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***If you have an announcement or prayer request, please email it to zionlexpk@gmail.com by Wednesday.**



“Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

Sunday, December 7th, 2025

Rev. Dr. Andreá Cummings, Pastor
Rev. Dr. Johnsie Cogman, District Superintendent
LaTrelle Miller Easterling, Presiding Bishop



**Scan the QR code to visit our website, give, or sign up
for our e-news!**



Second Sunday of Advent

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

Prelude~ “I Don’t Mind Waiting”

Welcome~ Dr. Andreá Cummings

BLESSING OF THE CHRISMON TREE: Holy Lord, we come with joy to celebrate the birth of your Son, who rescued us from the darkness of sin by making the cross a tree of life and light. May this tree, arrayed in splendor, remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ, that we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in our hearts. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: Christ came to bring us salvation and has promised to come again. Let us pray that we may always be ready to welcome him. ***All: Come, Lord Jesus.***

*That keeping of Advent may open our hearts to God’s Love, that the light of Christ may penetrate the darkness of sin, **All: Come, Lord Jesus.***

*That this wreath may constantly remind us to prepare for the coming of Christ. That the Christmas season may fill us with peace and joy as we strive to follow the example of Jesus. **All: Come, Lord Jesus.***

Prayer: Loving God, your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin. Pour forth your blessings

Ready to Join?

Please complete the form and hand it to an usher. Pastor Cummings will reach out to you to arrange a time to discuss the membership vows and the date for you to join.

What are our membership vows?

Vows are taken when a person joins a United Methodist Church as a baptized or professing member. By taking the baptismal and local church membership vows, the individual agrees to covenant with God and the local church members to keep the vows that are part of living the baptismal covenant and reception into membership in the local church.

These vows have four parts: (1) to confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; (2) to believe in the Christian faith as contained in the Old and New Testaments; (3) to support The United Methodist Church; and (4) to uphold the local congregation with one's prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone/Email _____

Mark your Calendar

Poinsettias are available for purchase at \$8 each until December 7th. To order, write “poinsettia” on your offering envelope. Starting November 23rd, you can fill out a form to dedicate your poinsettia “in honor of” or “in memory of” someone special. The flowers will be displayed in the sanctuary on December 13th and will be available for pickup after the Christmas Eve service. Names will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin and E-news.

Annual Christmas Jingle is on Dec. 13th from 12 to 4 pm at First Saints-St. George’s Campus. Tickets are \$60. Contact Sis. Kim Scriber or. Sis. Karen Camp.

Outreach ministry requests that, starting on the 5th Sunday of each month beginning this November, members bring the following items: tuna fish, salmon, chicken, corned beef, mayonnaise, and/or relish. Please place these items in the box located in the social hall.

upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May their light reflect the splendor of Christ, who is Lord, for ever and ever. Amen.

Candle Lighting Reading: O KEY OF DAVID and Scepter of the house of Isarel, who opens and no one shuts, who shuts and no one opens:

All: Come, and bring forth from prison the captive who sits in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Second Reader: 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.

Sung Response: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel~ #211 UMH Verse 5 (see insert)

****Opening Hymn~ “Spirit Song” - #347 UMH***

Opening Prayer

****Offering***

Doxology~ “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”~#650 AAHH

Prayer of Illumination: Your Word, Holy God, was written for our instruction. By your Holy Spirit, open our ears and fill us with the mysteries of your ancient love; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

****The Scripture Readings:***

First Reading: *Isaiah 11:1-10: A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. 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. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.*

***Psalm Reading~ Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Psalter #76 UMH;**
Sung Response (R): Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like flowing streams.

¹ Give the King your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the King's Son!

² May he judge your people with righteousness
and the poor with justice!

³ Let the mountains bear prosperity to the people,
and the little hills bring righteousness!

⁴ May he defend the cause of the poor of the people;
give deliverance to the needy and crush the oppressor!

⁵ May he live while the sun and moon endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!

⁶ May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth!

⁷ In his days may righteous flourish,
and peace abound, till the moon be no more.

¹⁸ Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous deeds!

¹⁹ Blessed be his glorious Name for ever!
and may all the earth be filled with his glory. R

***Second Reading:** *Romans 15:4-13: For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. 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. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope." 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.*

Hymn of Preparation~ "Total Praise"

***Gospel Reading:** *Matthew 3:1-12: In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’” Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”*

Proclamation~ Dr. Cummings

Affirmation of Faith~ 881 UMH

Prayers of the People: Response - Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Prayer of confession, assurance, and pardon~ pg. 8 UMH
Thanksgiving & Communion

Post Communion Prayer: *Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.*

Announcements

***Benediction~** Dr. Cummings

The Great Thanksgiving for the Season of Advent

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

*And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn (Sung response) **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.***

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, whom you sent in the fullness of time to be a light to the nations. You scatter the proud in the imagination of their hearts and have mercy on those who fear you from generation to generation. You put down the mighty from their thrones and exalt those of low degree. You fill the hungry with good things, and the rich you send empty away. Your own Son came among us as a servant, to be Emmanuel, your presence with us. He humbled himself in obedience to your will and freely accepted death on a cross. Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, whom you sent in the fullness of time to be a light to the nations. You scatter the proud in the imagination of their hearts and have mercy on those who fear you from generation to

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On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

*And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith. **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.***

*Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever. **Amen.***