PEACE

*Greet one another with signs of reconciliation and love.*

The peace of Christ be with you, **and also with you.**

## PROCLAMATION

### CHILDREN’S TIME

Katie Diaz, Minister of Spiritual Formation

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jenna Everson-Mielke

**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.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON | RUTH 1:1-22 NRSV

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON | ECCLESIASTES 4:9-12 NRSV

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

### SERMON

Justis Mitchell

## RESPONSE

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Justis Mitchell and Rev. Mick Raynor

...So now let us repeat together and join all the company in heaven in their unending hymn...

**Holy, holy, holy Love, God of earth and skies above, All Creation shines so bright  
With your presence and your light. Let our praises multiply! Sing hosanna, sing on high!  
Blessed is the Coming One, Christ, Emmanuel, your Son! Sing hosanna at his birth!  
Glory on high, and peace on earth!**

...we join Christ's offering to us by proclaiming the beauty found in the mystery of our faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again in love.**

...And may all of these Communion truths serve as building blocks for a new day, for a new beginning.

**Alleluia! Amen. Glory to God! Amen. Amen.**

**Alleluia! Amen. Glory to God! Amen. Amen.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Mick Raynor

**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.**

### GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

*You are invited to come and receive the sacrament as you feel led.*

*Please use the available hand sanitizer before receiving the elements.*

*Gluten free and individually sealed elements are available on the chancel rail.*

### MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Carol of the Bells

Peter Wilhousky arr. Al Strong

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

## SENDING FORTH

### \*CLOSING HYMN

UMH (red) 211 | O Come, O Come Emmanuel  
Verses 1, 2, 5, 6

VENI EMMANUEL

\*BENEDICTION

Justis Mitchell

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

POSTLUDE

Sleeper's Awake

AI Strong Ensemble

J. S. Bach arr. AI Strong

### Today's Preacher: Justis Mitchell

Justis Mitchell (they/he) is in their final year of the MDiv/MSW dual degree program through Duke University and UNC-Chapel Hill. Justis is also a member and certified candidate for ordained ministry out of Duke Memorial in the North Carolina Conference of the UMC. Justis is currently in the process of becoming commissioned as a provisional deacon in this conference. Within this process, Justis is required to preach in the ministerial context where they reside, which is why we welcome their voice in worship this morning.



### Want to know what's happening at Duke Memorial?

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**Fidget baskets** are located on either side of the altar rail and in the narthex. These are offered for children and adults who learn best when their hands or bodies are moving or who can listen more attentively when their other senses are engaged. Feel free to use a fidget or two at any point during worship and then return them to the basket at the end of service. Additionally, there is **"Pray Ground"** space in front of the pews on the right side of the sanctuary. This is space in the sanctuary for our worshippers of all ages and stages. Feel free to let your child play in this space as they participate in worship.

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**Captions and Accessibility:** Our left screen is dedicated to live captions to make our service accessible to everyone. If you have any access needs please contact [office@dukememorial.org](mailto:office@dukememorial.org)

Captions can also be accessed on your mobile device in English, French, and Spanish by scanning the QR codes below.



English



Scannez le code QR avec votre téléphone portable pour accéder aux sous titres français.



Escanea el código QR para acceder a los subtítulos en español.