

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 7, 2025



Christmas Prelude

Orchestra

Christmas Fantasy
by Dan Goeller

Call to Worship

Sanctuary Choir

Peace On Earth
by Karen Morelli

Peace on earth, peace on earth, we shall know peace. Peace on earth, peace on earth, we shall know peace when Christ comes to reign within us, when Christ is born in us. *(Repeat)*

Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis!
Glory, glory in the highest to God! And on earth peace to men (all) of good will!

***Opening Sentences of Worship**

Ethan McVay and Congregation

Leader: Let the wilderness and dry lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom.

People: Let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy.

Leader: The glory of Lebanon is bestowed upon it, the splendor for Carmel and Sharon.

People: They shall see the glory of God, the splendor of our God.

Leader: Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees.

People: The eyes of those blind shall be opened, the ears of those deaf unsealed, then those lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy.

Leader: For water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland.

People: The scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land springs of water.

Leader: No lion will be there, nor any fierce beast roam about it, but the redeemed will walk there, for those whom God has ransomed shall return.

All: They will come to Zion shouting for joy—everlasting joy on their faces—joy and gladness will go with them, and sorrow and lament be ended. (adapted Isaiah 35:1-3, 5-7a, 9-10)

***Opening Hymn of Declaration**

Congregation

The First Nowell
arr. John Rutter

The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell! Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the East beyond them far, and to the earth it gave great light and so it continued both day and night. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell! Born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heav'nly Lord that hath made heav'n and earth of naught, and with his blood mankind hath bought. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell! Born is the King of Israel.

**congregation standing*
Amplified-bearing devices are available in the Narthex. Please see a greeter for assistance.

***Invocation and Affirmation of Faith**

Amy Hirsch

People: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. The third day he rose from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and now sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from whom he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and everlasting life. Amen.

Welcome to Worshipers

Joel Burks

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

**Grace and Chip Wann
Grace, William, and Katherine**

Peace

Leader: Today we continue our Advent journey towards Christmas, steadily moving closer to the birth of the Christ child, the source of our hope and the subject of our deep longings. In Christ we find our peace.

People: Our peace remains throughout each trial because our hope rests in Christ's love that lasts forever. We know what love is because God has loved us, sending his Son to live among us. God's love is our peace.

Leader: This peace is a response to God's love for us in sending Jesus to us in the child of Bethlehem. We have seen our God regard the humble and exalt the weak.

People: God, our Father, we open our hearts to your gift of peace in our lives. Meet us in our weaknesses and our humility and be our strength. Make us new and fill us with the peace that rests in your love which lasts forever and ever.

Advent Candle Response

Congregation

Light the Light, the Fire of Life
arr. David W. Music

Light the light, the fire of life, let the candle reveal his glory. Jesus Christ has come to earth and for us shall come again.

Choir only: Light the candle of his peace, light the light of angels singing. Light the candle of his peace, light the light that shone that night.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Wayne Splawn

Offertory Reading

Mary Splawn

Proverbs 13:7 (NIV)

⁷ One person pretends to be rich, yet has nothing; another pretends to be poor, yet has great wealth.

***We Present Our Offerings to God**

Congregation

The Doxology
OLD 100th (altered)

(There is no Children's Message today. Children 3K-5K may meet Mrs. Sharon in the Narthex to go to Preschool Worship as the congregation sings the Doxology. If you are a guest and would like for your preschooler to go to Preschool Worship, please meet Mrs. Sharon in the Narthex to be sure your child has a check-in label for security purposes.)

Message

Wayne Splawn

"Patiently We Wait"
2 Peter 3:3-18
pg. 861 (pew Bible)

SING WE NOW CHRISTMAS

Anthems of the Season

Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra

Angels From the Realms of Glory arr. Dan Forrest

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. 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. Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar. Seek the great Desire of Nations, ye have seen his natal star. Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

All creation join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son. Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One! Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

Sing We Now of Christmas by Kyle Pederson

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel sing we here. Hearts in expectation, Noel drawing near. Sing we Noel; sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel.

In stillness lays the world in silent reverie; longing for the birth of love and mercy. Yearning for hope, good news to fill our souls; turning to the manger that grounds all mystery.

Angels bending low, shepherds bend their knee, wisemen from the east, all have come the Child to see. All of creation where love has come to dwell; sing we now of Christmas, the good news that we tell. Sing Noel!

One December, Bright and Clear arr. Mack Wilberg

One December bright and clear, early in the morning, Mary pressed her newborn near, kissed him so adoring, angels sing and shepherds shout! All good creatures turn about! Ring the bells of joy, ev'ry chime employ, make them sing til they bring heaven's wond'rous glory, tell the Christmas story!

That December day at noon, from a steaming kettle, Mary bathed her tiny boy, in the crèche to settle. Doves that coo and lambs that bleat, come and see the Mercy Seat! Ring the bells of peace, let the sounds increase, make them soar 'til they pour heaven's hope and glory, spread the Christmas story!

As that winter's eve drew nigh, in the stable lowly, Mary laid her head to rest, on the Baby holy. People far and people near, rest your sorrows, take good cheer! Ring the glad bells, blessed tidings tell, for he brings in his wings heaven's healing glory, sing the Christmas story!

My Lord Has Come by Will Todd

Shepherds, called by angels, called by love and angels: no place for them but a stable. My Lord has come. Sages, searching for stars, searching for love in heaven: no place for them but a stable. My Lord has come.

His love will hold me, his love will cherish me, love will cradle me.

Lead me, lead me to see him, sages and shepherds and angels: no place for me but a stable. My Lord has come.

In Bethlehem
by Dan Forrest and Erik Devar

Though the road was long, the time drew near, Heaven's King on earth would soon appear. Yet, no bed prepared; no waiting crown. Just a stable near the edge of town. Here the Child was born so far from home, humble trav'lers all alone. So they whispered low their soft amen, on that lonely night in Bethlehem.

Come, behold the shepherds, oft unseen, chosen first to look though rough, unclean. 'Tis the Christ! Now peace on earth begins: he will save his people from their sins. See the Mighty God has done great things. Hear the angel hosts his glories sing and repeat the sounding joy again on that holy night in Bethlehem.

You are worthy, Jesus, Lord of all, stooping down to grace that cattle stall. You did not recoil to meet us there, all our weakness, shame, and grief to share. So bring down the mighty from their seat; gently lift the humble to their feet, that we all would at your manger bend to behold that sight in Bethlehem.

***Carol of Response**

Congregation

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
CAROL

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King." The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

All ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow, look now! For glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing: O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold, when with the ever-circling years, comes round the age of gold; when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

***Choral Benediction**

Sanctuary Choir

Advent Prayer: Wait, Watch, and Wish
words by George Arthur Buttrick (1892-1980)
music by Kely Hatley

Almighty God, who has come to us in great humility; make us wise to wait for thee, to watch for thee, to wish for thee until the breaking of the day. Amen.

***Closing Dismissal**

Wayne Splawn

Leader: Go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

***Organ Postlude**

Debbie Smith

Toccata on ANTIOCH
by Craig Phillips

*The flowers on the altar are given in celebration of the
marriage of Anne Peyton Baker and Donald John DeMetz III
at Mountain Brook Baptist Church on December 6, 2025.*

Prayer List

BIRTHS

Charles Carpenter Pitts III (parents Rachel & Charlie Pitts)

DEATHS

Linda Ellen Yarbrough (grandmother of Mark Rector)

MBBC MEMBERS/REGULAR ATTENDERS

Bill Austin, Janie Barnes, Claudette Bearden, Charlene & Milton Berryhill, Chris Burch, Tom Burns, Dot Carroll, Kay Davidson, Joyce Dawkins, Greg Dobbins, Jim Dover, Sandy Eichelberger, Chad Fooshee, Grady Gibbons, Wayne Gowens, Betty Jo Gwin, Karen Johnson, Katie Johnson, Eddie Mae McDanal, Billy McDonald, Caroline Mears, Phyllis Mitchell, Larry Moon, Carol Perez, Joyce Ratliff, Greg Robinson, Ann Sanders, Anita Skelton, Irene Stutts, Judy & Ron Taylor, Wayne Thorn, Mark Tucker Jr., Doris Wayman, Laura Zarembo

HEALTH CARE CENTERS/INDEPENDENT LIVING

Peggy Abbott, Eugenia Anderson, Betty Bowen, Colby Clark, Bob Compher, Mary Kate Dyer, Bill Johnson, Louise Martin, Martha Miklic, Glaydell Pinson, Roger Pugh, Gailya Sargent, Juanelle Strain, Helen Thrasher-Long, Harryette Turner

Weekly Information

MINISTER ON CALL: DECEMBER 12-14

Mary Splawn – (205) 803-3205

ADVENT MEMORY VERSE

Luke 2:10-11 (NIV)




¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”

FOR PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN

Nursing Moms’ Rooms & Changing Stations

If you are a nursing mom in need of a quiet place to feed your child, we have two nursing moms’ rooms: one outside the Narthex and the other in Room 204. If you need a fob to access Room 204, text Sharon at (205) 527-7641.

There are diaper changing stations in the women’s and men’s restrooms near the Sanctuary.

Ways to Give		
		
IN PERSON Place your gift in the designated spot in the Narthex. To access our Wi-Fi network, choose MBBC Guest (password 803-3452).	ONLINE To give online, visit mbbc.org/give .	TEXT Text STOREHOUSE to 73256.

Coming Up

Offices are open Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

- 9 a.m. Traditional Service (Sanctuary Choir Christmas Service) | Sanctuary
- 10 a.m. Sunday School
- 11 a.m. Contemporary Service | Sanctuary
- 6 p.m. Students | Progressive Dinner

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

- 6:45 a.m. Students | Jr. High Bible Study | Student Ministry Area
- 9:30 a.m. ACTIVE Christian Living | Stretch and Fitness | Rm. 356 2A

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

- 5 p.m. Wednesday Night Family Dinner | Heritage Hall
- 6 p.m. Children's Choirs Christmas Concert | Sanctuary
- 7:15 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal | Chapel Music Suite

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

- 9:30 a.m. ACTIVE Christian Living | Stretch and Fitness | Rm. 356 2A

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

- 9 a.m. Traditional Service | Sanctuary
- 10 a.m. Sunday School
- 11 a.m. Contemporary Service (Glorious) | Sanctuary

MINISTERIAL STAFF

Dr. Wayne Splawn, Senior Minister

Mr. John Piede, Deacon Chair

Mr. Vince Blackerby, Director of Operations

Mr. Joel Burks, Minister to Students

Dr. Kely Hatley, Minister of Music and ACTIVE Christian Living

Mrs. Amy Hirsch, Associate Minister for Membership and Pastoral Care

Mrs. Sharon Howard, Minister to Children and Families


Mr. Ethan McVay, Minister for Preteen and Junior High Students


Mr. Mark Rector, Associate Minister


Mrs. Mary Splawn, Minister of Connections


For the full list of our church staff, please see mbbc.org/staff.





 mbbc.org

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