

Dunbar United Methodist Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025



*Our Mission at Dunbar United Methodist Church is to:
Reach the World for Christ; Preach the Word of God;
Teach the Way of Discipleship. Our vision is to be a Church that is
Christ-centered, Spirit-led, and utterly consumed by the mission of God.*

Bolded print is intended to be read aloud by all

** signifies that all are invited to rise in body, mind, or spirit*

PRELUDE Sharon Cline,

Organist

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor Jarrod

Caltrider

CENTERING MUSIC Gary Wooten,

Pianist

CENTERING WORDS

*CALL TO WORSHIP Pastor Kari

Preslar

We gather together in this place:

prophets and dreamers, singers and poets,

we who dare to imagine a world renewed;

we who dare to dream God's dream.

We speak out with Zechariah.

God's name be blessed forever!

For God has remembered us in mercy,

and remained faithful to us in love.

Because of God's tender compassion,

the dawn from on high will rise over us.

Come and worship, all you who dream and wait.

We have come to wonder and praise.

*OPENING HYMN "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" UMH#206

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH The Winfree Family

The birth of Jesus has been told and retold a thousand times and in a thousand ways. Its impact cannot be contained in any one perspective. But who is telling the story changes how we hear it, how we imagine it, how we experience it.

We light the candle of hope because hope creates a path for a new, unknown story to unfold. *The first candle is lit.*

We light the candle of peace because peace requires us to pay attention to the needs of those around us. *The second candle is lit.*

We light the candle of joy because joy sustains us in the midst of uncertainty. *The third candle is lit.*

Close your eyes for a moment and imagine what you once thought was impossible coming to fruition: the husband of Elizabeth never believing they would be parents, holding his infant son, John.

Open your eyes. Zechariah, holding John, experiences an unexpected joy that leads to love. A love that reclaims and reorients all who are present toward the possibilities of God. A love that makes the most difficult of situations bearable and all things seem possible, even situations that dehumanize, harm, and belittle. A love that invites a lifelong, generation-transcending commitment to mercy, justice, and peace.

All: Today, we light the candle of love because love makes the impossible possible. *The fourth candle is lit.*

Sung Response: "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" v.1

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

CHILDREN'S SERMON Libby Tolley

*GOSPEL LESSON Luke 1:57-80

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA "The Saints' & Angels' Song"

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH#94

OFFERTORY PRAYER

*CLOSING HYMN “God Almighty, We Are Waiting” W&S#3047

*BENEDICTION

Announcements

Dunbar Institute Samaritan Center Food Pantry Focus for December is saltine crackers. Donations are collected in the narthex at the Ministry Center.

There will be a Community Christmas Cantata at Charleston Baptist Temple on Sunday, December 21 at 5pm. A love offering will be taken up to support Heart+Hand Outreach.

Christmas Eve worship will be December 24 at 8pm. We hope you and your family will consider joining us as we celebrate the joy and hope of Christ’s birth.

Pastor Jarrod, Breana, and Ella are hosting a Christmas Open House at the parsonage on Sunday, December 28 from 5-8pm. You’re welcome to stop by, enjoy some refreshments, and visit during the busy holiday season. We’d love to see you!

Youth grades 6th-12th who would like to go to Resurrection, please let Christi Hayes know by December 28th. The tickets are \$50.00. The last day to buy tickets is January 3 and then it is \$65.00 at the door.

If you’d like to sign up to sponsor altar flowers for 2026, the calendar is posted on the bulletin board by the Administrative Assistant office. Flowers can be given in honor or memory if you’d like.

Our worship participants next Sunday, December 28—Liturgist: Ke
Children’s Sermon: Helen Southall; Ushers: Brian Childers, Letha Go
Tim Whittaker. Fellowship Time Hosts: Open

DUMC Financial Snapshot

Last Week’s Offering Total: No Worship due to weather

Weekly Offering Goal for Budget: \$4,921

Current Apportionment Payout: \$37,311

Annual Apportioned Amount: \$57,840

Payout Percentage: 65%

Worship Notes: “UMH” denotes the navy The United Methodist Hymnal located in each pew.
“TFWS” denotes the black supplemental hymnal “The Faith We Sing”; “W&S” denotes the green supplemental hymnal
“Worship & Song”; CCLI License #: C-71179; CCLI Streaming License #: B-20459670; OneLicense #: A-736012; CVLL:
505409193; Call to Worship & Advent Wreath Liturgy provided by Illustrated Ministry, illustratedministry.com



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