

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

Cantata "Song of Joy" The Morris Chapel Choir

† The Lord's Prayer

Presentation of God's tithes and our offerings

Offertory

† Doxology

*(to the tune of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel)*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow:  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**SENDING FORTH**

† Benediction

† Postlude

*†The congregation is invited to stand, as you are able.*

O Thou, the central orb of righteous love,  
Pure beam of the most High, eternal Light  
Of this our wintry world, Thy radiance bright  
Awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above.  
Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine,  
Gilding our darksome heaven with rays Divine.  
Let Thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin,  
Our nature all shall feel eternal day  
In fellowship with thee, transforming day  
To souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.  
—Henry Ramsden Bramley



**MORRIS CHAPEL  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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Worship Celebration 9:30 AM

Fellowship Time 10:30 AM | Sunday School 10:45 AM

**The Rev. Connie Mitchell Shelton**

Raleigh Area Bishop

**The Rev. Sunny B. Limm**

Fairway District Superintendent

**The Rev. Kevin H. Seymour**

Pastor

**Nancy Martinez**

Assistant to the District Superintendent

# A Service of the Word

Third Sunday of Advent  
December 17, 2023 9:30 AM

On this third Sunday of Advent, we hear Mary's song of praise, or Magnificat. This lowly, Jewish, teenage girl extols the glory of God by declaring the Lord's faithfulness to the ancient covenants and prophecies of Scripture. Mary invites us to respond with joy as she sings of our Savior, the One coming into the world who is Jesus Christ, the Lord. Christmas is a time for joyous music, and so today's Cantata, *Song of Joy*, is a celebration of music new and old on this occasion of recognizing that the long-awaited Messiah has come.

## GATHERING AND PRAISE

### Ringing the Church bell

### Processional

Judy Spivey

### Opening Sentences

Kevin Seymour

The Lord your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save;  
He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love,  
He will rejoice over you with singing. *Zephaniah 3:17*

### † Call to Worship

Be strong and do not fear, God Almighty will come near.

**Happy are those whose hope is in the Lord!**

Praise the Holy Spirit, who came upon the virgin Mary.

**The angel Gabriel brought her the message of God's favor.**

Let every generation bless the name of Mary.

**Though a lowly servant, she brought forth God's own son.**

Bless the name of Mary and the fruit of her womb.

**She named him Jesus. He came to seek and to save the lost.**

He is the wonderful counselor. He is the prince of peace.

**In His name, all oppression shall cease.**

Of His kingdom, there shall be no end.

**Praise we now the Father, and the anointed Son, and the Holy Spirit.**

**Amen!**

### † Opening Prayer

Stir up thy power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

### Assurance of Pardon

*words of comfort are spoken by the minister*

### Lighting of the Advent Candles

**Bryson Baker and Donna Carter**

Last Sunday we lit the candle of peace. We light it and the candle of hope again as we remember that Christ will come again and bring to the world everlasting peace.

*Light the first and second candles*

The third candle of Advent is the candle of joy. It reminds us of the joy that Mary felt when the angel Gabriel told her that a special child would be born to her – a child who would save and deliver his people.

God wants us all to have joy. The angel who announced to the shepherds that Jesus had been born told them: "Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people – for to you is born this day, in the City of David, a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."

We light this candle to remember that Christ brings the promise of a new life – a life in which the blind receive sight, the lame walk, and the prisoners are set free. We light it to remember that He is the bringer of true and everlasting joy.

*Light the third candle*

### Choral Praise

*"Light the Advent Candle"*

### † Hymn

*"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*(verses 4 & 5)

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**O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree, an ensign of thy people be;  
before thee silent rulers fall; all peoples on thy mercy call.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

**O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home.  
The captives from their prison set free, and conquer death's deep misery.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

### † Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:46-55

Inge Hersman

### Children's Lesson

Kevin Seymour

**MORRIS CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**ANNOUNCEMENTS & PARISH NOTICES – December 17, 2023**

**WELCOME!**

Welcome to Morris Chapel United Methodist Church! We are delighted that you joined us in Christian Education and Worship today. Morris Chapel United Methodist Church welcomes visitors who are seeking a church home, those who join us for special occasions, and those who seek relief from life's burdens. Join us in praising God, making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, and giving thanks to a loving God for the blessings of the day!

**CALENDAR**

Every Sunday	9:30 am	Worship Service – in person and Livestream
Sunday	10:30 am	Fellowship Time
Sunday	10:45 am	Sunday Schools
Tuesday	10:00 am	Bible Study “Sunday’s Coming” Pastor Seymour
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Choir Practice – all are welcome

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**First Time Visitors!** We are so glad you joined us, and we hope you return! Please pick up a coffee mug with goodies and info at the front door area as you exit. It is a token of our gratitude and love for visiting our Worship Service. Be blessed!

**The Fellowship Committee** has prepared a special treat for us this morning! Please join us in the Fellowship Hall immediately after the conclusion of the service and Cantata.

**FAVORITE CHRISTMAS COOKIES WANTED** - If you are able, please bring one dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies on December 24th to share in the Fellowship Hall after the Children's Christmas Play to thank them for their service to the Lord. Punch and hot chocolate will also be served. Bring your cookies to the Fellowship Hall before the church service begins on December 24th. Thank you!

**The Morris Chapel Christmas Post Office** is in operation now! Bring your cards to the Post Office location in the Fellowship Hall. The Media Class will sort them, and distribute all at Christmas time. Donations are accepted, of course, and all will be used for charitable purposes. See Margaret Spivey for any questions... Thank you!

**New Site: Accessing Sunday Sermons** is as easy as going on Facebook. Refresh your memory, rethink the messages, be enriched again. May God bless your interest and devotion! Here is the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/MorrisChapelUnitedMethodistChurch>

**PARISH NOTICES**

Please check out [nccumc.org](http://nccumc.org) for listings of programs and offerings beginning in January 2024 through early March. Included are: Conference Wide Leadership Training, Local Church Treasurer Training, What Does Church Look Like Now?, Safer Sanctuaries and Faithful Ministry in a Chaotic World.

***Announcements: by noon on Wednesdays to Laurel Parker at [laurelparker@charter.net](mailto:laurelparker@charter.net) or (919) 271-0963  
AND Mavis Harper at [mavisharper1944@gmail.com](mailto:mavisharper1944@gmail.com) or (919) 770-0489.***

**PLEASE word your announcement as you wish to see it printed.. Thank you**

**After Worship treats will be available in the Fellowship Hall courtesy of  
the Fellowship Committee! Thank you!!**

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Adams Family baby Anna Sanfilippo Sherry Baucom Maryann Bell Rick Billings Brethen Family Richard & Amanda Campbell Kristie Casterlin Congregational Unity Deborah McNeill Cox Shelton Crutchfield Greg Garcia	Ron Hartman Ron Height Connie Hickman <b>Mark Hickman</b> Wayne & Mary Hudson Teresa Ingram Ann Jackson Evan Johnson Nancy Johnson Sandi & Mel Kankelfritz Jeff Ludewig Charles Maddox	Maude Maloney Ann McLeod Maxine McLeod Rhonda McNeill Sandra Norris Leslie & George Orlovsky <b>Peace on Earth</b> Susie Pierce Crosby Price Danielle Rahko Ron & Peggy Scott Kyle Smith	Nathaniel Smith Cynthia Spivey Kenneth Spivey Joey Stewart Joyce Key Thomas United Methodist Church United States of America Pam Vaughan David Wagner Bob & Sandy Woolston Debra Underwood
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### Weekly Attendance, Tithes & Offerings

Attendance 12/10/23 73

Tithes & Offerings	
December Goal to Meet the 2023 Budget	\$ 14,890.12
Needed Each Sunday in December	\$ 4,675.25

NOTE: December Giving will be subtracted from the goal each Sunday.

## WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

**Worship Volunteers**-- you are respectfully asked to arrange for a substitute in the event that you cannot fill your assigned slot. Thank you.

Dec	Acolytes	Children's Message	Lay Readers	Ushers	Greeters	Communion Servers
<b>17</b>	Ian Carter Jason Little	Kevin Seymour	Inge Hersman	Gary Rosser Danny Baker	Greg Vorholt Cindy Vorholt	
<b>24</b>	Caleigh Baker Jase Burris	Richard Angel	George Orlovsky	Gary Maddox Gary Rosser	Marian Huepper Linda Dilley	Kevin Seymour Manuela Seymour Walt Hersman Inge Hersman
<b>31</b>	Paisely Kilmer Teagen Kilmer	Krystle Ray	Manuela Seymour	Ron Mercer Jack Harper	Dan Wissinger Melanie Wissinger	
<b>Jan 7</b>	JC Ray Rylee Ray	Stacey Burris	Doug Currin	Dan Wissinger Melanie Wissinger	Doug Currin Donna Maddox	Kevin Seymour Manuela Seymour Donnie Carter Sandra Carter
<b>14</b>	JC Ray Bryson Baker	Gillian Hubley	Gary Maddox	Jack Harper Janice Holder	Dan Wissinger Melanie Wissinger	

**SONG  
OF  
JOY**



*Before Jesus*

*Song of Joy*

*with Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

*Adore*

*That the World May Know*

*soloists Carol Martell, Pat Davis*

*Somewhere In Your Silent Night*

*with Silent Night, Holy Night*

*He Shall Reign Forevermore*

*with Only King Forever*

*Song of Joy Finale*