

† Hymn      “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”      (verses 2 & 6)      UMH No. 211

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;  
to us the path of knowledge show and cause in her ways to go.

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

O Come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thy justice here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadows put to flight.

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

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Psalter Lesson                                  Psalm 146:5-10                                  Leslie Orlovsky

† Gospel Lesson                                  Luke 1:47-55

Children’s Lesson                                  Krystle Ray

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Cantata                                  “Good News from Home”                                  The Morris Chapel Choir

† Sharing the Peace of Christ

Announcements and Prayer concerns

Prayers for the church and the world, 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

† Hymn                                  “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”                                  UMH No. 240

† Benediction

† Postlude

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



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  
Service of Worship 9:30 AM

Fellowship and Sunday School 10:45 AM

The Rev. Connie Mitchell Shelton                                  The Rev. Kevin H. Seymour  
Raleigh Area Bishop                                  Pastor

# A Service of Word and Hymns

Third Sunday of Advent  
December 14, 2025 9:30 AM

On this Third Sunday of Advent, we hear Mary’s joyful song of praise—the Magnificat—as she extols God’s goodness in choosing her for the greatest of purposes despite her lowly status. On this Sunday when the choir shares our annual cantata, Mary’s faithful response reminds us of the importance of song in the life of faith.

## GATHERING AND PRAISE

## Ringling the Church bell

**Prelude** *"Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head"*

# Leslie Orlovsky

## Opening Sentences

**Kevin Seymour**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and shouting.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.     *Isaiah 35:1-2*

## † 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!**

**Choral Praise** *“Light the Advent Candle”*

## Lighting of the Advent Candles

What must it be like to encounter a season of new life and rebirth in the midst of the winter of the soul? Like an oasis in the desert, life has the ability to spring up at God's command. But we so often can't see it. Maybe it's because we aren't looking. God meets us in our hope to bring joy and to fuel our anticipation. It is in this season of expectation that we encounter a reading from the Book of Isaiah on this third Sunday of Advent.

*The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.*

*Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.*

*A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.*

*And the ransomed shall come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.*

Because our God is a God of justice, we too are a people of justice. The poor will live with the rich, the adult will learn from the child, and God's provision will be enough. We light these candles today to provide a reminder that even a small flame is enough to cast light all around it – assurance that our work for justice can speak with the voice of God.

God is a never-ending source of joy. If we follow and live in the light of God, we will be sustained through the darkest night and know that joy can defeat hopelessness. We light this candle today as a sign of this deep and abiding sense of joy. “Sorrow and sighing shall flee away”

*Three candles are lit.*



# **GOOD NEWS**

from

# **HOME**

Arranged by Russell Maludin

## **Contents**

**Good News from Home Medley**

**Cherish That Name**

**Make Room for Jesus (Pastor Kevin Seymour, soloist)**

**Christ Is Born Medley**

**Manger Medley**

**O Holy Night (Bill Gross, soloist)**

**O Night Divine (Leslie Orlovsky, soloist)**

**Tell the Good News Medley**

# *WELCOME TO MORRIS CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH*

*~ I was glad when they said unto me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!" ~*

## **This week at Morris Chapel**

Sunday – Worship service @ 930 AM; Fellowship & Sunday School, 10:45.

Tuesday – Pastor's Bible Study, 10 AM.

Morris Chapel events & activities are published online at: [www.morrischapelumc.org/events](http://www.morrischapelumc.org/events)

## **For the good of the church**

As we come to the close of 2025, I ask you to prayerfully consider a year-end gift to Morris Chapel. Your generosity supports worship, missions, discipleship, children & youth ministries, pastoral care, and the daily work of sharing the love of Christ in our community and around the world. – *Pastor Kevin.*

**Christmas Card Post Office.** The Media SS Class invites you to drop off your Christmas cards for others in the church in the Fellowship Hall today through Dec. 21.

Please alphabetize your cards and they'll be placed in mailboxes for pickup.

**Christmas Eve worship** with Holy Communion will be at 4pm.

## **Missions**

**Coat Drive** --for children at local elementary schools. New coats only -- sizes small (6) to XL (16) boys and girls.

**Local charities**—Morris Chapel provides annual financial support to the following: The Breadbasket, Christians United Outreach Center, El Refugio, Family Promise of Lee Co., Haven House, Outreach Mission of Sanford, and the Helping Hand Clinic.

## **Upcoming**

**Church calendar online:** If you'd like to keep up with Morris Chapel events, activities, & meetings you'll find a current calendar online at [www.morrischapelumc.org/events](http://www.morrischapelumc.org/events).

**Jan. 4.** Bring non-perishable food items & seasonings for the food pantry at Love Grove AME Zion Church.

**Jan. 5.** Methodist Men Meeting, 6:30 PM.

**Jan. 7.** Children and Youth night, 6-7 PM.

**Jan. 11 – 17.** Family Promise Partner Week. See Karen Rosser.

**Jan. 12.** PPRC Safe Sanctuaries Planning Meeting, 6:30 PM. **Finance** Meeting, 7 PM.

**Jan. 19.** Church Council Meeting, 7 PM.

## Keep these in your prayers

**New this week:** Ernestine Black, Sue Buie, Berky Perkins, Betty Whitehurst.

Morgan Baker B. Chapman Jeff Cummings Mandy Dalrymple Peggy Danielsen Warren Edwards Bill Farwick Katie Garcia Hinson Baby Samson Hinson	Casey Goldberg Crystal Hall Elva Hall Dennis Hartman Lewis Hartman Bryant Hickman Edith Howard Nancy Johnson	Jared Lett Dano Linehan Kevin Klumpp Maude Maloney Landon Massa Nancy McDuffie Linda McNeill Rhonda McNeill Robert Mudd Kathy Pembroke	Susie Pierce Ron & Peggy Scott Donna Sloan Phil Spivey Shelby Truelove Louise Walker Dave Whitney Bob Woolston Sandy Woolston Betty Zann
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Send prayer requests & to Pastor Kevin @ 919-802-8286, kseymour@nccumc.org,  
or use the yellow prayer card request found in your pew pocket.

### Weekly Attendance, Tithes & Offerings

**Attendance last Sunday: 78**

<b>2025 Budget - Needed to Date:</b>	<b>\$ 191,377.91</b>
<b>2025 Budget - Received to Date:</b>	<b>\$ 195,581.48</b>
<b>Running Surplus /(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 4,203.57</b>

Given to each of us is the opportunity to fully participate in God's good work by supporting the ministries of Morris Chapel in the most generous manner that you can.

*Do good, be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share. 1 Timothy 6:18*

### Serving in Worship

	<b>Acolytes</b>	<b>Children's Lesson</b>	<b>Lay Readers</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Communion Servers</b>
<b>Dec. 14</b>	Calleigh Baker Rylee Ray	Krystle Ray	Leslie Orlovsky	Daniel Baker Bryson Baker	George Orlovsky	
<b>Dec. 21</b>	Paisley Kilmer Teagan Kilmer	Stacey Burris	Rylee Ray	Drew Burris Gary Rosser	Danny Baker	
<b>Dec. 28</b>	Rylee Ray Callen Morris	Krystle Ray	Jason Kilmer	Donnie Carter Ian Carter	Danny Baker	
<b>Jan. 4</b>	Calleigh Baker Lincoln Brewer	Stacey Burris	Calleigh Baker	Daniel Baker Bryson Baker	Donnie Carter	Krystle Ray Morgan Baker
<b>Jan. 11</b>	Jase Burris Cole Burris	Krystle Ray	Isabelle Sturgill	Jason Kilmer Dan Wissinger	Crystal Burichin	
<b>Jan. 18</b>	Calleigh Baker Rylee Ray	Stacey Burris	Drew Burris	Ron Mercer George Orlovsky	Gail Thomas	

**You are respectfully asked to arrange for a substitute  
in the event that you cannot fill your assigned slot.**  
If you have changes, let Pastor Kevin or Peggy Baker know.  
Thank you for serving the good of God's church.