



Canterbury  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Sanctuary Worship**

**May 17, 2026**

Ascension Sunday

## 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

**Crucifer** - Leigh Anne Precise

**Acolytes** - Charlie Brandenburg & Evelyn Bradenburg



## 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

## ***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. 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. 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 activity bags available as you enter the worship space. 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. Canterbury uses a computer check-in system as part of our Safe Sanctuary Policy. Please email Breana Stallings at [breana.stallings@canterburyumc.org](mailto:breana.stallings@canterburyumc.org) with any questions about the nursery.

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 email [linda.carpenter@canterburyumc.org](mailto:linda.carpenter@canterburyumc.org) so that we can all celebrate another child in our midst.

## **Things to Know** - *Ask an usher for assistance!*

- *Listen Everywhere*, a bluetooth hearing app, is available as well as other hearing assist devices.
- The Children's Comfort Room is located adjacent to the Narthex, a quiet place for you and your child.

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

### **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 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 quarterly 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](mailto: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. To set that up, contact the church office at 205-871-4695.

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## **CONTACT US**

**Church Office:** 205.871.4695

**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

## Voluntary

“The Joy Shines Forth from Christ’s Glorious Body”  
Millicent Hawthorne, Assistant Organist

Olivier Messiaen

## Welcome and Announcements

Eleanor Christiansen

## \* Processional Hymn 312

Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise

LLANFAIR

## \* 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.*

## Children’s Moment

Breana Stallings

## Baptism

Wright Williams Skinner & Hamilton Avery Duckworth

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 Wright Williams and Hamilton Avery 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 Christian lives? **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 Wright Williams and Hamilton Avery, 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 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

STUTT GART

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

### **Commissioning of the Guatemala Youth Mission Team**

You go bearing the prayers of this church. You go not alone, but as part of the Body of Christ. You go to serve joyfully, love boldly, and lead courageously.

### To the mission team

Will you seek Christ in every person you meet, serving with humility, compassion, and grace?  
**With God's help, we will.**

Will you represent Christ and Canterbury faithfully--with real grace, real love in the midst of the real life you experience? **With God's help, we will.**

Will you remain open to what God wants to teach you through this experience, allowing your faith to grow? **With God's help, we will.**

### To the congregation

And to you, the people of Canterbury: Will you pray for this team, encourage them, support them, and welcome them home ready to hear how God moved among them?

**With God's help, we will.**

### **Call to Prayer**

Prayer of the Venerable Bede

15th c. chant melody

A hymn of glory let us sing, new hymns throughout the world shall ring; by a new way none ever trod Christ takes his place -- the throne of God! O risen Christ, ascended Lord, all praise to you let earth accord, who are, while endless ages run, with Father and with Spirit, One.

## 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

O God, the King of Glory

Henry Purcell

O God, the King of Glory, who hast exalted thine only son Jesus Christ with great triumph into heaven; we beseech thee, leave us not comfortless; but send to us thy Holy Ghost to comfort us, and exalt us unto the same place where our Savior Christ is gone before us. Amen.

### \* Doxology

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. Amen.**

### \* Gospel Processional 326

The Head That Once Was Crowned, vv. 1, 2

ST MAGNUS

### \* Gospel Lesson

John 17: 1-11

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

### \* Gospel Processional 326

The Head That Once Was Crowned, vv. 5, 6

ST. MAGNUS

### Sermon

Rev. Keith Thompson

### \* Closing Hymn 715

Rejoice, the Lord is King, vv. 1, 2

DARWALL'S 148TH

## Reception of New Members

**We rejoice to recognize you as members of Christ's holy church and bid you welcome to this congregation of the United Methodist Church. With you we renew our vows to uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. With God's help, we will so order our lives after the example of Christ that surrounded by steadfast love, you may be established in the faith and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.**

### \* Dismissal & Blessing

### \* Recessional Prayer

Ted Clark, cantor

### Postlude

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## Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers on the altar are placed in honor of Laurie Bullington in appreciation for her many years as Flower Guild Chairman by the Sanctuary Committee.

## PRESENTED FOR HOLY BAPTISM

WRIGHT WILLIAMS SKINNER

December 1, 2025

Parents: Neil & Logan Skinner

Grandparents: Argie & Bill McDonald, Heather & Bob Skinner

Great-Grandparents: Argie Oman, William McDonald, &  
Robert Skinner

HAMILTON AVERY DUCKWORTH

October 3, 2025

Parents: Catherine & Avery Duckworth

Grandparents: Marnie & John Hutchinson, Martin

Duckworth, Tracy & Brian Keener  
Great-Grandparents: June & Wayne Stinson,  
Janet Wells

### Guatemala Youth Mission Team

Bradley Bales

Callie Chapman

Eleanor Dabal

Bryson Dobbins

Katie Glaub

Price Kilgore

Graham Lunsford

Sydney Martin

Camilla Riddle

Rachel Estes

Eleanor Kerr

Allen Kilgore

Gann Waters-Wright

### Music Note:

Congratulations to three students in our Church Choir who graduate college this month! Sam Dillard attended Birmingham-Southern and graduated cum laude from Samford, and will attend the Pacific Northwest Film Scoring Program in Seattle, one of twelve so accepted this year. Millicent Hawthorne, our Assistant Organist, graduated summa cum laude from Samford and will begin a Master's degree in Organ at the University of Notre Dame. Leigh Anne Precise, our longtime Crucifer, attended BSC and graduated summa cum laude from the University of Alabama. She will move to Northern Ireland to study history at Queen's University in Belfast. Well done, all!

# Happening at Canterbury

## Summer Combined Worship

**Begins May 24 | 10:30 AM**

Summer is almost here and we will begin the combined schedule for 10:30 AM worship starting Memorial Day Weekend. Also, Sunday School will not be held on May 24.

Note: *New Traditions will be held each Sunday at 8:15 AM as regularly scheduled.*

### 10:30 AM WORSHIP

- MAY 24 Combined in Sanctuary
- MAY 31 Combined in Canterbury Center
- JUNE 7 Combined in Sanctuary
- JUNE 14 Combined in Canterbury Center
- JUNE 21 Combined in Sanctuary
- JUNE 28 Combined in Canterbury Center

## Encore 10 Year Celebration

**May 31 | 11:30 AM**

Encore is turning 10 this summer, and we'd love for you to celebrate with us! Join us on May 31 at 10:30 during the Contemporary Service for a special Encore recognition, then continue the celebration at 11:30 in Canterbury Hall with refreshments, fellowship, and everyone's Encore favorite -- banana pudding!



## Register for Youth Summer Activities

Make plans for an unforgettable summer!

- Senior High Lake Trip (June 5–7)  
A fun-filled weekend at Lake Martin with time on the water, games, and meaningful connection. Open to students who have completed grades 10–12.
- Junior High Adventure (June 15–18)  
Head to the Nantahala Outdoor Center in North Carolina for rafting, outdoor activities, and tons of fun. Open to students who have completed grades 7–9.
- Magic City Work Week (July 12–18)  
A powerful week of service and community as we partner with Riverchase UMC to serve in West End, with daily mission work and worship. Open to students who have completed grades 7–12.

Register: [www.canterburyumc.org/grow/youth](http://www.canterburyumc.org/grow/youth)

## Vacation Bible School | July 20-23 Volunteers Needed!

We have 250 children registered for VBS and we need volunteers to make that week a huge success! This is open to youth and adults of all ages. It is such a fun week! Sign up on the children's page of the church website or reach out to Eleanor Christiansen.

Sign up to Volunteer: [www.canterburyumc.org/](http://www.canterburyumc.org/)



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