



*Oh
light*

Sanctuary Worship

December 14, 2025

Third 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. Matthew Montgomery

Pastor - Dr. Rick Owen

Youth Pastor - Rev. Gann Waters - Wright

Bishop in Residence - Dr. Mike Watson

Choirmaster and Organist - Dr. Lester Seigel

Crucifer - Leigh Anne Precise | **Acolyte** - Charlie Brandenburg

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.

Things to Know

- Hearing assist devices are 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.

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

Church Office: 205.871.4695

Website: www.canterburyumc.org

Membership: Rev. Matthew Montgomery
matthew.montgomery@canterburyumc.org
205.868.6590 x2327

Pastoral Care Response Line: 205.999.4887



Order of Worship

Voluntary

Prelude on a French Christmas Carol

Dale Wood

Welcome and Announcements

Dr. Bill Morgan

* Processional Hymn 213

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

Children's Moment

Maddie Moravek

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Susie and Bob Gaston

Leader: As we gather around the Advent wreath, we light the third candle, the candle of Joy. Joy is the result of our hope and peace in Christ, a deep and abiding gladness that comes from knowing and trusting in Him.

All: Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again, Rejoice!

Leader: Let us remember the words of the angel who proclaimed the good news of Christ's birth to the shepherds: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

All: In the midst of our waiting and preparation, we celebrate the joy that Christ brings into our lives, a joy that is eternal and unchanging.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Gracious and loving God, in this season of Advent, we rejoice in the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ. May his presence fill us with joy, lifting our spirits and renewing our hope. Help us to spread this joy to others, sharing the good news of Christ's birth with all we meet. Amen.

Leader: May the light of Joy continue to shine brightly in our hearts as we anticipate and celebrate the coming of Christ. Amen.

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

* Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

* Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

* **Passing of the Peace** *The Peace of the Lord be with you, and also with you.*

Baptism

Allen Robert Hirschfield, Julia Walton Ogilvie & William Littleton Thornton, IV

Brothers and sisters in Christ: Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price. Our Lord has expressly given to little children a place among the people of God, which holy privilege must not be denied them. Remember the words of the Lord Jesus Christ, how He said, "*Let the children come to Me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God.*"

To the parents

On behalf of the whole church, I ask you; Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in His grace, and promise to serve Him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people everywhere? **We do.**

Will you nurture Allen Robert, Julia Walton, and William Littleton in Christ's holy church, that by your teaching and example they may be guided to accept God's grace for themselves to profess their faith openly, and to lead a Christian life? **We will.**

To the congregation

Do you, as Christ's body, the church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ? **We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these families now before you in your care?

With God's help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ, that Allen Robert, Julia Walton, and William Littleton, surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.

The Baptism

I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. The Holy Spirit work within you, that being born through water and the Spirit, you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Now it is our joy to welcome our new sister and brothers into the body of Christ.

Through baptism we are incorporated by the Holy Spirit into God's new creation and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood. We are all one in Christ Jesus. With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you as members of the family of Christ.

Choral Response

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

STUTTGART

Child of blessing, Child of promise baptized with the Spirit's sign;
with this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.

Call to Prayer

Word of God, Come Down on Earth

LIEBSTER JESU

Word of God, come down on earth, living rain from heaven descending;
Touch our hearts and bring to birth Faith and Hope and Love unending.
Word almighty, we revere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.
Word that speaks the Father's love, one with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us; Word of life, with one Bread feed us.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Giving Our Tithes and Offerings

Anthem

My Lord Has Come

Will Todd

Shepherds, called by angels, called by love and angels; no place for them but a stable.
My Lord has come.
Sages, searching for stars, searching for love in heaven; no place for them but a stable.
My Lord has come.
His love will hold me, his love will cherish me, love will cradle me. Lead me, lead me to see him,
sages and shepherds and angels; no place for me but a stable.
My Lord has come.

* Doxology

VENI EMMANUEL

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

* Hymn 230

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST LOUIS

The Lesson

Isaiah 35: 1-10

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

Sermon

Light of Joy

Rev. Keith Thompson

*** Closing Hymn 218**

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

*** Dismissal & Blessing**

*** Recessional Prayer**

Ted Clark, cantor

Sanctuary Altar Flowers

Are placed in honor of Emily Kent Donovan & Brent Maddox Womble who were united in holy matrimony on December 13, 2025

Congratulations to

Greer & Jon Mills, the proud parents of a baby boy, Hallston Wade Mills, born on November 20, 2025.

PRESENTED FOR HOLY BAPTISM

JULIA WALTON OGILVIE

April 7, 2025

Parents: Audrey & Morgan Ogilvie

Sibling: Maje

Grandparents: Major & (the late) Jayne Ogilvie,
John & Julia Bedford

WILLIAM LITTLETON THORNTON, IV

May 14, 2025

Parents: Alana & Christopher Thornton

Siblings: Sophie & Helen

Grandparents: Jim & Virginia Thornton,
Mark & Dena Bates
Great-grandparents: Steve & Carole Anderson

ALLEN ROBERT HIRSCHFIELD

June 16, 2025

Parents: Kathleen & Alex Hirschfield

Grandparents: Ginger & Steve Cowley,
(the late) Alan Hirschfield, Sharon & James Haynes

Dear Canterbury friends and family,

The MOR United Appeal Fund Christmas Offering has benefited Canterbury and other ministries for many years. Your generous gift to this fund will benefit the following ministries in 2026:

CANTERBURY UMC - RISE AGAINST HUNGER

We're excited to once again join together in 2026 to pack meals for children facing food insecurity! Your generous donations make this large-scale event possible, uniting our local community in hands-on mission while providing nourishment and hope to families around the world.

CANTERBURY UMC - MISSIONARY SUPPORT

Canterbury UMC has a partner ministry with Wesley College in Tanzania. Our church has supported students pursuing education who otherwise would not have access to schooling. Canterbury member, Stacy Smith, will be a visiting professor at Wesley College in the fall of 2026. MOR allocated funds will be used to further connect under resourced students in their quest to seek a better life for themselves and their families.

AVONDALE SAMARITAN PLACE

Through Canterbury's partnership with Avondale UMC, Avondale Samaritan Place (ASP) serves neighbors in the 35212 and 35222 communities, especially those living on the margins. Your support of ASP provides vital resources such as food assistance for families in need, social work and healthcare support, utility aid, home repairs and yard maintenance for those unable to do the work themselves, enrichment programs for children, compassionate care for the homeless, and so much more.

This Christmas, may the spirit of giving fill your heart with joy as you share in this second-mile gift. You may return your gift to the Finance Office or by placing it in the offering plate on Christmas Eve.

Merry Christmas,



Walter Little
Chair, MOR United Appeal Fund



Rev. Keith Thompson
Senior Pastor

Happening at Canterbury

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 emailing valerie.boyd@canterburyumc.org.

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

Make plans to join us for a fun evening at the 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]

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 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

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 - you won't want to miss it!

UMW Women's Dinner | January 29 | 6 PM

You're invited to a special evening of food, fellowship, and inspiration at the United Methodist 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 below.



Combined Service | December 28

10:30am | Canterbury Center
New Traditions will not be held.

Help Us Prepare the Manger: Diaper Drive with Bundles of Hope

As we enter this sacred season, we remember Mary preparing a manger for the arrival of Jesus, doing all she could to welcome new life with love, hope, and care. In that same spirit, our January 25th Serve Day project invites you to help other mothers in our community prepare for their little ones. Kids@Canterbury is partnering with Bundles of Hope to host a special Diaper Drive, and we'd love for you to participate!

A manger outside the Kids Check-In Station will serve as our collection point, reminding us of the humble place where Christ first lay and of the simple things that can make a big difference for families today. We will gratefully accept:

- New packages of disposable diapers
- Opened, outgrown, or partial packages
- Sizes: Newborn through size 6
- Biggest need: Newborn, 5 & 6

Your generosity helps ease the burden for parents and wraps their little ones in comfort and care. Let's fill the manger together!



Today is the deadline to order!



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.



A Service of Lessons & Carols | December 21

Join us next Sunday at 8:15 in the Chapel or at 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary, for a beautiful Service of Lessons & Carols. Through scripture readings and inspiring music, we will prepare our hearts and minds for the joy of Christmas.

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.



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

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



www.canterburyumc.org