

## Celebration of Worship

### Alexander Chapel

December 7, 2025 at 11 a.m.

*\*Please stand in body or spirit as you are able*

**Prelude** Steve Hawkins

**Welcome and Announcements** Gina Elrod

**Invocation** Gibson

**\*Call to Worship** Donna Garvin

Leader: Beloved, we gather to remember who we are, not who the world tells us to be.

**People: We tell the story together of the day that all the earth awaits.**

Leader: We recall the story of God's people, how God has called us to live in peace and righteousness in a world full of conflict and twisted morality.

**People: We tell the story together of the day that all the earth awaits.**

Leader: We recount the story of our journey with God, the moments of God's provision, God's prodding, and God's prophetic guidance.

**People: We tell the story together of the day that all the earth awaits.**

Leader: We gather to repent and return anew to God's story that guides our lives to work for peace and flourishing for all God's creation.

**All: We gather to tell the story of the day that all the earth awaits. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

### **Advent Wreath Lighting: Gina and Gene**

First Reader (Gina): Advent reminds us that we are people who share a story, the story of Jesus, who enacts peace by judging in favor of the poor and deciding with equity for the meek of the earth. We long for the day when "the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them" (Isaiah 11:6).

**All: Today, we choose to live the story of peace, believing that true peace comes when we seek the flourishing of all God's creation.**

Second Reader (Gene): We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to bring Light to the places the world seeks to hide until that day when all creation lives together in harmony and abundance.

Gina lights the second candle of the Advent wreath.

**\*Opening Hymn** TFWS 2071

**Scripture Reading** Matthew 3:1–12  
**Special Music** Steve Hawkins  
**Message** Gibson

**Apostles Creed (UMH 881)** Gibson  
**Glory Be to the Father** UMH 71  
**Prayers of the People** Gibson

**Holy Communion** Rev. Naomi King  
**Offering**  
**Doxology** UMH 94

**Closing Hymn** UMH 251  
**Benediction** Gibson  
**Postlude** Steve Hawkins

## **Announcements**

**Sunday, December 21st, from 5 to 6 p.m.**, we invite you to our **Candlelight Christmas Service**. This is one of our most beloved traditions — a quiet, sacred evening filled with Scripture, carols, and the soft glow of candlelight. It's a time to breathe deeply, reflect, and remember that the light of Christ still shines bright — even in the darkest nights.

**Wednesday, April 22, 2026, from 6:30 to 7:30**, we are honored to welcome Murphy Campbell to help us celebrate God's Creation and the work of MountainTrue. An Appalachian and Old Time singer, Western North Carolina is a place Murphy's family settled five centuries ago. Born in the foothills and coming from a long lineage of mountain folk - she seeks to draw up the remnants of a forgotten modal sound.

### **Community Need**

We are collecting items for our donation to ABCCM. The donations basket is located inside the front door of the Chapel. We dedicate our gifts on Communion First Sundays.



## **Alexander Chapel**

### **United Methodist Church**

*A Church for Everyone*

**Sunday Worship – 11:00 am  
December 7, 2025**

#### **Physical address:**

*880 Aiken Road  
Asheville, NC 28804  
828-658-3015*

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

#### **Mailing address:**

*5 Sawyer Cove Rd  
Weaverville, NC 28787*

**Pastor: Phillip Gibson**

**Lay Leader: Phillip Hawkins**

**Pianist: Steve Hawkins**

**Praise Leader: Pam Williams**