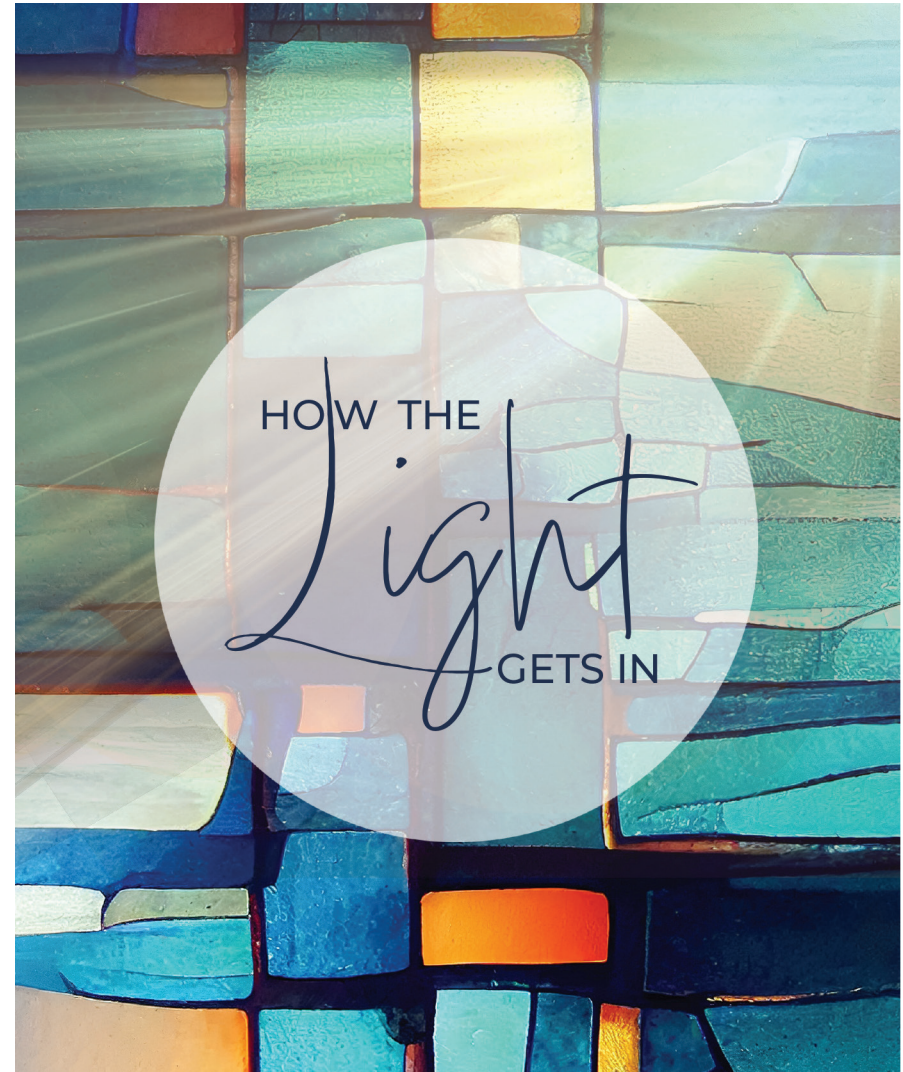


*Thank You for Joining Us Today!*



## ***New Traditions***

***December 24, 2023***

*Christmas Eve*

## Services

New Traditions – 8:15 a.m. (Chapel)  
Sanctuary Worship – 10:30 a.m. (Sanctuary)  
Contemporary Worship - 10:30 a.m. (Canterbury Center)



**Young Adults & New Members Pastor** - Rev. Matthew Montgomery

**Children's Pastor** - Rev. Ruth Grissom

**Youth Pastor** - Rev. Seth Moon

**High School Pastor** - Rev. Gann Waters - Wright

**Bishop in Residence** - Dr. Mike Watson

**Choirmaster and Organist** - Dr. Lester Seigel



## Who Are We

As people of the church, we are committed to following Jesus with an authentic faith. We seek to be real and authentic in every part of our lives because we believe that Jesus wants to know us. We also believe that Jesus wants to meet us wherever we are in life. At Canterbury United Methodist Church, this is what it means to be in relationship with Christ.

Jesus said the most important thing we can do is to love God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind, and love our neighbor as our self. This simple yet profound statement represents the real grace and real love Jesus has for all people, particularly those whom the rest of the world often overlooks. This statement from Jesus also represents the very nature of who God is. Through sharing real grace and real love with people, Jesus brought healing into their lives. At Canterbury, we seek to follow Jesus' example, striving to share and experience real grace and real love in our real life.

## Real Grace

Grace stands as a central tenant to our community. It is at the very core of who we are as children of God because it is part of our lives before we are even aware of it. We confess that we are each imperfect, regularly falling short of our own standards and God's. God loves us anyway just as we are. God initiates every relationship with us through grace. God's grace can never be earned, it is all gift. We, as God's children, strive to do the same with each other. We start with grace given to us by God. We live offering the same grace to ourselves and one another.

## Real Love

In a world where people are sometimes criticized for being different, the people of the church are called to be intentionally different. Our Holy Scriptures remind us that we are all created in the image of God; and, if God is Love, then we are created in the image of love. God as revealed in Jesus Christ is what real love looks like. When we are most true to who we are created to be, we are loving. At Canterbury, we seek to embody that love is patient and kind ... and we particularly like it best when it is a verb.

## Real Life

God constantly invites us into a life of full connection with God and others through Jesus Christ. This is the real life we are created for. Nothing but relationship with God and each other will truly satisfy the longing inside us. We believe this is the path to real, abundant life. Our desire is to walk this path together.

**CANTERBURYUMC.ORG**

# Welcome to Canterbury!

## *We are so glad you chose to worship with us today!*

We want you to feel at home. Through close relationships, the study of scripture, education, and caring for others, our goal is to connect you to God, each other, and His world in a real and meaningful way. We want to be a place where you will meet Jesus exactly where you are. You will find a community of real people, led by leaders who express their real experiences to help renew and empower you to follow Him. So no matter where you are in life, we invite you to come as you are and to live for something greater.

If you need help finding your way around, we have welcome guides located at our main entrances and outside the worship areas. We look forward to connecting with you!

## WORSHIP:

**Children in Worship** All children are welcome in worship! The sight, sounds, and interactions of worship are appropriate for every age. We have worship resources available as you enter the worship space including a Worship Activity bag.

Excellent nursery care is also available to children through 4 years old, however we love having all ages worshipping together and look forward to the ways they can help us worship God.

Children's Ministry at Canterbury begins at birth. Nursery is provided for infants and preschoolers for all regularly scheduled worship services. Nursery for other activities and church events can be provided. Please feel free to contact Selena Pitsch at [selena.pitsch@canterburyumc.org](mailto:selena.pitsch@canterburyumc.org) with any questions about nursery. Canterbury uses a computer check-in system as part of our Safe Sanctuary Policy.

Help us to celebrate the new life in our congregation by sharing the exciting news with us! We love to celebrate the new life in our congregation by placing a rose on the lectern so our church family is aware of your family additions. Roses will be placed in the Sanctuary unless you let us know that you prefer Canterbury Center Worship. But first, we need you

to let us know when your family is welcoming a new baby and hope you will contact [linda.carpenter@canterburyumc.org](mailto:linda.carpenter@canterburyumc.org) so that we can all celebrate another child in our midst.

**Watch Online** We understand the challenges you face and we strive to be a church that is accessible to you whenever and however you need us. Our Sanctuary and Contemporary Worship services are available on our website.

## CONNECT:

**Next Steps Class** This class is a basic introduction to our church family and a wonderful time for you to continue building connections with other followers of Christ. Since many of us come from different church backgrounds, this class is designed to clearly explain who we are, what we believe, and how you can take the next steps in partnering with us to build the Kingdom of God. After attending these classes, it is our hope you will decide to make Canterbury your new church home. For more information, please contact Becky King at [becky.king@canterburyumc.org](mailto:becky.king@canterburyumc.org).

## MEET WITH ONE OF OUR PASTORS

Our pastors would love to meet with you over coffee and get to know you. You can bring any questions you might have and get to know a little more about Canterbury, the United Methodist Church, and anything else you want to talk about. Contact the church office at 205-871-4695 to set that up.

## Contact Us

**Church Office:** 205.871.4695

**To Join:** [matthew.montgomery@canterburyumc.org](mailto:matthew.montgomery@canterburyumc.org)  
205.868.6590 x2327

**Pastoral Care Response Line:** 205.999.4887

# Order of Worship

## Welcome and Announcements

\* **Hymn 234** O Come, All Ye Faithful, vv. 1, 2, 3, 7 ADESTE FIDELIS

*Between the 3rd and 7th verse, the Christ Candle on the Advent Wreath will be lit. The lighting of this candle signifies that the promise has been fulfilled: Jesus the Christ is born! Glory to God in the highest!*

**Collect** *The Lord be with you. And also with you. Let us pray.*

**Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## Gloria In Excelsis

*All f*

Glo - ry to God in the high - est! Sing glo - ry to God! \_\_\_\_\_

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth! \_\_\_\_\_

**Psalter Reading** (Chanted) Psalm 96: 9 - 13 Stan Nelson, cantor

Worship the Lord in \* holy splendor;

**tremble before the Lord, \* all the earth!**

Say among the nations, "The \* Lord reigns!

**The Lord has established the world, it will ne-\*ver be moved.**

**The Lord will judge the people with \* equity."**

Let the heavens be glad, and let the \* earth rejoice; | let the sea roar and all \* that fills it;

let the field exult, and every-\* thing in it

**Then shall all the trees of the wood \* sing for joy**

**before the Lord who comes to \* judge the earth.**

**The Lord will judge the world with \* righteousness, | and all the people \* with his truth.**

The word of God for the peo-\*ple of God. **Thanks \* be to God.**

## Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God, have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive our sins, known and unknown, those things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## All Pray in Silence

### Kyrie 482

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.** Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.** Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

### Words of Pardon

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are a forgiven people. **Glory to God! Amen.**

\* **The Peace** The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you, **and also with you.**

Sha - lom, Sha - lom, the peace of God be here. Sha - lom, Sha - lom, God's jus - tice be ev - er near.

\* **Gospel Alleluia** (*Sung before and after the Gospel Lesson*)

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

\* **Gospel Lesson**

Luke 2: 1 - 20

*The word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.*

## Homily

Rev. Hill Carmichael

**Response to the Word 240** Hark! the Herald Angels Sing, vv. 1 & 3

MENDELSSOHN

**Prayers of the People** *Lord in your mercy...* **hear our prayer.**

## Giving Our Tithes and Offerings

### Anthem

On Christmas Night

arr. Philip Ledger

On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring;  
News of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be sad, Since our Redeemer made us glad?  
When from our sin He set us free, All for to gain our liberty.

When sin departs before His grace, Then life and health come in its place;  
Angels and men with joy may sing, All for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light, Which made the angels sing this night:  
"Glory to God and peace to men, Now and forevermore. Amen."

\* **Doxology & Wesley's Grace**

VENI EMMANUEL

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Him, all creatures here below;  
praise Him above ye heavenly hosts,  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

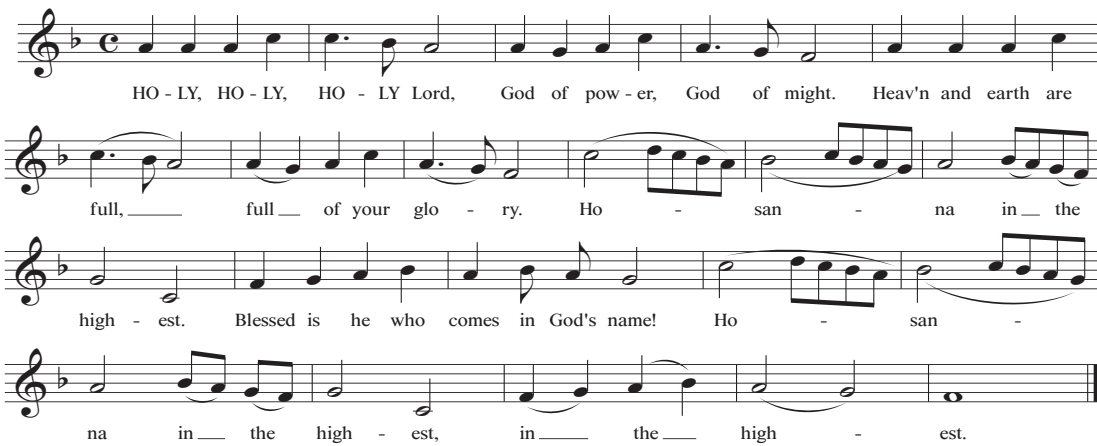
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through the prophets.

**And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:**



HOLY, HOLY, HOLY Lord, God of pow - er, God of might. Heav'n and earth are  
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Blessed is he who comes in God's name! Ho - san -  
na in the high - est, in the high - est.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

**And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:**



Christ has died; Christ is ris - en; Christ will come a - gain.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

**Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.**

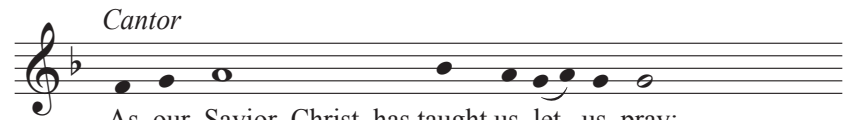


A - men, A - men.




## The Lord's Prayer (Chanted)

*Cantor*

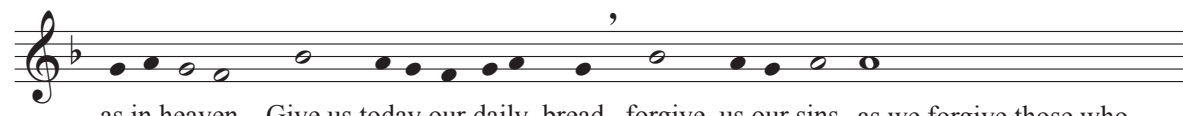


As our Savior Christ has taught us, let us pray:

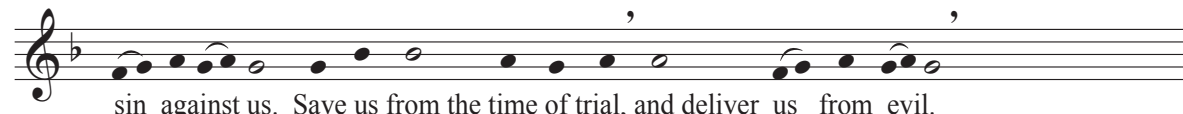
*All*



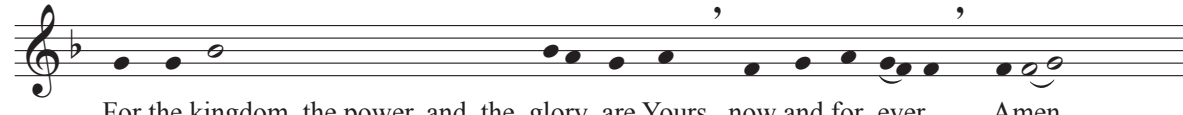
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your Name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth



as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who



sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.



For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who brings forth bread from the earth. Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, become one as we partake of it. Is not the breaking of this bread a means of sharing in the body of Christ?

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who creates the fruit of the vine. Is not the cup a means of sharing in the blood of Christ?

## Fraction Anthem

Agnus Dei  
*Please sing along with the choir.*

BELL AGNUS

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**  
**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**  
**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us your peace.**

## Receiving the Bread and Cup

*All are welcome to receive the sacrament. You do not have to be a member of Canterbury or of the United Methodist Church. It is the Lord's table and all of God's children are welcome. Ushers will guide you.*

## Music During Communion

What Sweeter Music

John Rutter

## \* Prayer After Receiving

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. May we be transformed into your image. 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 first candle in each pew of the aisle will be lit.  
As worshipers receive the light, they will pass it to their neighbors.  
Candle Safety: Lighted candle remains vertical.  
Tilt the unlit candle toward the candle already burning.*

## Receiving the Light that Represents the Good News of the Savior's Birth

## \* Candlelight Hymn

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

**Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child!  
Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from Heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!**

**Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light; radiant beams from thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

**Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!**

## \* Dismissal with Blessing

## Thank you for visiting Canterbury!

We are so glad you are here and we would love to connect with you. Let us know you are here by following this link: [www.canterburyumc.org/guests](http://www.canterburyumc.org/guests) or you can scan this QR code.



## Year-End Giving Reminders

The end of the year is almost here! For your contributions to qualify as a 2022 tax-deductible donation, the IRS requires that they must be received or postmarked by December 31, 2023. Here are the specific deadlines:

BY MAIL: The postmark date on the envelope must be no later than December 31.

IN PERSON: If you wish to drop off your contribution, the finance office will be open until noon on Thursday, December 28 or you may insert your donation in the receptacle at the receptionist desk.

ONLINE GIVING: Online gifts must be submitted before midnight, December 31. Visit [canterburyumc.org/giving](http://canterburyumc.org/giving) and scroll down to follow the step-by-step instructions.

TEXT GIVING: Text gifts must be submitted by midnight, December 31. Text to 205-336-2111 with the amount you wish to contribute to the 2022 ministry in the message area. Tap the "Give" link on the Canterbury app or visit [canterburyumc.org](http://canterburyumc.org) and click "Giving" to follow the step-by-step instructions.

STOCK: Stock gifts must be transferred to the church before the stock market closes at 3:00 p.m. CST on Friday, December 29. Please notify Carolyn Phillips at 874-1553 by noon with the details of your stock transaction and to confirm instructions.

## December 31

The New Traditions service will be held at its usual time of 8:15 A.M.  
The 10:30 A.M. services will combine in Canterbury Center.

## Happening at Canterbury

### Book Club with John Archibald | January 8 | 11:30 AM

The January book is "Shaking the Gates of Hell" and will be led by the author himself, John Archibald. Lunch is available for \$12. Register now: [www.canterburyumc.org/grow/adults](http://www.canterburyumc.org/grow/adults)

### Men's Prayer Breakfast | January 16 | 6:30 AM

All men are invited to this breakfast on Tuesday, January 16. We'll enjoy breakfast and fellowship, and will also discuss the upcoming events specifically designed for men of the church. So, if you are interested in being a part of a Life Group, signing up for a Men's Retreat, or being a part of any of the upcoming ministries for men, you don't want to miss this breakfast event! Register now: [www.canterburyumc.org/mens-breakfast](http://www.canterburyumc.org/mens-breakfast)

### Emotionally Healthy Relationships | Begins January 17 | 5:30 PM

This course, led by Annie Skinner, is based on core Biblical principles to guide you into an experience of discipleship that will deeply change your life. You will learn 8 practical relationship skills to develop mature, loving relationships with others. Wednesday nights from 5:30-7:30 PM, January 17-March 13. Register now: [www.canterburyumc.org/grow/adults](http://www.canterburyumc.org/grow/adults)

### Next Steps | Begins January 21 | 9:15 AM

New to Canterbury? This Sunday morning class is a basic introduction to our church family and a wonderful time for you to continue building connections with others. It will be held on Sunday mornings, 1/21- 2/11. To register, please email Becky King at [becky.king@canterburyumc.org](mailto:becky.king@canterburyumc.org).

### Women's Dinner Event | January 23 | 6 PM

Women of all ages are invited to attend "Flourishing with Faith and Joy" – a special evening of faith, fellowship and fun. The night will feature guest speakers Betty Gunn and Laura Sisson and a delicious Italian meal will be served (\$20 per person). This is a great opportunity to mingle with old friends and to meet new people at Canterbury! Invite a friend! Register: [www.canterburyumc.org/community/united-methodist-women](http://www.canterburyumc.org/community/united-methodist-women)

### Guest Speaker David Thomas | January 28 | 2-4 PM

RAISING BOYS - What does it look like to raise boys with emotional strength? Young men who have the skills and resources to navigate all the moments of life - from the first day of school to conflict with friends, losing games, facing challenges, and developing resilience. This session will equip you to help boys develop three foundational ingredients for emotional health, known as the 3 R's. You will walk away with questions to ask the kids in your life, practical ideas and intentional practices for building emotional strength in your family. We hope you'll plan to join us! For more info on David Thomas, visit: [raisingboysandgirls.com](http://raisingboysandgirls.com)

### Rise Against Hunger | February 25 & 26

It's back! And this year our goal is to pack 200,000 meals! This is a wonderful opportunity to serve with your Sunday school class, small group, or even your neighbors and friends. Many hands and hearts are needed, so go ahead and register for a shift today by scanning the QR code or by visiting [www.canterburyumc.org/rise-against-hunger](http://www.canterburyumc.org/rise-against-hunger)

