

WHAT MATTERS MOST



New Traditions
September 20, 2026

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



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

Children's Pastor - Rev. Eleanor Christiansen

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. 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

Facebook

www.facebook.com/CanterburyUMChurch

YouTube

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.

CONTACT US

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Pastoral Care Response Line: 205.999.4887



Order of Worship

Welcome and Announcements

Dr. Rick Owen

* Hymn 92

For the Beauty of the Earth, vv. 1, 3, 4, 6

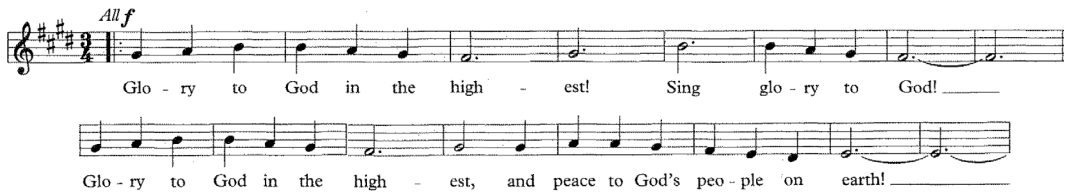
DIX

Collect

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

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Gloria In Excelsis



Psalter Reading (Chanted)

Psalm 105: 1-6

Stan Nelson, cantor

O give thanks to the Lord, call *on God's name, | make known God's deeds a*mong the peoples!

Sing to the *Lord, sing praises! | Tell of all God's won*derful works!

Glory in God's *holy name; | let the hearts of those who seek the *Lord rejoice!

Seek the Lord *and his strength; | seek the Lord's presence con*tinually!

Remember the wonderful works *God has done, | the miracles and judgments *God has uttered,

O offspring of Abra*ham, God's servant, | children of Jacob, God's *chosen ones.

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

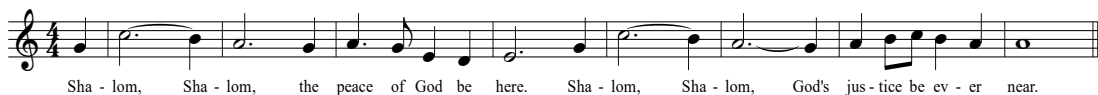
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.** Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

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.**



*** Gospel Alleluia** (sung before and after the Gospel Lesson)



*** Gospel Lesson**

Matthew 6: 25-34

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

Sermon

What Matters Most: Seek First

Rev. Tori Hastings

*** Hymn 405**

Seek Ye First

SEEK YE

Prayers of the People

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

Giving Our Tithes and Offerings

Anthem

Geistliche Lied (Spiritual Song), Op. 30

Johannes Brahms

Let nothing cause you sorrow, take comfort: what God has willed, so let my heart be willing.
Why brood today over tomorrow? The Most High forever stands and
grants you what you merit. Be steadfast in your labors; what God ordains is
always for your welfare. Amen.

*** Doxology & Wesley's Grace**

OLD 100th

**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.**

The Great Thanksgiving

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

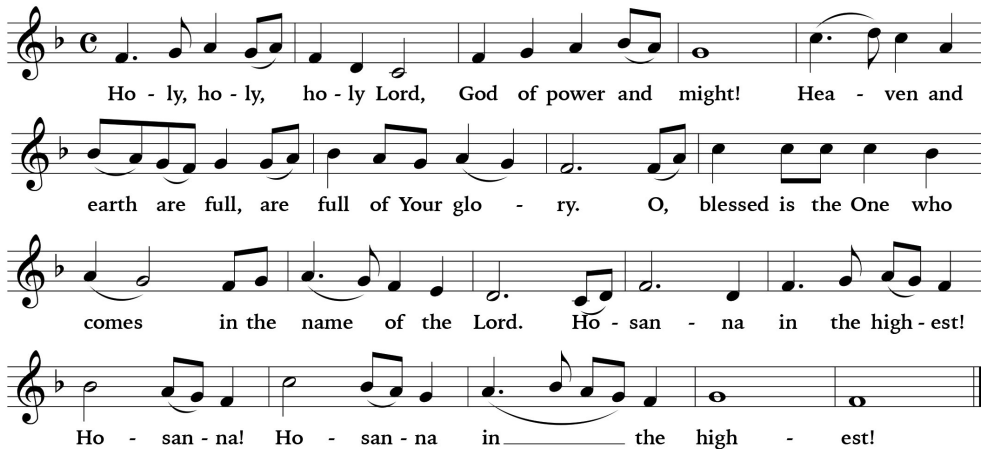
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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)



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?

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.

Breaking the Bread and Giving the 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.

Music During Communion

If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

If thou but suffer God to guide thee, and hope in God through all thy ways,
God will give strength, whate'er betide thee, and bear thee through the evil days.
Who trusts in God's unchanging love builds on the rock that naught can move.
Only be still, and wait God's leisure in cheerful hope, with heart content
to take whate'er thy Maker's pleasure and all-discerning love hath sent;
we know our inmost wants are known, for we are called to be God's own.
Sing, pray, and keep God's ways unswerving; so do thine own part faithfully,
And trust God's word; though undeserving, thou yet shalt find it true for thee.
God never yet forsook at need the soul that trusted God indeed.

*** 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.

*** Choral Benediction & Sending Forth**

Happening at Canterbury

Daily Bible Reading Plan | Genesis

This fall, we are journeying through the Book of Genesis together. Each Sunday evening, you will receive an email outlining the readings for the week. You can also follow along by visiting: www.canterburyumc.org/2026-reading-plan

Men's Breakfast | September 24 | 6:30 AM

Wake up early and come for breakfast and hear from Hill Carmichael. He'll share about the Kenya Mission trip and Canterbury's impactful partnerships there. Register: www.canterburyumc.org/mens-ministry

Encouragers Kickoff | September 24 | 6 PM

This ministry is designed to connect women of all ages through faith and friendship. To sign up for a group and to register for the Kickoff Dinner, visit: www.canterburyumc.org/community/encouragers

4K Faith Milestone | October 4 | 9:15 AM

We're excited to see you and your 4K child on October 4 at 9:15 in the Covenant Room. We will be learning about prayer and how it helps us feel connected to God's heart. Please RSVP so that we will be prepared with materials for your family. Register: www.canterburyumc.org/grow/children

Soup Day | October 15 | 10 AM-7 PM

This year at Christmas Village, we'll be giving quarts of homemade soup to the families who come shop at the village....and we need YOUR help!

You can support this effort in three ways:

- 1) **DONATE** canned goods through our Amazon link. Items will be shipped directly to Canterbury.
- 2) **DROP OFF** canned items in the Chaos Storage Room located next to Rachel's office.

We need: canned corn, Rotel, Great Northern beans, Black beans, Kidney beans

- 3) **MAKE** the soup!

Scan the QR code to sign up for a shift on October 15!



Dad & Me Legion Soccer | October 18 | 4 PM

Join us for a special night out with your dad, grandpa, favorite uncle or another important guy! We'll cheer on the Legion as they take on Loudon FC during Fan Appreciation Night. \$20 per person. The first 22 kids to register will be Junior Captains and walk onto the field with the players during the national anthem! Register: www.canterburyumc.org/grow/children

RISE Connect Retreat | October 23-24

4th-6th grades! Join us for a 24-hour overnight retreat at Camp Sumatanga with friends from area UMCs! We'll worship, hike, play, and hang out as we connect with one another and God. \$150. Registration Deadlines:

- October 1 for Canterbury priority
- October 10 for the final deadline

Register: www.canterburyumc.org/grow/children

YAC Journey Retreat | November 20-22

Journey will be held November 20-22 at Shocco Springs in Talladega. This retreat is for all 7th-12th graders (friends are welcome!). It's an awesome weekend filled with meaningful talks, amazing worship, fun games, and more! All students are encouraged to join us for this incredible retreat! *Sign up before the price increase on October 1.* Register: www.canterburyumc.org/grow/youth