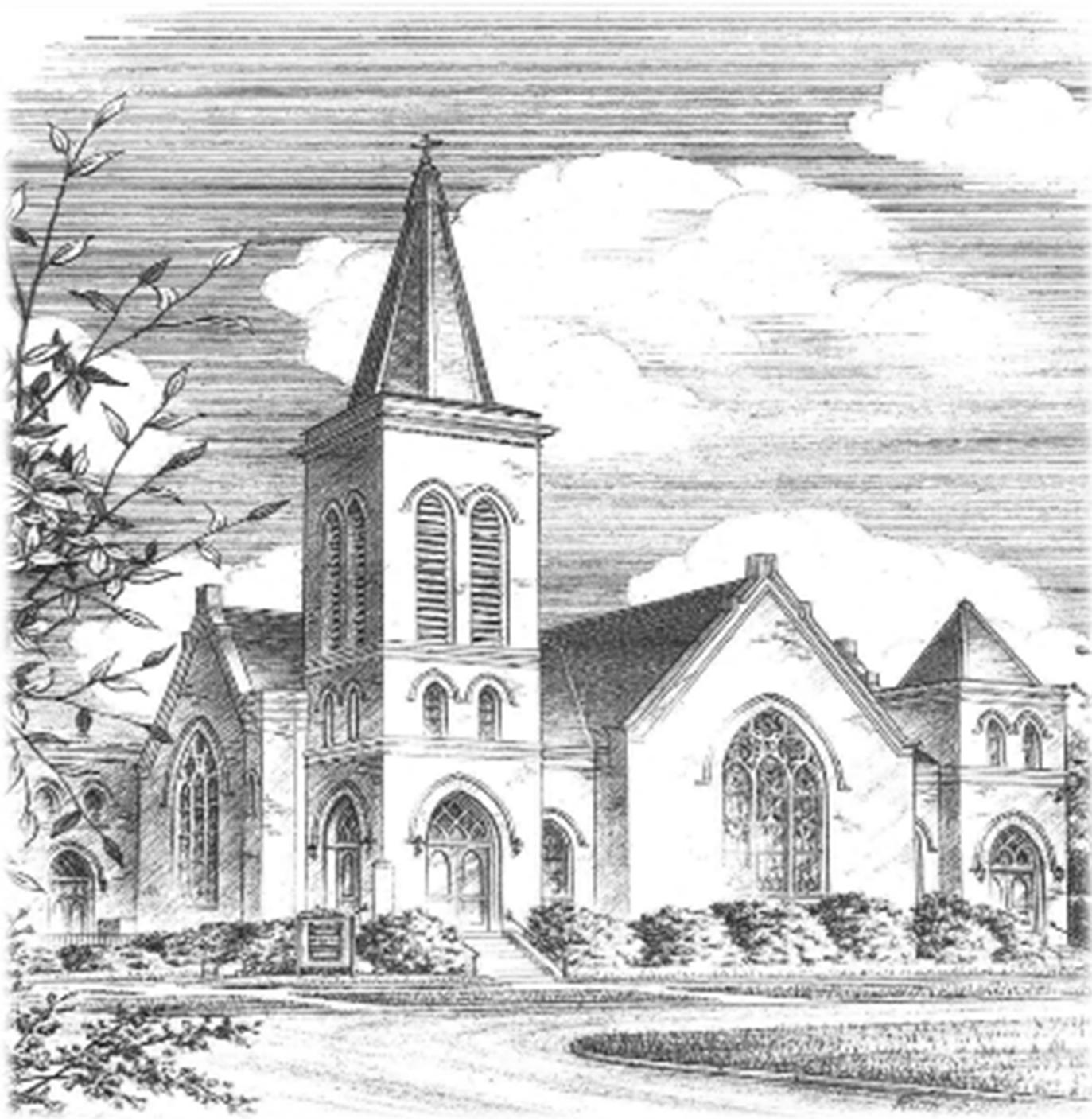


Duncan Memorial Methodist Church

Second Sunday of Advent



December 7, 2025
“In Our Darkness Shines a Light”
Reverend William “Ted” Ragsdale

Second Sunday of Advent
December 7, 2025

+Congregation standing, if able. Congregation responses in **BOLD**.

GATHERING

Quiet conversation among congregants is encouraged.

PRELUDE

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

M. Praetorius

*Please observe a moment of prayerful silence as we enter our worship time.
Please take a moment to sign the Red Pew Pad.*

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

KassiJo Lloyd

+CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Ragsdale

Leader: Jesus became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory,
the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

People: **In our worship be glorified, In this Christmas season be magnified in us.**

+OPENING HYMN

“Who Is He in Yonder Stall”

Hymnal Pg. 190

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

Hymnal Pg. 881

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only 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 sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

+GLORIA PATRI

“Glory Be To The Father”

Hymnal Pg. 70

*Glory be to the Father
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Kitchen Angels

Children ages 3 years – 3rd Grade are invited to Children's Church.

CHURCH CONCERNS

Rev. Ragsdale

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Ragsdale

THE GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

B. McGee

+DOXOLOGY

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Hymnal Pg. 95

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, Ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

ANTHEM

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 9:1-7

Pew Bible OT Pg. 638

SERMON

“In Our Darkness Shines a Light”

Rev. Ragsdale

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion will be shared by intinction at the altar, where you may come forward to kneel or stand. Ushers will guide worshippers to the altar at the proper time.

+CLOSING HYMN

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

Hymnal Pg. 189

+DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Rev. Ragsdale

POSTLUDE

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

R. Pritchard

The flowers on the sanctuary side tables are given in to the glory and honor of God and in memory of Gerald “Jerry” Kent Thomas by his family.

Weekly Calendar

Dec. 7

10:00am Sunday School
11:00am Worship
6:00pm Candlelight Dinner

Dec. 8

9:00am Counter – Bobo Thompson
5:30pm Pastor Search Committee

Dec. 9

7:30pm Men's Breakfast
9:00am 3M

Dec. 10

5:00pm LOL & The Bridge –
Caroling at The Landings

This Sunday's Greeters & Ushers

Greeters: Rebecca and Emery Prevatte, Ann Koerber, Sarah Ward, Charlotte Moulton

Ushers/Offering: Paige Sawyer, Timmy Sessions, Lewis Dugan, Randy Stewart, Mitzi Vaimberg

We are glad you are here!

Welcome to Duncan Memorial Methodist Church. May this time of worship renew your spirit, draw you closer to God, and remind you that you are deeply loved and never alone.

Church Office Hours

Monday – Thursday 9:00am – 4:30pm
Friday 9:00am – 12:00pm

CHURCH NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

2026 Altar Flowers – If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary for Sunday Worship, please reach out to Linda Harmon at 843-995-3563 or call the church office at 843-546-5647.

Yuletide Home Tour: Anne Hudson and Pam Toemmes need Docents, or greeters, for December 13, 2025. If you can help, please reach out to them at 972-979-7963 or 843-450-1008.

CHANCEL CHOIR

Are you interested in joining Duncan's choir? If so, they would be happy to have you join them! If you would like more information, please call the church office at 843-546-5647.

Our Faithfulness for November 30, 2025

Weekly Collection: \$9,710.00

Attendance: 86

Christmas "In Our Darkness Shines a Light"

Isaiah 9:1-7

I. People are described as those lost in the shadow land of death. vs. 2

Darkness is a metaphor for evil, sin, and death. In the immediate context the Lord identifies the rebellion of the people. There are three charges in chapter 8.

- A. They have turned from the Lord to human kings for security. **Isaiah 8:6**
- B. They have rejected God's Counsel in favor of the counsel of men. **Isaiah 8:19-20**
- C. They rage against their Maker. **Isaiah 8:21**

II. The Light dawns on this landscape of darkness and death.

On that ancient Christmas morn, the light dawns, heaven's doors are opened wide. **The light is "a child born to us, a son given to us."**

2 Corinthians 4:6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

III. The dawn brings Joy to those on whom it shines. Vs. 3

When the Son rises he kindles gladness in our hearts. Isaiah grounds that gladness in a threefold FOR

1. **vs. 4** - You have shattered the yoke (of slavery) that bound us.
2. **vs. 5** – He has ended our war.
3. **vs. 6-7** – Christ will dawn as our forever king.

Calvin comments: "under him supreme and everlasting happiness may be enjoyed."

IV. All this and more Christ fulfilled at his first coming - in part. The full and permanent fulfillment is still to come.

Christ came and will come again but that is not the whole story.

1 Thessalonians 5:5,8-10 You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. ⁹ For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ He died for us so that, whether we are alive or dead, we may live together with him.

Isaiah. 9:1-7 Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan-- ² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

³ **You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;** they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder.

⁴ **For** as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

⁵ **For** every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

⁶ **For** to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The **zeal** (an energized, determined resolve) of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Three Charges

Isaiah 8:6 "Because this people has rejected the gently flowing waters of Shiloah and rejoices over Rezin and the son of Remaliah, He will bring the King of Assyria against them. "

Isaiah 8:19-20 "When men tell you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people enquire of their God? ²⁰ To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn."

Isaiah 8:21 Distressed and hungry, they will roam through the land; when they are famished, they will become enraged and, looking upward, will curse their king and their God.

2 Corinthians 4:6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.