



*Oh  
light*

**New Traditions**

**December 7, 2025**

Second 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](http://www.canterburyumc.org/attendance)



**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



## 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

## Thank you for worshipping 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. Here 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.

## 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 activity bags available as you enter the worship space. Excellent nursery care is provided for infants through age 4 for all regularly scheduled worship services.

### Worship Online

#### *Website*

[www.canterburyumc.org/worship/worship-online](http://www.canterburyumc.org/worship/worship-online)

#### *Facebook*

[www.facebook.com/CanterburyUMChurch](http://www.facebook.com/CanterburyUMChurch)

#### *YouTube*

[www.youtube.com/@CanterburyUMC](http://www.youtube.com/@CanterburyUMC)

## CONNECT

**Next Steps Class** This 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 it is our hope you will decide to make Canterbury your new church home. To register for the next class, please contact Becky King at [becky.king@canterburyumc.org](mailto:becky.king@canterburyumc.org).

## CONTACT US

**Church Office:** 205.871.4695

**Website:** [www.canterburyumc.org](http://www.canterburyumc.org)

**Membership:** Rev. Matthew Montgomery  
[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

Dr. Rick Owen

### \* Hymn 203

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

HYFRYDOL

## Lighting of the Advent Candle

Mary Jane and Winston Gillum

As we gather around the Advent wreath, we light the second candle, the candle of Peace. Peace is the gift that Christ brings, the peace that surpasses all understanding.

**And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.**

Let us remember the words of the prophet Isaiah: "The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them."

**In the midst of chaos and turmoil, we look to the Prince of Peace to bring harmony and reconciliation to our world.**

Let us Pray.

**Gracious and merciful God, in this season of Advent, we long for the peace that only you can bring. May your presence fill us with a deep sense of peace, as we wait for the birth of your Son, the Prince of Peace. Amen.**

May the light of Peace continue to shine brightly in our hearts as we prepare for the coming of Christ. Amen.

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

## Collect

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

**Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## Psalter Reading (Chanted)

Psalm 72:1-7

Stan Nelson, cantor

Give the king your jus\*tice, O God, | **and your righteousness to the \*royal son!**

May he judge your people with \*righteousness, | **and your \*poor with justice!**

Let the mountains bear prosperity \*for the people, | and the hills, in \*righteousness!

**May he defend the cause of the poor \*of the people, | give deliverance to the needy, and crush \*the oppressor!**

May he live while the \*sun endures, | and as long as the moon, through all \*generations!

**May he be like rain that falls on \*the mown grass, | like showers that wa\*ter the earth!**

In his days may right\*eousness flourish, | and peace abound, till the moon \*be no more!

**May he have dominion from \*sea to sea, | and from the river to the ends \*of the earth!**

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.

**The Lesson**

Isaiah 11:1-10  
*The word of God for the people of God.* **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

Light of Peace      Rev. Hill Carmichael

**Hymn 206**

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light      HOUSTON

**Prayers of the People**

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**Giving Our Tithes and Offerings**

**Anthem**

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come      Paul Manz  
Peace be to you, and grace from Him who freed us from our sins; who loved us all, and shed his blood that we might saved be. Sing "Holy, Holy" to our Lord, the Lord Almighty God, who was and is, and is to come. Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein; rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming soon! E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more. They need no light, nor lamp, nor sun, for Christ will be their All.

## \* Doxology

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, 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:**

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord! God of pow'r and might!

8 Heav - en and earth are full of Your glo - ry Ho - san - na in the

15 high - est! Blessed is the One who comes in the name, who comes in the

22 Name of the Lord, our God! Ho - san - na in the

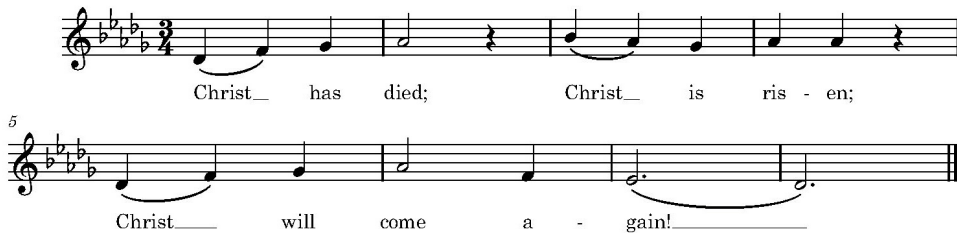
27 high - - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

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:**



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

*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.*

## Communion Anthem

Kindle A Light

Michael Fleming

Kindle a light to lighten the darkness, kindle a light, each nation and race! God in the poor is coming to meet us; kindle a light, for all who despair. God in the poor is coming to judge us; kindle a light with fasting and prayer. Kindle a light to lighten the darkness; kindle a light for sorrow to cease. God in the poor is coming to free us; kindle a light for justice and peace. Christ is coming, coming in judgment, in truth and in grace; meet him and greet him and share his embrace.



**\* 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**

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**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 2026:

- CANTERBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - RISE AGAINST HUNGER
- CANTERBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - MISSIONARY SUPPORT
- AVONDALE SAMARITAN PLACE

We will receive this Christmas offering in all of our Christmas Eve services. Please drop your gift in the offering plate. You may also choose to mail your offering to the Finance Office. Make your check payable to the Mission Outreach



**Poinsettias and Wreaths**

To place a poinsettia or wreath in memory of or in honor of a friend or loved one, please complete this form:

Poinsettia \_\_\_\_\_ Wreath \_\_\_\_\_

Placed in Honor \_\_\_\_\_ Memory \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Make your check (\$25 per poinsettia or \$50 per wreath) payable to Canterbury UMC and return it with this completed form to the church office no later than December 14.

# Happening at Canterbury

## **Charge Conference | December 8 | 6:30 PM**

A Charge Conference will be held at the Church Council meeting on December 8 at 6:30 PM in Wesley Hall. All are welcome to attend.

## **Side-by-Side Concert | December 9 | 2 PM**

Enjoy a festive Christmas concert with the 80-voice Side-by-Side Community Chorus and band! Made up of singers from our Encore community, this joyful event in Canterbury Hall benefits the Encore Family Fund. Admission is free, with donations accepted at the door. Come early or stay after to shop for unique holiday gifts!

## **Delivery Volunteers Needed | December 10-20**

Help us share Christmas cheer with members who can't get out. Between December 10-20, volunteers can pick up a small gift and instructions from the round desk, then make a short visit or door-step delivery. To volunteer, please email [valerie.boyd@canterburyumc.org](mailto:valerie.boyd@canterburyumc.org).

## **Allen Levi, Author Event | December 10 | 6 PM**

Canterbury is serving as the host venue for Little Professor's event featuring Allen Levi, author of the popular novel *Theo of Golden*. This in-person event has officially sold out but Canterburians can attend via simulcast in Canterbury Hall for \$25 per ticket. Purchase online: <https://bit.ly/4pd2haF>

## **Legacy Luncheon & Holiday Sing-Along December 16 | 12 PM**

Wear your favorite Christmas sweater and join the Canterbury Staff for the annual Christmas carol sing-along! All are invited for festive fellowship and a great lunch! (\$5) Please RSVP by December 11 by emailing [valerie.boyd@canterburyumc.org](mailto:valerie.boyd@canterburyumc.org).

## **Chili Cookoff | December 17 | 5:30-7 PM**

Calling all cooks! Enter your chili now by scanning the QR code. Make plans to join us for a fun evening at Canterbury's Christmas Chili Cookoff! Enjoy a hearty spread of homemade chilis and grilled cheese while celebrating the season



with friends, games and great food! Proceeds will benefit the Jackson Olin High School feeding program. All ages are invited to come share in the cheer and make a difference! [ \$10 adults | \$7 kids & youth | \$30 family max ] Deadline to enter is December 10.

## **Kids Cookie Connection | December 22 | 10 AM**

Mark your calendar and make sure to 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!

## **Iron City Men's Event | January 10**

Register now for 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 the University of Oregon and 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 now: [www.canterburyumc.org/mens-ministry](http://www.canterburyumc.org/mens-ministry)

## **THANK YOU, CANTERBURY!**

Christmas Village was held at ASP this week and because of your generosity over 350 children will have a very Merry Christmas! Thanks to those who shopped for gifts, supplied casseroles and yummy baked goods. The spirit of Christmas is certainly alive!



## **The Longest Night Service**

**December 21 | 6 PM | Chapel**

You are invited 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 on Sunday, December 21 at 6 PM 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.

~ The service will be livestreamed for those joining from home.



## **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.

~ The service will be livestreamed for those joining from home.



*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