



Thank You for Joining Us Today!



New Traditions

December 17, 2023

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Thank you for visiting!

We are so glad to have you as our guest in worship and we would love to connect with you. Let us know you are here by scanning this QR code or by following this link: www.canterburyumc.org/attendance



Senior Pastor - Rev. Keith Thompson
Pastor - Rev. Hill Carmichael
Pastor - Rev. Tori Hastings
Pastor - Dr. Bill Morgan
Pastor - Rev. Sheryl Thornton
Pastor - Rev. Sam Williamson
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 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 need you to let us know when your family is welcoming a new baby and hope you will contact linda.carpenter@canterburyumc.org so that we can all celebrate another child in our midst.

Things to Know:

- *Hearing assist devices are now available – ask an usher for assistance*
- *The Children's Comfort Room is a place where you may sit with your child. It is adjacent to the Narthex*

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.

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
205.868.6590 x2327

Pastoral Care Response Line: 205.999.4887

Order of Worship

How the Light Gets In

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Reader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Reader: Let us pray:

All: Lord God, we thank you for revealing yourself though Jesus, and we praise you for the greatness of your love. Help us to share your peace with others and live our lives more like Christ every day. In His name we pray. Amen.

Our Advent Candle readers are volunteers in our Encore Respite Ministry.

Lou Ann & George Sherling

* Carol 211

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, vv. 1, 2, 3, 7

VENI EMMANUEL

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.**

Jessie Mayne, cantor

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.**



Bidding Prayer

The First Lesson:

Isaiah 52: 7 - 10

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

Anthem

The First Tree in the Greenwood

Cornish carol, arr. Crawford Thoburn

Now the holly bears a berry as white as the milk, and Mary bore Jesus, all wrapped up in silk:

(Refrain): And Mary bore Jesus Christ, our Savior for to be.

And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.

Now the holly bears a berry as black as the coal, and Mary bore Jesus, who died for us all.

(Refrain)

Now the holly bears a berry as blood is it red! Then trust we our Savior, who rose from the dead.

(Refrain)

The Second Lesson:

Matthew 1: 18 - 21

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

Anthem

Maria Walks Amid the Thorn

German carol, arr. William Hunt

Maria walks amid the thorn, Kyrie eleison. Maria walks amid the thorn,

That seven years no leaf has born, Jesus and Maria.

What 'neath her heart doth Mary bear? Kyrie eleison. A little child doth Mary bear,

Beneath her heart he nestles there, Jesus and Maria.

And as the two were passing by, Kyrie eleison. Lo, roses on the thorns appear,

Lo, roses on the thorn appear. Jesus and Maria; Kyrie eleison.

The Third Lesson:

Matthew 2: 8 - 20

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

Anthem

I Saw Three Ships

English carol, arr. Parker/Shaw

I saw three ships come sailing in, on Christmas day in the morning.

And what was in those ships all three? Our Savior Christ, and his Lady.

Pray, whither sailed those ships all three? O, they sailed into Bethlehem.

And all the bells on earth shall ring, and all the angels in heaven shall sing.

And all the souls on earth shall sing, on Christmas day in the morning.

Then let us all rejoice amain, on Christmas day in the morning!

The Fourth Lesson:

John 1: 1 - 14

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

Anthem

'Round the Glory Manger

Spiritual, arr. K. Lee Scott

Angel Baker, solo

They turn 'way Mary and a Joseph 'way from the inn, and that's what made the glory manger.

Refrain: And a hallelujah, Lord! Wasn't that a bright mornin', all 'round the glory manger!

They laid my pretty little Jesus down in the straw, and that's what made the glory manger. (Refrain)

And all his pretty little fingers played in the straw, and that's what made the glory manger. (Refrain)

Giving Our Tithes and Offerings

* Doxology & Wesley's Grace

**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.**

**Be present at our table, Lord;
be here and everywhere adored;
Thy creatures bless, and grant that we
may feast in paradise with Thee.**

VENI EMMANUEL

The Great Thanksgiving

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

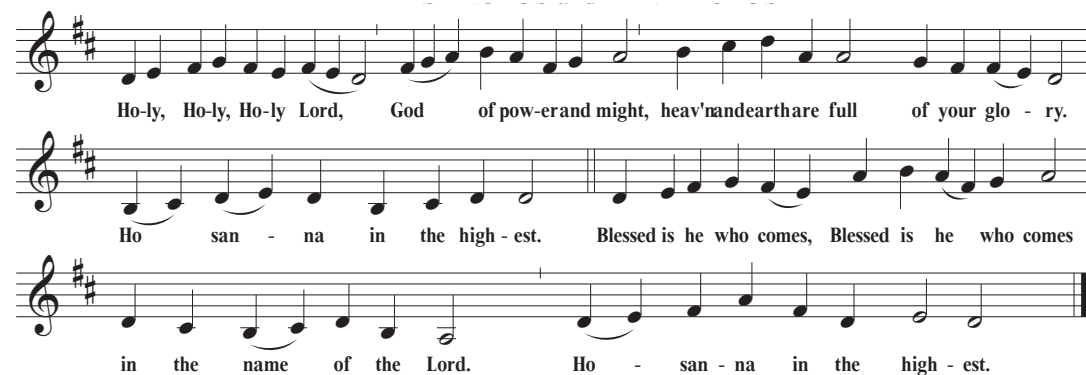
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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:



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

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 ri - sen, 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.

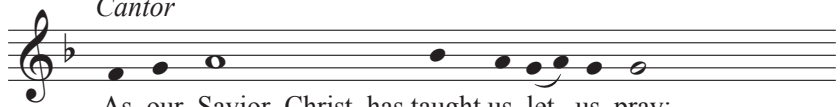
Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.



A - men, A - men, A - men.


The Lord's Prayer (Chanted)

Cantor




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

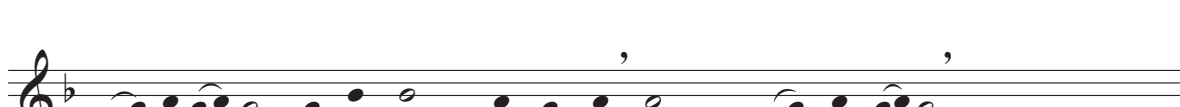
All




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

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

The Rose of Sharon

Douglas Wagner

Go, pretty child, and bear this flow'r Unto thy little Savior;
 And tell him, by that bud now blown, he is the Rose of Sharon known.

When thou hadst said so, stick it there upon his bib or stomacher;
 And tell him for good handsel too, that thou hast brought a whistle new.

Tell him for coral, O thou hast none, but if thou hadst, he should have one;
 But poor thou art, and known to be even as moneyless, even as he.

Lastly, if thou canst win a kiss from those mellifluous lips of his,
 Then never take a second on to spoil the first impression. (Robert Herrick)

* 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.

* Benediction

* Choral Response

Congratulations to

Grace & Neal NeSmith in the birth of their daughter, Virginia Brittain NeSmith, born December 7, 2023.

Thanksgiving for the lives of

Judy Fitzpatrick.....December 10, 2023
 Belva Lyon.....December 11, 2023

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

Join us for Book Club from 11:30 AM-12:30 PM in Room M200. The January book is "Shaking the Gates of Hell" and will be led by the author himself, John Archibald. Lunch is available for \$12, email clare.mallette@canterburyumc.org to order. Register: www.canterburyumc.org/grow/adults

Winter Studies | Begin January 10

Join us on January 10 when Wednesday night dinner returns along with Winter Session 1 studies. For a list of class options and to register, please visit: www.canterburyumc.org/grow/adults

Confirmation Retreat | January 12-14

7th grade YACs! It's almost time for the Confirmation Retreat - an incredible weekend at Shocco Springs. You don't want to miss it! Register now at: www.canterburyumc.org/grow/youth/#confirmation

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

All men of Canterbury are invited to the Men's Prayer 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 in the church, you don't want to miss this breakfast event! Registration coming soon.

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.

Women's Dinner Event | January 23 | 6 PM

Canterbury women of all ages are invited to attend "Flourishing with Faith and Joy" – a very special evening of faith, fellowship and fun. The night will feature guest speakers Betty Gunn and Laura Sisson. A delicious Italian meal will be served and we will enjoy an evening focused on how we find faith and joy! This is a wonderful opportunity to mingle with old friends and to meet new people at Canterbury. The event is hosted by Canterbury United Methodist Women, but you do not have to be a member or join UMW to attend. Register today at www.canterburyumc.org/community/united-methodist-women.

Christmas at Canterbury

Carols & Cocoa | December 17 | 6 PM

TONIGHT! Bundle up and join the fun in the Chapel parking lot beginning at 6 PM! We'll enjoy s'mores, hot chocolate, fire pits, a 360-photo booth, and sing-along with the Contemporary Worship Team! Invite a friend and bring some chairs. See you there!

The Longest Night | December 21 | 6 PM

You are invited to a special worship service held on Winter Solstice - the longest night before Christmas. Join us at 6 PM in the Chapel, a sacred space, to reflect and accept where we really are, as we hold out for healing and hope this season. *This service will be livestreamed.*



Christmas Eve

Join us on Christmas Eve for candlelight communion at one of the following five services.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

- 8:15 AM New Traditions | Chapel
- 10:30 AM Sanctuary Worship | Sanctuary
- 10:30 AM Contemporary Worship | Canterbury Center
- 3:00 PM Contemporary Worship | Canterbury Center
- 5:00 PM Sanctuary Worship | Sanctuary

All Christmas Eve services will be livestreamed.

Christmas Mission Outreach Offering

The Mission Outreach United Appeal Fund (MOR) Offering has benefited Canterbury and other ministries for many years. Your generous gift this Christmas will benefit the following ministries in 2024: EMBRACE ALABAMA KIDS, AVONDALE SAMARITAN PLACE & RISE AGAINST HUNGER (Feb. 25 & 26)

We encourage individuals, families, Sunday School classes, and small groups to make special offerings. We will receive this Christmas offering in our worship services this morning and in our Christmas Eve services on December 24. You may also choose to mail your offering to the Finance Office. Please make your check payable to the Mission Outreach United Appeal Fund. This is a wonderful way to show our gratitude for the gift that we all receive at Christmas.