

# NORRIS RELIGIOUS FELLOWSHIP

AN INTERDENOMINATIONAL COMMUNITY CHURCH

NORRIS, TENNESSEE



**DECEMBER 7, 2025**

**DR. BILL IRELAND**

*IN THINGS AGREED UPON UNITY,*

*IN OTHER THINGS LIBERTY,*

*IN ALL THINGS THE WILL TO BE ONE.*

O, Lord,  
Turn on the light—  
The light above Bethlehem.  
Let it shine again  
Into my darkened heart  
At Advent time.  
It would only be fair for you to give me  
A star.  
I am not so wise;  
I am getting cold.  
O tell me, Christ,  
Where You are now.” --David Redding, *Starlight*

*We Gather for Worship*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

**Prayers** For wellness in our community. For Mary Shelton, Linda Tafelski, Carolyn Stribling, Howard Helton, Wendy Hall, Karoline Berg, and Lois Wolfe. For those recovering from natural disasters, Ukraine, Gaza, all refugees, all elected officials, peacekeepers, change agents, the ICC, and our fellowship community.

**Christmas Without Them Service** The Christmas Without Them Service will be held this evening at 5pm.

**Supper Club** Supper Club meets on Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at Harrison's. Come join us for a festive holiday meal together. Let Susan Miller know if you plan to attend so a table can be reserved.

**Bible Study** Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> via zoom. Zoom info will be sent out by email the day of Bible Study. This will be the last meeting of the year.

**Congregational Vote** There will be a Congregational Vote held on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> following service to vote on the proposed budget.

**Annual Christmas Party Potluck** The Annual Christmas Party Potluck and Sing-a-long with a special visit from Santa will be held on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> following service. Please bring a dish to share.

**Angel Tree Gifts Due** Angel Tree gifts are due back next Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at noon. Please return gifts unwrapped with your angel tree tag attached. If you have questions, contact Ashley Goins at 865-839-7912.

The Lighting of the Advent Candle: Nikki Brown

Call to Worship:

One: A rotted stump will put forth new shoots.

**Many: A new world is coming!**

One: Lions and lambs will pasture together.

**Many: A new world is coming!**

One: A child will not be harmed by a serpent.

**Many: A new world is coming!**

One: Violence, pain, and suffering will come to an end.

**Many: A new world is coming!**

One: Let us make ready for God's new work!

**Many: Let us repent and be ready for what's next!**

**All: Amen!**

--Adapted from Isaiah 11:1-10

**\*Hymn: "O, Come All Ye Faithful"** (Red Hymnal, p. 208)

1 O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him  
born the King of angels;

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.

2 God of God,  
Light of Light;  
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
very God,  
begotten, not created; [Refrain]

3 Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
glory to God  
in the highest; [Refrain]

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning:  
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father,  
late in flesh appearing; [Refrain]

*We Offer Our Praise and Prayer*

Morning Psalm: 72:1-7, 18-19

## **Hymn: “What Child Is This?” (Red Hymnal, p. 213)**

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

2 Why lies he in such mean estate,  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through;  
the cross be borne for me, for you:  
hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, peasant, king, to own him;  
the King of kings salvation brings,  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
the virgin sings her lullaby:  
joy, joy for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

## **Pastoral Prayer**

### **The Prayers of the People**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*We Attend to the Word*

Sermon: “It Happened This Way: A Search”      Dr. Bill Ireland  
Matthew 2:1-12

**\*Hymn: “Angels from the Realms of Glory”** (Red Hymnal, p. 218)

1 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;

Refrain:

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

2 Shepherds in the fields abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing,  
yonder shines the infant Light: [Refrain]

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great Desire of nations;  
ye have seen his natal star: [Refrain]

4 Saints before the altar bending,  
watching long in hope and fear,  
suddenly the Lord, descending,  
in his temple shall appear: [Refrain]

5 All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son;  
evermore your voices raising  
to th'eternal Three in One: [Refrain]

## **\*Benediction**

### **\*The Irish Blessing**

**May the road rise to meet you,**

**May the wind blow at your back.**

**May the sun shine warmly on your face,**

**May the rain fall softly on your field.**

**And until we meet again,**

**Til' we meet again,**

**May God hold you in the palm of his hand.**

Postlude