

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

† Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verses 1 & 6) #211

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

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

O come, O Bright and Morning Star, and bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night and turn our darkness into light.

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

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.

Holy Communion # 9

SENDING FORTH

† Hymn "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" (verses 1 & 3) # 203

† Benediction

† Postlude

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

"O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide"

O Savior, rend the heavens wide; Come down, come down with mighty stride;
Unlock the gates, the doors bread down; Unbar the way to heaven's crown.

O Morning Star, O radiant Sun, When will our hearts behold Your dawn?
O Sun, arise; without Your light We grope in gloom and dark of night.



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

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

Today we celebrate the first Sunday in Advent. Advent is Latin for “coming.” It celebrates the most important news about the past and the most important news about the future. Christ has come; and Christ is coming back. Just as the coming of Christ as a baby in Bethlehem took everyone by surprise, although it had long been predicted, so the coming of Christ in glory will no doubt take everyone by surprise, although it too has long been predicted. We place a wreath in the sanctuary to represent the four Sundays of Advent and the central moment of Christmas. The first Sunday of Advent commemorates the longing of Israel for the Kingdom of God.

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Ringing the Church bell

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Judy Spivey

Choral Praise

“*Light the Advent Candle*”

Choir

† Call to Worship

from Isaiah 64 and Mark 13

Glory be to the Father, who’s breath will make the mountains quake.
Let him tear open the heavens and be known to all the nations.

Glory be to Jesus Christ, the Father’s only Son.
Our Lord is very near. He’s at the very gates.

Give glory to the Holy Spirit, and be kindled by his fire.
**We sing praise to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
Alleluia and Amen!**

† Prayer of Confession

Merciful, we are sorely hindered by our bent to sin. We often forget the guiding truth of your love for us. Forgive us of our indifference to your will. Look away when we forget the great gift we’ve been given. Forgive us of our pride, and drive us to our knees in humility before you. Lord, have mercy on us and forgive us. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon and Peace

words of comfort are spoken by the minister

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Ian Carter and Karen Rosser

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the Sunday in which we recall the hope we have in Christ.

The prophets of Israel all spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a savior would be born, a king in the line of David. They spoke of how he would rule the world wisely and bless all nations.

On Christmas day, the Christ of our hope was born. On Good Friday, the Christ of our hope died. On Easter day, the Christ of our hope rose from the dead.

He then ascended into heaven. On the last day, the Christ of our hope will come again to establish his kingdom over all things on earth.

As the followers of Christ, we await his return. We light this candle to remember that as he came to us humbly in the manger at Bethlehem and gave light to the world, so he is coming again in power to deliver his people.

We light this candle to remind us to be alert and to watch for his return.

Light the first candle

† Hymn

“*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*”

196

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 64:1-9

Steve Huepper

Anthem

“*Come As You Are*”

Choir

Children’s Lesson

Krystle Ray

† Gospel Lesson

Mark 13:24-33

Steve Huepper

Sermon

“*Here Comes God*”

Kevin Seymour

MORRIS CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ANNOUNCEMENTS & PARISH NOTICES – December 3, 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!

Today’s Altar Flowers are given by Greg and Marcia Garcia in celebration of 58 years of marriage given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

2024 Volunteer Sign-up sheet is in your bulletin. Please consider volunteering in 2024... as the hands and feet of Christ, this is one way to contribute to the growth of the Kingdom by serving your church! Thank you!

Orlovsky Information: For those who have been wanting to reach Leslie and George, here is their current information: 638 Chelsea Drive, Sanford 27332 Leslie cell (919) 499-7781 George cell (919) 499-7721 Home (919) 498-8877 and emails are: Leslie lesorlo77@aol.com George georgeorlovsky@aol.com.

Christmas Cantata: The Christmas cantata “Song of Joy” will be presented on Sunday, December 17, during the 9:30 am service.

BIBLE STUDY: A study of the book of Philippians has started in classroom #3 (Searching Scripture for Christian Living.) at 10:50. Bring a Bible and be ready to read, listen and discuss the letter written by Paul to the church in Philippi. All scripture is God breathed.... So come and let the Word speak to you today! *It's not too late to join us!*

The Morris Chapel Christmas Post Office will be in operation this Christmas season starting TODAY! 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

Fairway District of NC is promoting the following courses/opportunities:

Next Gen Faith Builders: information on children’s programs – course offered in Jan. 2024

Leadership Training: learn more about church positions: Trustees, Council, Finance, S/PPRC Jan. 2024

Spring Confirmation Retreat: will be held in March 2024 – for newly confirmed youth; sign up now

OTHER COURSES ARE ALSO LISTED AT THE WEBSITE

***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 coffee, beverages and BIRTHDAY CAKE will be available in the Fellowship Hall!

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Adams Family baby Anna's surgery & Gino's death – Manuela's friends Sherry Baucom Maryann Bell Rick Billings Brethen Family Richard & Amanda Campbell Kristie Casterlin Congregational Unity Deborah McNeill Cox Shelton Crutchfield Connie & Doug Currin	Greg Garcia Ron Hartman Ron Height Connie Hickman 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 Middle East atrocities Sandra Norris Leslie & George Orlovsky Peace on earth Susie Pierce Crosby Price Danielle Rahko Residents of Gaza Ron & Peggy Scott Family of Prentice Sharpe	Kyle Smith Nathaniel Smith Cynthia Spivey Kenneth Spivey Joey Stewart Joyce Key Thomas Family of Kelly Thomas United Methodist Church United States of America Pam Vaughan David Wagner Sandy Woolston Debra Underwood
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Weekly Attendance, Tithes & Offerings

Attendance 11/26/23 78

Tithes & Offerings	
December Goal to Meet the 2023 Budget	\$ 23,376.24
Needed Each Sunday in December	\$ 4,675.25

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

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Dec	Acolytes	Children's Message	Lay Readers	Ushers	Greeters	Communion Servers
3	Rylee Ray Jase Burris	Krystle Ray	Steve Huepper	Jack Harper Greg Vorholt	Hank Richards Drew Burris	Kevin Seymour Manuela Seymour Doug Currin Tommy Vaughan
10	Bryson Baker Calleigh Baker	Richard Angel	Drew Burris	Danny Baker Drew Burris	Marcia Garcia Jack Harper	
17	Ian Carter Jason Little	Krystle Ray	Inge Hersman	Gary Rosser Danny Baker	Greg Vorholt Cindy Vorholt	
24	Calleigh Baker Jase Burris	Richard Angel	George Orlovsky	Richard Angel Hank Richards	Marian Huepper Linda Dilley	
31	JC Ray Rylee Ray	Krystle Ray	Manuela Seymour	Wayne Stack Donnie Carter	Donna Maddox Laurel Parker	

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

Doug Currin	Maude Maloney
Cindy Griffin	Hank Richards
Dawn Holmes	Karen Rosser
Amanda Holt	Joseph Schroeder
Wayne Hudson	