

FRIENDLY REMINDER

Our Sunday service is live-streamed, and microphones pick up sound throughout the sanctuary.

Recording begins at least 15 minutes before the service to include announcements.

Livestream Notice: Our worship service is live-streamed and recorded. By attending, you consent to being included in the broadcast. Thank you for joining us!



Prelude

Pastor Eduardo
Carrillo

*Fourth Sunday of
Advent*

December 21st, 2025

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WELCOME,
ANNOUNCEMENTS,
and
CELEBRATIONS

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CALL to WORSHIP

Leader: Come, people of God, for joy is
drawing near.

People: **We come to make room for joy
that is deeper than circumstance.**

CALL to WORSHIP

Leader: When fear or uncertainty clouds our hearts, God whispers, “Do not be afraid.”

People: **We come to trust the promise of Emmanuel – God with us.**

CALL to WORSHIP

Leader: Today, we light the candle of JOY.
Like Joseph, we open our hearts
to the surprising ways God works.

CALL to WORSHIP

All: **Christ comes as Joy – quiet,
steady, and true, filling the spaces
where fear once lived.**

OPENING PRAYER

**God of abiding joy, you
enter our lives in
unexpected ways, turning
confusion into confidence
and fear into faith. When
we are hesitant to
believe, remind us that
your presence is our
assurance.**



OPENING PRAYER

**Make room in our hearts
for the joy that comes
from trusting your
promises. Let that joy
take root and grow until it
overflows into the world
around us.**



OPENING PRAYER

**In the name of Jesus, our
Joy and our Emmanuel,
we pray. Amen.**



“Once in Royal David’s City” UMH 250

WORDS: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848

MUSIC: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1849

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

Once in Royal David’s city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed;
Mary, loving mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.

“Once in Royal David’s City” UMH 250

WORDS: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848

MUSIC: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1849

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall.

With the poor, the scorned, the lowly
lived on earth our Savior holy.

“Once in Royal David’s City” UMH 250

WORDS: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848

MUSIC: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1849

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

Jesus is our childhood’s pattern;
day by day, like us he grew;
he was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.

“Once in Royal David’s City” UMH 250

WORDS: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848

MUSIC: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1849

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

Young Disciples' Message



Prayer For Illumination

**Spirit of the living God, fall
afresh on me.**

**Spirit of the living God, fall
afresh on me.**

**Melt me, mold me, fill me,
use me.**

**Spirit of the living God, fall
afresh on me.**



Isaiah 7: 10 - 16

NRSVUE



10 Again 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.

Matthew 1 : 18 – 25

NRSVUE



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 Word of God for
the people of God

Thanks be to God



A baby wearing a red and white Santa hat is holding a small, round, clear Christmas ornament with gold speckles. The baby is looking up and to the left. The background is a soft-focus Christmas scene with pine branches and other ornaments.

Sermon

“Room for Joy”

“What Child Is This” UMH 219

WORDS: William C. Dix, 1865 MUSIC: 16th century English melody

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

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.

“What Child Is This” UMH 219

WORDS: William C. Dix, 1865 MUSIC: 16th century English melody

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.

This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

“What Child Is This” UMH 219

WORDS: William C. Dix, 1865 MUSIC: 16th century English melody

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

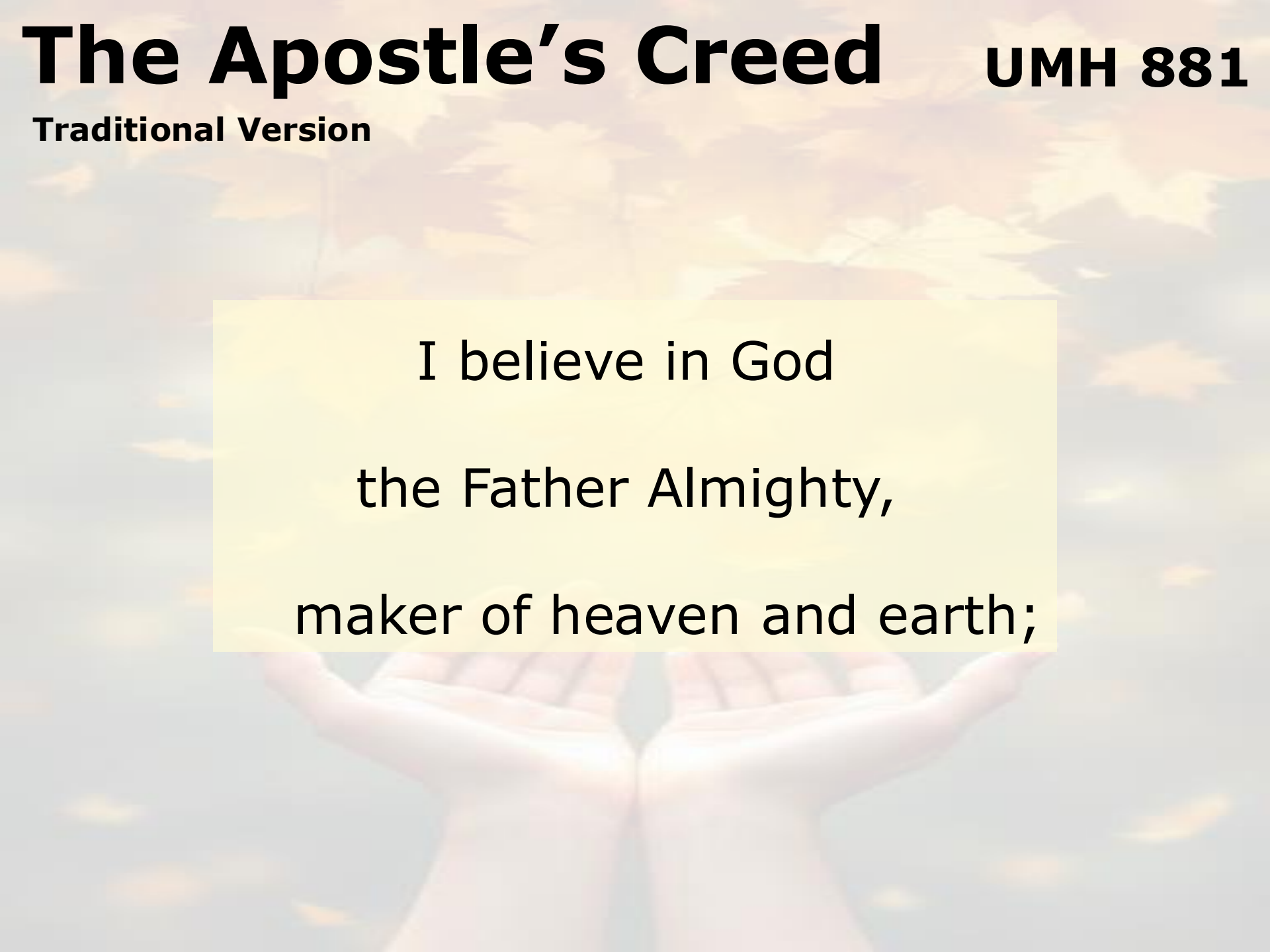
So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.

This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

The Apostle's Creed

UMH 881

Traditional Version

The background of the slide features a soft-focus image of two hands, palms up, holding a collection of autumn leaves in shades of yellow, orange, and brown. The hands are positioned at the bottom of the frame, with the leaves floating above them.

I believe in God
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;

The Apostle's Creed

UMH 881

Traditional Version

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 Apostle's Creed

UMH 881

Traditional Version

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.

The Apostle's Creed

UMH 881

Traditional Version

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.

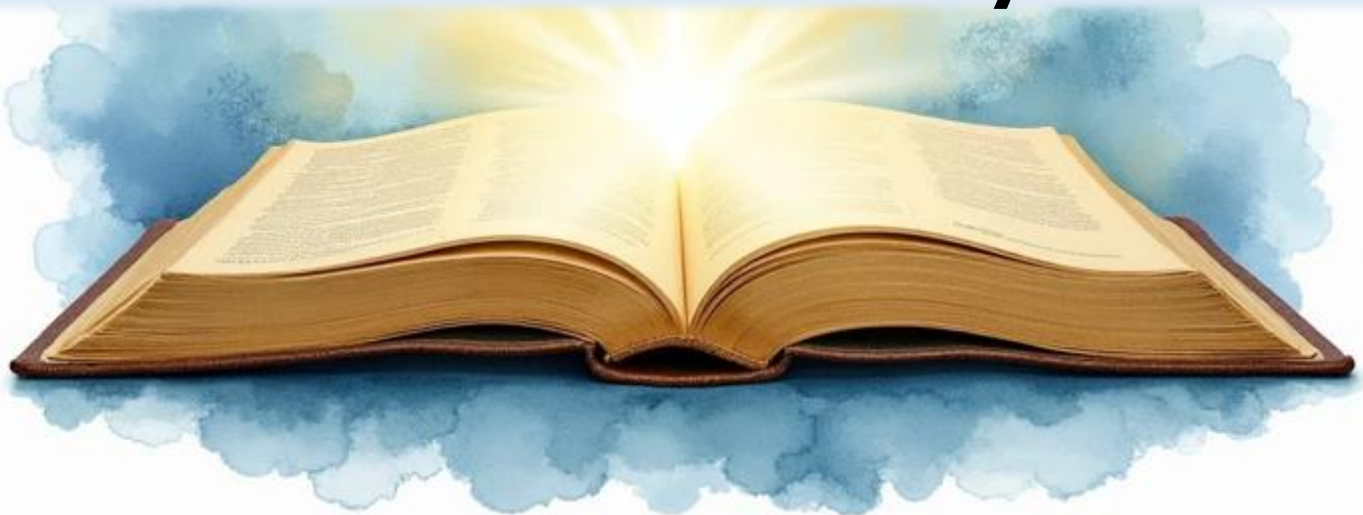


Prayers of the People

Lord,
hear our prayers
as we lift up to
you, our joys
and concerns.



Pastoral Prayer



The Lord's Prayer

UMH 895



Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be
done

on earth as it is in heaven.

The Lord's Prayer

UMH 895



Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as
we forgive those who trespass
against us.

The Lord's Prayer

UMH 895



And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power,

and the glory,

forever.

Amen

The background of the slide features a soft-focus image of autumn leaves in shades of yellow, orange, and brown. In the lower portion, two hands are visible, palms up, in a gesture of offering or prayer. A white rounded rectangle is centered over the image, containing the title and subtitle.

Tithes and Offerings

Worship through giving

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” UMH 94

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted by Gilbert H. Viera, 1978

MUSIC: Geistliche Kirchengesange, 1623; harmonized by Ralph Vaughn Williams, 1906

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The background of the image is a soft-focus photograph of autumn leaves in shades of yellow, orange, and brown. In the lower portion of the image, two hands are visible, palms up, in a gesture of prayer or offering. The hands are slightly out of focus, blending into the overall soft aesthetic of the scene.

Offertory Prayer

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” UMH #240

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739 MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”

Joyful, all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th’angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” UMH #240

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739 MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

Christ, by highest heaven adored;

Christ, the everlasting Lord;

late in time behold him come,

offspring of a virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the God-head see;

hail th'incarnate Deity,

pleased with us in flesh to dwell,

Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark! the herald angels sing,

“Glory to the newborn King!”

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” UMH #240

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739 MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.

Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”



Benediction

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION



Love. Grow. Serve.

This service has ended, and now
your service in the world begins!

Rectortown United Methodist Church

**serving God with
Prayer, Action, and Love
through Service.**