



MT. TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Growing a deeply connected family of faith

1000 B Avenue • West Columbia • South Carolina • 29169

803.796.5948

www.mttaborlutheran.org

11:00 AM - December 21, 2025, Fourth Sunday of Advent
Traditional Worship Service

Holy Communion Setting 4

INTRODUCTION

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. David Lowe

CALL TO WORSHIP

Creator God, we have celebrated the hope, peace, and joy that come from You. And now we celebrate Love, which is from You, and is Your very nature.

God is Love.

You formed the universe out of the void, and breathed life into Your creatures, all because of Your great love.

In You, we live and move and have our being. We exist because of Your love.

Humanity rejected You. But, because of Your love, You made a way to restore us to relationship with Yourself.

Love made a way. That love is Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ, Immanuel, God-With-Us. Born of a virgin girl in a stable, laid in a manger, Jesus entered the world in humility and compassion.

Jesus lived, was crucified, died, and was resurrected from death, all for love. Love has conquered death.

It is His example we live by: self-sacrificing love. And we know that “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs...

“... Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”

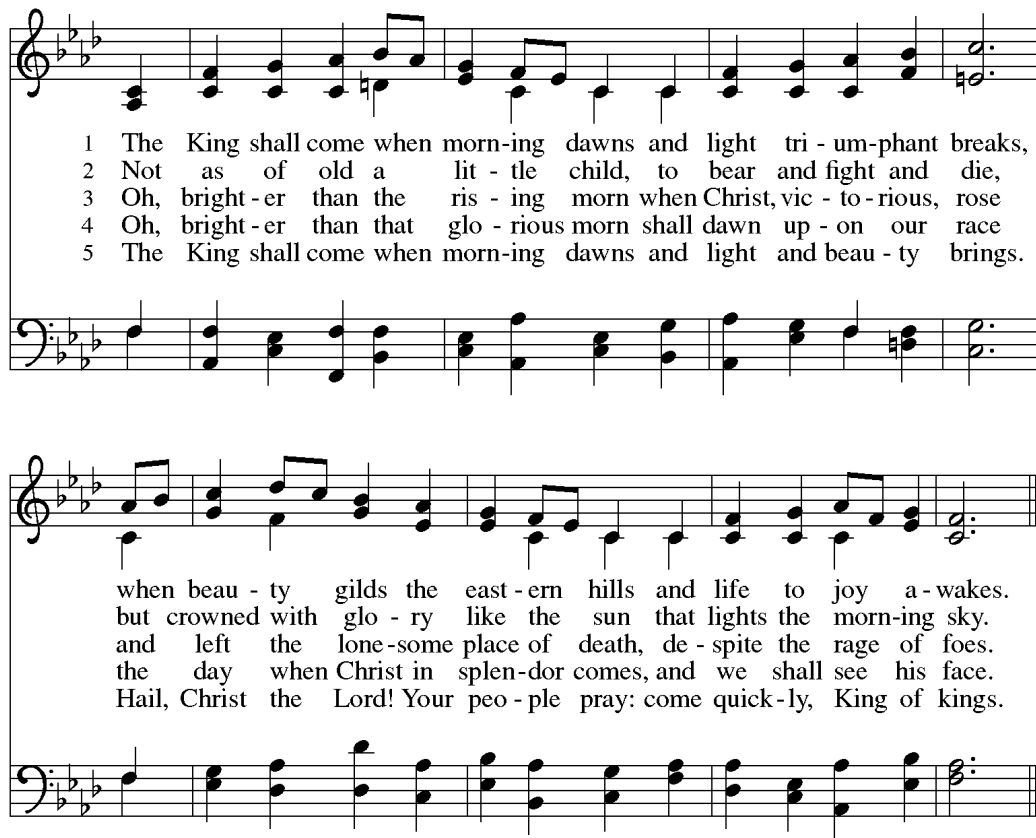
May our hearts be illumined with the light of Love....

And may we share Your love wherever we go. Amen.

HYMN 260

The King Shall Come

CONSOLATION



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.

when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003

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GREETING

ELW p. 156

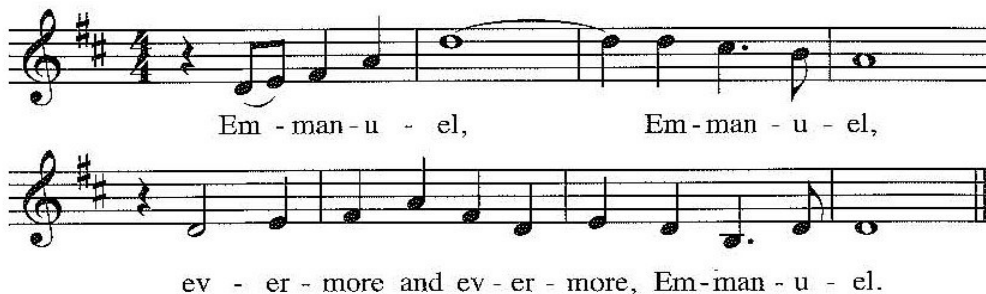
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: EVERLASTING FATHER

(Choir) Of the Father's love begotten, ere the world began to be, He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending he.

REFRAIN



RESPONSIVE LITANY

During Advent, we wait for the one promised in scripture.

And he will be called Everlasting Father.

We wait for the one who can turn discord into perfect harmony.

And he will be called Everlasting Father.

We wait for the one who can replace hate with love, and anger with understanding.

And he will be called Everlasting Father.

We wait for the one who can replace division with unity, and war with peace.

And he will be called Everlasting Father.

Today we light four candles. The first candle reminds us of our hope in knowing Jesus as our Wonderful Counselor, the second candle, that Jesus came to bring peace into the world. The third candle reminds us of our joy in proclaiming Christ as almighty God. We light the fourth candle to celebrate the fact that God loves us in spite of our flaws, just as a parent loves a child. In an unsettled world, surrounded by confusion, we affirm that our Everlasting Father is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

(Choir) Let the heights of heaven adore him; angel hosts his praises sing: powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King.

REFRAIN

(Choir) Evermore and evermore, Emmanuel.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING

Isaiah 7:10-16

A reading from Isaiah.

An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!

¹⁰ The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19

W K Davis



¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

² In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us. **R**

³ Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴ O LORD God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray? **R**

⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

- ⁶ You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn. **R**
- ⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- ¹⁷ Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself. **R**
- ¹⁸ And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
- ¹⁹ Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 1:1-7

A reading from Romans.

Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷ To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p. 151



GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Wade Roof

HYMN 257

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
verses 1, 6, 7 & 8

VENI EMMANUEL



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite

Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.

Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

ELW p. 234

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of Grace,
Here our prayer.

PEACE

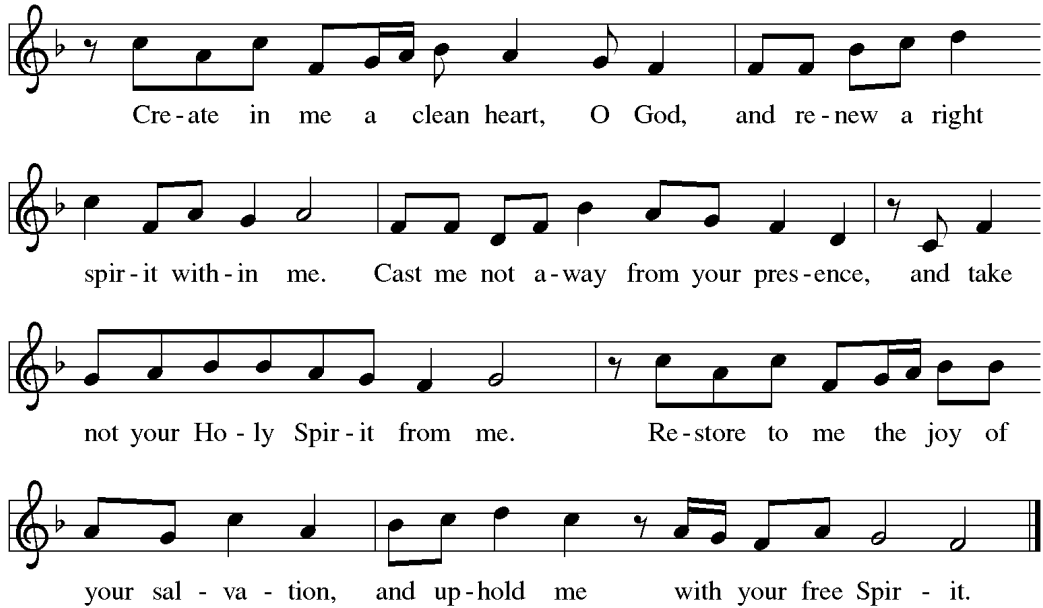
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The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Father, Long Your People Waited

K. Lee Scott

OFFERTORY HYMN 186*Create in Me a Clean Heart***Richard W. Hillert**

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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OFFERING PRAYER**ELW p. 152**

Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The musical score is written for two staves, treble and bass clef, in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The melody is primarily composed of chords, with some single notes in the treble staff. The lyrics are: "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!" The score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Text: Taizé Community
Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
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THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

ELW p. 154

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

AGNUS DEI

ELW p. 154



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
 and Chris - tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 Glo - ri - a!

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924

Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -
 2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in
 3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all
 4 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, re - deem us for e -
 5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,
 splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child
 hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,
 ter - nal day; de - fend us while we dwell be - low
 Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you hear us when we call.
 of Mar - y, bless - ed moth - er mild.
 like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.
 from all as - saults of our dread foe.
 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.
 Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, plainsong mode IV
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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

ELW p. 155

Almighty God, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin, and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Worship Assistants

Communion assistants Whitney Glass, Joyce Riley
Lector Rachel Bundrick
Greeter Debbie McLeod
Ushers Foster McLeod, Ricky Glass
Acolyte Reed Glass
Crucifer Brooklyn Glass
Livestream coordinators Pam Hoskins, Kendrick Kerr



The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of the Gayden Family: Julian and Ralphetta (Pud and Doodle), Julian Gayden III (Yogi) Julian Gayden IV (Chip) and Todd Gayden by Pam Burnett & Linda Gayden.

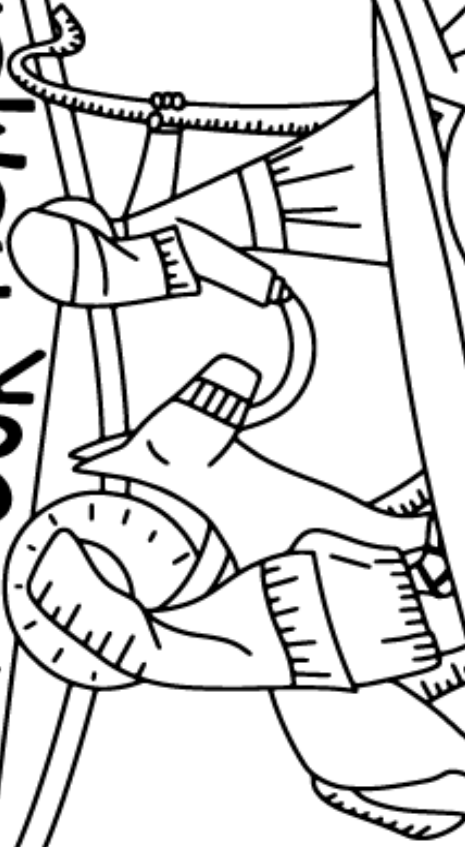
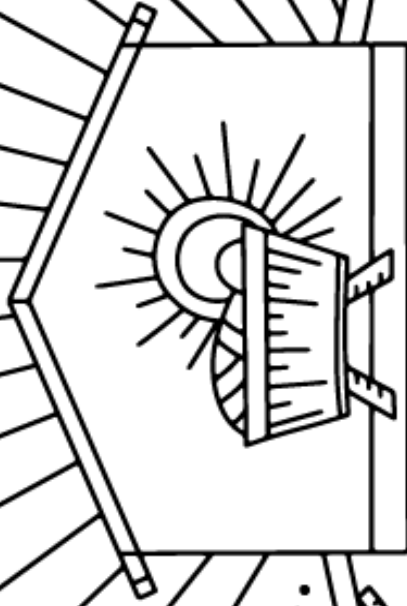
Today's bulletin covers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of the Gayden Family: Julian and Ralphetta (Pud and Doodle) Julian Gayden III (Yogi), Julian Gayden IV (Chip) and Todd Gayden by Pam Burnett & Linda Gayden.

The Advent Wreath is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mom and Dad, Aunt Eunice & Uncle Everette Hite and my brother, John Bundrick, by Rachel Bundrick.

Angel (Love): During this final week of Advent, we rejoice in the endless love that God has for us, which is made apparent in the birth of his Son. We reflect on the good news of God's love brought to us from the angel Gabriel. This is the last week to prepare our hearts for the joy of Christmas.

Are you ready?

SAVIOR
of the NATIONS,
COME. MAKE HERE
YOUR HOME.



Welcome to Mt. Tabor. We are glad that you have chosen to worship with us today! If you are a visitor, please fill out and return the attendance card in your pew rack so we may have a record of your attendance. Our ushers and greeters will be glad to answer any questions you may have about our worship service. We hope that you will experience the presence of the Risen Christ today!

Lord Teach Us To Pray:

As God's people called to love one another, let us pray for the following members of our church family, who celebrate the anniversary of their baptism this week: Gerald Shealy, Allison Hostetter, Stephen Fulmer, Jack Latham, Julie Miller, Summer Insabella, Mallory Hartgrove, Meg Muir, Thomas Shealy, Adam Self, Robert Ward, William Wingard, Lev Taylor.

Most Recent Prayer Concerns:

Melvin Manus, Paul Dufries, Addie Wilkerson Pinner, Natalie Cook
Karen Holton, Barbara Raulerson

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

Jana Payne, Grace Kelly, Carolyn Dufries, Pastor Lavaughn Keisler, John Conrad, Linda Price
Bruce Merchant, Al & Judy Jordan, Luther Swicegood, Sandra Baker, Alice Pollock, Jimmy Williams
Mona Myers, Sadie Howard, Elmer Sundlie, Emma Lou Easley, Paul Addy
Paul & Jeanie Jacobs, Pastor Jerry & Janice Livingston

Family & Loved Ones of Mt. Tabor:

William & Janet Wood, Judy Lazarczyk, Bobby LoVine, Robbie Burgess, Ronnie Boland
Tonia Boland, Andy Rauch Peggy Roessler, Sherwood Williams, John Bailey, John Sharpe
Bishop Ginny Aebischer Bobby Brown, Steve Blake, Zach Wash, Jack Hayde, Barbara Antley
Ty Arlet, Bill Baney Tyler Corbitt, Eddie Porter, David "Bubba" Martin, Jr., Kimberly
Chapman, Nancy Waugh, Emily Waugh, Sam Waugh, Laura Ann Merrill
Johnny Smith, Anne Moyer

Members of Mt. Tabor Serving in the Military:

Adam Davis, Samuel Davis, Scott Hash, Alex Morris

Family and Loved Ones Serving in the Military:

Cory Fabian, Zachery Gayden, Josh Watson, Jacob Henry Burgan, Caleb Neff

The Family Of:

Otis Amick, Joe Bundrick, Fred Fetner

Worship Leaders

Rev. Wade T. Roof, III, Senior Pastor

Rev. Rus Stilwell, Pastor of Visitation

Mr. Kevin Davis, Director of Music

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