

GATHERING, PRELUDE, Savior of the Nations. Come 214
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today – Holy Communion. We have an “open table”.
All who are present are welcome to participate.
– Live Nativity 6, 7, & 8 pm
24 Christmas Eve Service 7pm (9pm at Wesley Chapel)
28 – First Sunday of Christmas
January 4 – Observing Epiphany

CALL TO WORSHIP Ps 72, Mt. 3 dwh
During the days when a man sat on an emperor's throne,
ruling the known world from the city of Rome,
posturing as if he thought himself divine,
The Lord God sent someone as a forerunner for the messiah; one who urged:
Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.
'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'
Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.
Blessed be his glorious name forever;
may his glory fill the whole earth.
Let us worship God.

HYMN: Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 213

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Faithful God, through the gift of your word
you offer us instruction, encouragement, and hope.
By the power of your Spirit teach us to live in hope,
sharing joy and peace with the world;
in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH "Connections"

Reading from the Prophets: Isaiah 11:1-10
Reading from the Gospel: Matthew 3:1—12

God of the wolf and the lamb, God of the goat and the leopard,
we gather here to worship you—
you who bring enemies together,
you who combine earth and heaven,
you who know nothing of impossibility.
Expand our hopes and our imaginations
so that new dreams of peace and unity might arise.

May the hearing of your word, the singing of sacred songs,
and the blessing of this community
awaken us anew to your presence.
With hope, peace, joy, and love we pray. Amen.

>>>Light two candles.<<<

HYMN: The Candle of Hope, stanza 2, (uses #73)
by Carolyn Gillette, used with permission (as published on her website.)

The candle of peace shines bright with God's plan;
The wolf will lie down and dwell with the lamb.
Our guns and our weapons, our hatred and war,
Will give way to gardens that heal and restore.

SCRIPTURE LESSON **ROMANS 15:4-13**

INVITING

CONFESSING GBOD/DM

When our faith is rooted deeply in you, O God,
our lives reflect your kingdom values of justice and righteousness,
but sometimes our lives become so entangled with the values of
the world, that your values take second place.
Forgive us, O God, and reconnect us to the Holy Spirit,
source of power and life.
Merciful God, strip our hearts and minds
of all that prevents our lives being firmly rooted in you.
May our lives bear fruit worthy of our faith in you,
as we watch and wait for your breaking into our world once more,
in the person of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.
Amen.

>>>Silence.<<<

The Gospel proclaims that Jesus Christ came into the world,
"not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."
"Those who believe in him are not condemned" (John 3:17,18).

Thanks be to God!

CHOIR: Spirit Song 347
SERMON

HYMN: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel vv 4,6,7 211
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Joys and Concerns)

INTERCESSIONS

BRINGING OUR GIFTS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lavon Bayler

Amazing God, you inspire us to oppose wickedness,
to stand up for the oppressed,
to work for harmony among all your children.
Lead us, together, to your holy mountain,
where all are valued and no one is excluded.
May our offerings spread the knowledge of your ways ...
widening the circle of inclusion
to embrace all your children, in Jesus' name. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: Hail to the Lord's Anointed

895

203

CHARGE

"FotW"

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you
to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus,
so that together you may with one voice
glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

POSTLUDE We've a Story to Tell to the Nations

569

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or **GBoD** - via Discipleship Ministries, from the Worship Website.

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning>

or **FotW** - from Feasting on the Word (see also insert)

or Lavon Bayler, Taught by Love: Worship Resources for Year A

Publisher: United Church Pr (May 1, 1998)

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"Peaceable Kingdom", circa 1834

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2nd Sunday of Advent

Dec. 7, 2025

PEACE

11:00am

Clarksburg United Methodist Church



23425 Spire St., Clarksburg, Maryland

<https://www.facebook.com/clarksburgmdumc/>

website: <https://clarksburgmdumc.org/>

Accompanist: Rick Beede

Choir Director: Cathy Warfield

Pastor: Rev. David Hodsdon

➤ Cell Phone: 240 676 7825

➤ Email: revdwhodsdon@gmail.com

Reflecting on and Praying with Scriptures

As suggested by the Revised Common Lectionary

2nd Sunday of Advent, Year A, Dec. 7, 2025

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Scriptures

Isaiah 11: 1–10 Romans 15: 4–13
Psalm 72: 1–7, 18–19 Matthew 3: 1–12

Questions for Reflection:

Look for places where the wolf and the lamb
lie down together in peace.
Where do you see that peace in your relationships,
in your family or circle of friends,
in the neighborhood, the city, the nation, and the world?
Even within yourself, where has peace been forged
between previously warring factions?

Morning Prayer:

As I rise, O God, I give you thanks for safety in the night,
for rest from my labors, for another day in this creation.
Turn my eyes toward what is noble.
Teach me to see hope where it is veiled.
Give me the wisdom to desire the good.
Help me to love not only those I encounter but myself as well,
for with you, I know my many frailties and failings.
Let peace reign. Amen.

Evening Prayer:

As I end this day, Holy One, I give you thanks for the richness of my
hours: for family and friends, for people with whom I work and
play, for my neighbors, for those who fill this world with music and
art, for those whose needs remind me of my blessings and whose
skills make me grateful for differences.
Guard us all, O God,
and keep us in your embrace until the daylight comes. Amen.

**What NEW thing would you like to see
the church try to do in the coming months?**

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