



*Oh
light*

Sanctuary Worship

December 21, 2025

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. 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

A Service of Lessons & Carols

Voluntary

Swiss Noel, with Variations

Louis-Claude Daquin

Welcome and Announcements

Dr. Rick Owen

* **Processional Hymn 211**

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

VENI EMMANUEL

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Bill, Anne, and Will Johnston,
Lucy, Richard, Annie and Nolan Sanders

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!

The Bidding Prayer and 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

Carol of the Manger

Dale Wood

Presentation of Offering

* **Doxology**

VENI EMMANUEL

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

The First Lesson

Isaiah 11: 1-10

Allie Akin

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.

*** Hymn 230**

O Little Town of Bethlehem, vv. 1, 4

ST LOUIS

The Second Lesson

Luke 1: 26-38

Ann Calvert Whatley

*The Annunciation of Christ's birth to Mary***Carol**

Sister Mary Had-a But One Child

Spiritual, arr. E. Simpson

Soloists: Jack Dillard, B.J. Underwood, Daniel Seigel

(Refrain) Sister Mary had-a but one child, born in Bethlehem, and every time the baby cried, she'd a-rock him in a weary land. O three wise men to Jerusalem came, they'd traveled very far. They said: "Where is he born King of the Jews, for we have seen His star?" King Herod's heart was troubled, he marveled but his face was grim. He said, "Tell me where the child may be found, I'll go and worship him." (Refrain) An angel appeared to Joseph, and gave him this command: "Arise ye, take your wife and child, go flee into Egypt land. For yonder comes old Herod, a wicked man and bold, He's slaying all the children from six to eight days old." (Refrain)

*** Hymn 219**

What Child is This, vv. 1, 2

GREENSLEEVES

The Third Lesson

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

Caroline LaFollette

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 unite in singing now to one we love.

*** Hymn 246**

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

The Fourth Lesson

Matthew 2: 1-12

Tom Roberts

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

The Three Kings

Healey Willan

"Who knocks tonight so late, so late?" the weary porter said. Three Kings stood at the gate, each with a crown on head. The serving man bowed down, the inn was full, he knew. Said he: "In all this town is no fit place for you!"

A light the manger lit: There lay the Mother meek. Said they, "This place is fit; here is the rest we seek!" They loosed their latchet strings; so stood they all unshod. Come in, Come in ye Kings, and kiss the feet of God.
(Laurence Housman)

The Fifth Lesson

John 1: 1-18

Rev. Keith Thompson

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

Holy Day Holly Carol

Cornish carol, arr. Channing 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)

Carol

All My Heart This Night Rejoices

Z. Randall Stroope

All my heart this night rejoices, as I hear far and near sweet angel voices,
“Gloria in excelsis Deo!” All the air, and everywhere, “Gloria!” Come let us all, both great
and small sing “Gloria!” Hail the star where hope is burning, Love who with love is
yearning, ever-yearning. Come and dwell in glory forever and ever; far on high in joy that
can alter never. Dwell in the house of Love forever! (Paul Gerhardt, 17th c., adapted)

* Closing Hymn 245

The First Noel, vv. 1 - 4

THE FIRST NOEL

* Dismissal and Blessing

Postlude

Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar are given in loving memory of Mallory Carper by the Carper family.

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.

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 today and 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 United Appeal Fund.

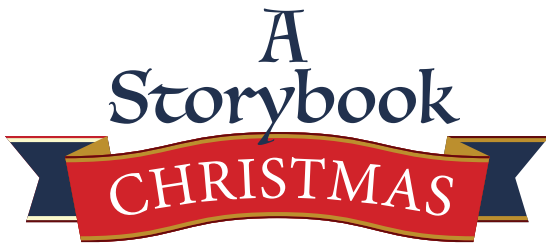
Happening at Canterbury

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!



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 - 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 - sign ups are 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.