



*Oh
light*

New Traditions

December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Thank you for joining us!

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



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.

Senior Pastor - Rev. Keith Thompson

Pastor - Rev. Hill Carmichael

Pastor - Rev. Tori Hastings

Pastor - Dr. Bill Morgan

Pastor - Rev. Matthew Montgomery

Pastor - Dr. Rick Owen

Youth Pastor - Rev. Gann Waters-Wright

Bishop in Residence - Dr. Mike Watson

Choirmaster and Organist - Dr. Lester Seigel

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. Nursery is provided for infants and preschoolers for all regularly scheduled worship services. Nursery for other activities and church events can be provided. 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.

Worship Online We strive to be a church that is accessible to you whenever and however you need us! All worship services are available through:

Website:

www.canterburyumc.org/worship/worship-online

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/CanterburyUMChurch

YouTube:

www.youtube.com/@CanterburyUMC

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

A Service of Lessons & Carols

Welcome and Announcements

Dr. Rick Owen

* Carol 211

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, vv. 1, 2, 6, 7

VENI EMMANUEL

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Jimmy, Becca, Liv and Scarlett Brady

Leader: As we gather around the Advent wreath, we light the fourth candle, the candle of Love. Love is the essence of the Christmas story, the reason why God sent His Son into the world to save us.

All: For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Leader: Let us remember the words of the apostle John: "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God."

All: In the midst of our preparations and reflections, let us be reminded of the love that Christ has shown us through His sacrifice on the cross.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Heavenly Father, in this season of Advent, we give thanks for the immeasurable love You have shown us through Your Son, Jesus Christ. May His love fill our hearts and overflow into the lives of those around us. Help us to be instruments of Your love in the world, sharing Your grace and mercy with others. Amen

Leader: May the light of Love continue to shine brightly in our hearts as we await the coming of Christ, the embodiment of Your perfect love. Amen.

Sung Response: Joy to the world! The Lord will come. Let earth receive her King!

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

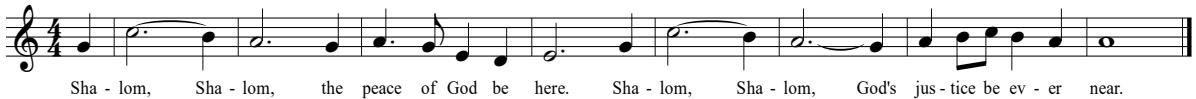
Kyrie 482

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.

Bidding Prayer

The First Lesson

Isaiah 11: 1-10

Mills Carmichael

Carol

Carol of the Advent

Michael Hurd

People, look east, the time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there. Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flow'r may flourish. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way. Birds, though ye long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled. Even the hour when wings are frozen he for fledging time has chosen. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Bird is on the way. Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth. Set ev'ry peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord is on the way.

The Second Lesson

Luke 1: 26-38

Amanda Cartee

The Annunciation of Christ's birth to Mary

Carol

Lovely Child, Holy Child
Layla Tajmir, Daniel Seigel, soloists

Southern folk tune, arr. Johnson

Lovely Child, holy Child, gentle, mild, undefiled; infant King, Fairest King, Gifts we'll bring and anthems sing: Alleluia. Child of light, born that night, our delight, promise bright; Child so fair: see Him there; now declare him ev'rywhere: Alleluia. Rest Thy head, sweetest head; gifts we'll spread at Thy bed. Jesus, Lord, be adored, may this word now be outpoured: Alleluia. To this boy, our great joy, we employ hymns of joy: Child so fair; see Him there; now declare Him everywhere: Alleluia.

* Hymn 219

What Child is This, vv. 1, 2

GREENSLEEVES

The Third Lesson

Matthew 1: 18-25 and Luke 2: 8-16

Gerrie Hansford

Matthew relates the birth of Jesus; Luke recounts the announcement of the Savior to shepherds.

Carol

Touro-Louro-Louro!

Provençal Carol, arr. Parker and Shaw

Touro-louro-louro! Cocks are crowing, though there is not morning light, For the stars are brightly glowing in the holy land tonight. "Who'll walk with me?" "Not I, not I." "O come now, come now! Should I ne'er return again, say the seven psalms in remembrance. Alack-a-day! Like a lonely wayward child alone I go." Touro-louro-louro! Winds are blowing making fingers blue with cold, trudging wearily I'm going, suffering miseries untold. "I must find rest!" "No rest for you." Oh, come now, come now, good farmer! Let me in for just one night, in the barn I would be sleeping. And if you don't, where can I go? If you're unkind, no rest I'll find." Touro-louro-louro! Now I'm happy, for I've found the manger here, on the hay, inside the stable lies the wondrous child so dear. "Why art thou sad! Be strong and glad!" Oh, Mary! All the world shall praise thy name, for to us is born a Savior. Saint Joseph too; blessings on you. Let us united in singing now to one we love.

*** Hymn 246**

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

The Fourth Lesson

Matthew 2: 1-12

Eleanor Dabal

*Star-led men from the East notify King Herod of the birth of Jesus,
and bring gifts to the child*

Carol

Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella

French carol, arr. Parker/Shaw

Bring a torch, Jeannette, Isabella; bring a torch, come hurry and run.
It is Jesus, good folk of the village; Christ is born, and Mary's calling; Ah! Ah! Beautiful is the Mother: Ah! Ah! Beautiful is the Child!
It is wrong, when the Baby is sleeping, it is wrong to speak so loud; silence, now, as you come near the cradle, lest you awaken little Jesus; Ah! Ah! Beautiful is the Mother; Ah! Ah! Beautiful is the Child! Skies are glowing, the heavens are cloudless; bright the path to the manger bed. Hasten, all who would see little Jesus, shining bright as yonder star; Ah! Beautiful is the Mother; Ah! Ah! Beautiful is the Child!

The Fifth Lesson

John 1: 1-18

Hill Carmichael

John foretells the coming of God's Word made flesh.

Carol

Holy Day Holly Carol

Cornish carol, arr. C. Lefebvre

Now the holly bears a berry as white as the milk, and Mary bore Jesus,
who was wrapped up in silk.
(Refrain): And Mary bore Jesus, our Savior for to be, and the first tree in the greenwood,
it was the holly.
Now the holly bears a berry as green as the grass, and Mary bore Jesus,
who died on the cross: (Refrain)
Now the holly bears a berry as blood is it red, then trust we our Savior,
who rose from the dead. (Refrain)

Giving Our Tithes and Offerings

Carol

Carol of the Manger

Dale Wood

* Doxology

VENI EMMANUEL

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, ye creatures here below;
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, Almighty God, 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 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:

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 God, now and forever.

The Lord's Prayer (Chanted)

Cantor

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.

*** 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

Sarah & Marshall Griffin, the proud parents of a baby girl, Margaret Colley Griffin, born on November 14, 2025.

Caroline & Douglas Nabors, the proud parents of a baby girl, Mary Roberts "Bobbie" Nabors, born on December 10, 2025.

Aaren & Drew Carter, the proud parents of a baby girl, Ann Lawton Carter, born on December 11, 2025.

Happening at Canterbury

The Longest Night | This Evening | 6 PM

You are invited this evening to a special Winter Solstice Service for a sacred space of reflection, comfort, and renewal. This quiet, contemplative time of worship on the longest night before Christmas will be held in the Chapel. Together, we will acknowledge the darkness and difficulty that can accompany this season, while holding on to the promise of peace, healing, and hope that the coming Light brings. **Service to be livestreamed*

Cookie Connection | December 22 | 10 AM

Tomorrow! Bring your children to participate in this sweet and fun morning activity! Join us at 10 AM in Canterbury Hall to decorate Christmas cookies to pack up and take to our homebound friends. Fun for kids of all ages!

A Storybook CHRISTMAS

December 24 | 1 PM | Canterbury Center

Bring the whole family and celebrate Christmas Eve with us in Canterbury Center! This casual, kid-friendly service features a fun and creative retelling of the Nativity story, joyful Christmas music, Communion, and the magical glow of candlelight. It's a special way for families with young children to come together, make memories, and experience the wonder of Christmas.

**Service to be livestreamed*

Combined Worship Service | December 28

10:30 AM in Canterbury Center.
New Traditions will not be held.

Iron City Men's Event | January 10

Don't miss a morning of inspiration and fellowship at the Men's Ministry gathering on Saturday, January 10 from 9 AM to Noon at TopGolf. This event features two dynamic speakers, Jerry Pate, U.S. Open Champion and Alabama Hall of Fame golfer, and Aaron Feld, renowned strength coach from University of Miami. Enjoy great conversation and connection with men from across the community. Space is limited, so reserve your spot today: \$50 per person or \$25 for college students. Register: www.canterburyumc.org/mens-ministry

Serve Day | January 25

Serve Day at Canterbury returns on Sunday, January 25! After such an incredible experience last year, we can't wait to come together again to serve our neighbors and community. Mark your calendar and make plans to join us for this special Sunday of hands-on ministry, fellowship, and impact - watch for sign up details coming soon!

Women's Dinner | January 29 | 6 PM

You're invited to an evening of food, fellowship, and inspiration at the UMW sponsored Women's Dinner on Thursday, January 29 at 6 PM. Enjoy a delicious meal and hear from Ashley McMakin, owner and founder of Ashley Mac's, as she shares her story of faith, family, and building a beloved local business. Tickets are \$25 per person. Come be encouraged and connect with women across our church community... we can't wait to see you there! Register now by scanning the QR code.





Oh come let us adore Him

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

NEW TRADITIONS SERVICE

11 AM | Chapel

A STORYBOOK CHRISTMAS

1 PM | Canterbury Center

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

3 PM | Canterbury Center

SANCTUARY SERVICE

3 PM | Sanctuary

SANCTUARY SERVICE

5 PM | Sanctuary

~ The Nursery will be available for children through 4 years old at 1, 3 & 5 PM.



www.canterburyumc.org