



*Oh
light*

Sanctuary Worship

November 30, 2025

First 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



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



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 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 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

Facebook

www.facebook.com/CanterburyUMChurch

YouTube

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.

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.

CONTACT US

Church Office: 205.871.4695

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

Pastoral Care Response Line: 205.999.4887

Order of Worship

Voluntary

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Johannes Brahms

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Hill Carmichael

* Processional Hymn 196

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

Children's Moment

Breana Stallings

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Ryan and Angie Killingsworth, Graham & Lyla

Leader: As we gather around the Advent wreath, we light the first candle, the candle of Hope.

Hope is the light that guides us through the darkness, the promise of better days to come.

All: We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you. Amen.

Leader: Let us remember the words of the prophet Isaiah: "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord."

All: In the midst of darkness, we cling to the hope of the promised Messiah, who brings light and salvation to the world.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Gracious and loving God, in this season of Advent, we wait with hope for the coming of your Son. May his light shine brightly in our hearts and in our world, bringing us peace, joy, and love. Amen.

Leader: May the light of Hope continue to shine brightly in our hearts as we journey through this season of Advent. 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.*

Anthem

Carol of the Advent

Besancon Carol, arr. David 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. (Eleanor Farjeon)

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

Offertory Anthem

The Song of Mary

Richard Shephard

My Lord and Savior is my song, he fills my spirit with delight; to raise me up his arm is strong, the lowly precious in his sight. *Magnificat anima mea, Dominum!* (My soul magnifies the Lord!) My name shall live from age to age, and ev'ry tongue his servant bless; for mercy is their heritage whose hearts the holy One confess. The proud, beguiled by dreams of power, divided and degraded lie; he casts them down from throne and tower and stoops to lift the humble high. He feeds the hungry at his board, and sends the rich, unfilled, away; and mindful of his promised word has answered Israel's prayer today. With all the elders of our race and those unborn who seek his birth, I sing the glory of his grace who brings eternity to earth.

*** Doxology**

Sing to 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. Amen.

*** Hymn 732**

Come, We That Love the Lord

ST. THOMAS

The Lesson

Isaiah 2: 1-5

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

Sermon

This Little Light of....Ours

Dr. Bill Morgan

* **Closing Hymn 431**

Let There be Peace on Earth

WORLD PEACE

* **Dismissal & Blessing**

* **Recessional Prayer**

Ted Clark, cantor

Postlude

Thanksgiving for the lives of

Gerald "Gerry" Blount (David Blount's brother).....November 16, 2025

Leon Gorman (Randy Gorman's father).....November 18, 2025

Congratulations to

Helen & Jeff Miller, proud parents of a baby boy, William Wells Miller, born on November 17, 2025.



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

Crafts, Carols & Cheer | December 3 | 6 PM

Kids! Join us on Wednesday, December 3 from 6-7 PM in the KidsMin area for a joyful kickoff to the Advent season! Kids will have a merry time creating Christmas crafts, playing games, and singing their favorite Christmas songs with Miss Bella. It's the perfect way to begin Advent with plenty of cheer, creativity, and Christmas spirit!

Birmingham-Southern Alumni Choir Concert
December 5 | 7 PM

All are invited to attend this special annual music event in Canterbury's Sanctuary. It is the choir's 89th year to perform Lessons & Carols, a beautiful and melodic celebration of the season.

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

What better way to enjoy the holiday season than with a fun and festive Christmas concert from an 80-voice chorus and band! The Side-by-Side Community Chorus is made up of folks from our Encore community who love to sing and be with friends! The concert will be held in Canterbury Hall and will benefit the Encore Family Fund. Free admission, donations will be accepted at the door! Make plans to shop for unique holiday gifts before and after the event.

Christmas Joy Deliveries Volunteers Needed | December 10-20

Help us share Christmas cheer with church members who can't get out. Between December 10–20, volunteers can pick up a small gift and simple instructions from the round desk, then make a short visit or doorstep delivery. If you'd like to brighten someone's Christmas, email valerie.boyd@canterburyumc.org.

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.



Canterbury Christmas 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 Olm 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.



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.

For a full list of Christmas events and special services:

www.canterburyumc.org/worship/advent