

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Presentation of God's tithes and our offerings

Offertory

† Doxology

#95

(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.

Holy Communion

#9

† 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.

The Story of Jesus' Birth

The Morris Chapel Children

SENDING FORTH

† Hymn

"Joy to the World"

246

† Benediction

† Postlude

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

Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine.
Love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.

Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine;
Love to God and all men, love for plea and gift and sign.

--by Christina Rossetti, 1855 (UMH # 242)



**MORRIS CHAPEL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

8533 Cox Mill Road, Sanford, North Carolina 27332

Office – (919) 499-4949

Pastor cell (919) 802-8286 | kseymour@nccumc.org

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 Word and Table

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023

Christmas is the festival during which Christians celebrate the birth of the Christ child in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago. This vulnerable infant, long-awaited and yet still a surprise, is the incarnation of God on earth. We recognize the absolute joy and incredible gift of God choosing to be with us forever. On this day we remember the Christ who came not with fanfare and glory, but into the troubles of a broken and hurting world. Jesus came as a gift into a world of struggle and need, and he comes even now as a gift into our times of hardship. Bless the Lord because Jesus Christ has come to dwell among us as the Son of God, our Savior.

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Ringing the Church bell

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

† Call to Worship

from the Cokesbury Hymnal

Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

For he that is mighty has done to me great things; and holy is his name.

In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

And the light shines in darkness; and the darkness does not overcome it.

Blessed be the name of the Lord forever and ever.

Praise to the Father, and to the only Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Amen!

† Prayer of Confession

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom; in arrogance we trample upon the poor, even while we celebrate the humble birth of Jesus. We accept lies as truth, abuse the earth, and refuse to see the light your coming among us brings. In your great mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek after the things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.

The minister speaks words of assurance and peace

Choral Praise

“Light the Advent Candle”

Choir Trio

Lighting of the Christmas Candle

Krystle Ray and Jason Morton

Advent. Arrival. Appearance. Return. With Christmas, hope, anticipation, joy, and wholeness find their place in the coming of Jesus. It is in this time of arrival that we encounter a reading from the Book of Isaiah on Christmas Eve.

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

This is the word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Light the first, second, third, and fourth candles.

How perfect it is that God would send a child to lead us. The voice of God was heard in the cries of a baby, and that sound reminds us that God cared for us enough to be with us, to save us from the powers of death and destruction and end our journey in darkness. We light this candle knowing that Jesus is born, and Love has come to earth.

Light the Christmas candle.

† Hymn

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

240

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

† Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:1-14

George Orlovsky

Homily

Kevin Seymour

MORRIS CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ANNOUNCEMENTS & PARISH NOTICES – December 24, 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!

UMC Men's Meeting for January will be at Elisabeth's Pizza in Sanford at 7pm 1/04/24. Will be looking for ideas to do for the new year. I hope to see you there! Greg Vorholt 586-201-0687 gregvorholt@yahoo.com

FAVORITE CHRISTMAS COOKIES ARE HERE! – Come over to the Fellowship Hall after the service and enjoy the cookies provided by the ladies of Moris Chapel! Punch and hot chocolate will also be served. Thank you!

The Morris Chapel Christmas Post Office is in operation now! Please stop over to the Fellowship Hall TODAY and pick up your cards. More have arrived since the initial distribution by The Media Class. Thank you!

The 2024 Flower Calendar is posted in the Fellowship Hall on the left bulletin board just as you enter. Please sign in for the Sunday you have chosen and notify the bulletin preparers of the wording for the announcement. 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 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 or (919) 271-0963
AND Mavis Harper at mavisharper1944@gmail.com or (919) 770-0489.
PLEASE word your announcement as you wish to see it printed.. Thank you***

After Worship cookies are provided by the ladies of Morris Chapel. Thank you!!

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Adams Family baby Family of Robin Anderson Danny Baker Sherry Baucom Maryann Bell Rick Billings Bobby Branch, Sr. Brethen Family Kristie Casterlin Congregational Unity Deborah McNeill Cox Shelton Crutchfield	Greg Garcia Henry Hall Ron Hartman Ron Height Connie Hickman Mark Hickman Wayne & Mary Hudson Teresa Ingram Ann Jackson Evan & Leslie Johnson Nancy Johnson Sandi & Mel Kankelfritz Jeff Ludewig	Charles Maddox Maude Maloney Ann McLeod Maxine McLeod Rhonda McNeill Sandra Norris Leslie & George Orlovsky Peace on Earth Susie Pierce Crosby Price Danielle Rahko Anna Sanfilippo 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
---	--	--	--

Weekly Attendance, Tithes & Offerings

Attendance 12/17/23 98

Tithes & Offerings	
December Goal to Meet the 2023 Budget	\$ 11,502.24
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
24	Calleigh Baker Jase Burris	Richard Angel	George Orlovsky	Gary Maddox Gary Rosser	Marian Huepper Linda Dilley	Kevin Seymour Manuela Seymour Walt Hersman Inge Hersman
31	Paisley Kilmer Teagen Kilmer	Krystle Ray	Manuela Seymour	Ron Mercer Jack Harper	Dan Wissinger Melanie Wissinger	
Jan 7	JC Ray Rylee Ray	Stacey Burris	Doug Currin	Dan Wissinger Melanie Wissinger	Doug Currin Donna Maddox	Kevin Seymour Manuela Seymour Donnie Carter Sandra Carter
14	JC Ray Bryson Baker	Gillian Hubley	Gary Maddox	Jack Harper Janice Holder	Dan Wissinger Melanie Wissinger	
21	Jason Morton Calleigh Baker	Richard Angel	Drew Burris	Gerg Vorholt Gary Maddox	Janice Holder Jack Harper	



PLEASE JOIN US FOR

The Story of Jesus' Birth

PRESENTED BY -- The Morris Chapel Children

Sunday, December 24th – Worship hour