

central

united methodist church monroe

Peace



DECEMBER 7, 2025
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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10:00 A.M. Combined Worship | Sanctuary

† *Please rise in body or spirit* | Congregational responses are in **bold**.

GATHERING MUSIC (*worshippers may enter*)

Aftertones of "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" arr. Mark Radice
"Ev'ry Valley Shall Be Exalted" from Messiah George F. Handel

PRELUDE *I Wonder As I Wander* arr. James Michael Stevens

† **PROCESSIONAL HYMN** *Hail to the Lord's Anointed* **UMH 203**

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christ, our Messiah will come!
Christ, our Messiah is coming soon!

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

† **CHORAL RESPONSE** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* **UMH 230, Verse 4**

† **HYMN OF PRAISE** *People, Look East* **UMH 202**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ADVENT LESSON **Gil and Karen Ritter**
The Second Candle: Peace

CHORAL RESPONSE *Emmanuel, Emmanuel* **UMH 204**

PRAYER HYMN *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* **UMH 216**

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

ANTHEM

Keep Your Lamps!

arr. Victor C. Johnson

PRESENTATION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Wonderful

Cain/Johnson/Chapman

✠ DOXOLOGY

Advent Doxology

VENI EMMANUEL

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here be low.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Re-joice! Re-joice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Isra-el.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

✠ HYMN OF PREPARATION

UMH 218

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:5-20, 57-64 (NRSVUE)

SERMON

“Your Prayer Has Been Heard”

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Adapted Table 2 | See Insert

MUSIC DURING HOLY COMMUNION

Advent Communion Selections
O Emmanuel

arr. Nathan Clements
Karen Marrolli

✝ HYMN OF DEDICATION

UMH 211

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

✝ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

arr. Howard Helvey

Flourish on "Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day"



SERVING IN WORSHIP

Dr. Bill White, Jr. | *Senior Pastor*
Erica Kirby | *Director of Children's Ministries*

Rev. J.D. Moffett | *Associate Pastor*
Nathan Clements | *Organist & Pianist*

Abril Ruiz-Lopez | *Violinist*

Central Festival Choir

801praise!

Ushers: Hank Baucom, James Clements, David English, Jack Hargett

Communion Stewards: John & Mary Ann Burns, Jackson & Nikki Hargett

WELCOME TO **central**

Welcome to our Advent Combined Worship Service at Central! We are so glad you're here today as we gather in this season of watching, waiting, and hopeful expectation. Advent invites us to slow down and turn our hearts toward the promise of Christ's coming.

As we worship together as one body in Christ, we remember that we are not yet at Bethlehem. We are still waiting, still preparing, still hoping. Today we wait for the gifts Advent holds: hope, peace, joy, and love.

Whether this is your first Sunday with us or you've been part of our family for years, we pray you feel at home in this time of worship. May God draw us closer to Him and to one another in this holy season.

Children are always welcome to remain in the worship service. Toddlers and Children through 2nd grade are invited to Kid's Worship following the Children's Message.

ADVENT LESSON

THE SECOND CANDLE: PEACE

Gil and Karen Ritter

Advent reminds us that we are people who share a story, the story of Jesus, who enacts peace by judging in favor of the poor and deciding with equity for the meek of the earth. We long for the day when “the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them” (Isaiah 11:6).

All: Today, we choose to live the story of peace, believing that true peace comes when we seek the flourishing of all God’s creation.

We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to bring Light to the places the world seeks to hide until that day when all creation lives together in harmony and abundance.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

ADAPTED TABLE 2

THE INVITATION, CONFESSION, & PARDON

The table of the Lord is open to all who love him. Let us repent of our sins and seek to live in peace with one another.

Almighty God, we confess that we have not followed your call to live fully as your disciples. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us, we pray. Bless us with renewed faithfulness to live as true servants of Jesus. Amen.

Sisters and brothers, Christ loves you and forgives you!

Christ loves you and forgives you!

Glory to God. Amen!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

As we lift our hearts to the Lord, we remember that it is a right, good, and joyful thing to always give our hearts to you, our Creator. You formed us in your image and called us to be your people. When humanity failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from slavery to sin and death by the passion and resurrection of Jesus. You made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he blessed bread and cup with thanksgiving to you. He instructed his disciples to eat and drink in remembrance of his broken body, and the blood poured out for forgiveness. Doing so, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and cup. 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.

Amen.

THE GIVING AND RECEIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP



Sundays in Advent

9:00 A.M. • Sunday School

10:00 A.M. • Combined Worship | Sanctuary

Regular Sunday Mornings

9:00 A.M. • Modern Worship | Central Hall

10:00 A.M. • Sunday School

11:00 A.M. • Traditional Worship | Sanctuary

Tuesday Evenings

6:00 P.M. • Dinner Church | FLC

Stream online at centralumcmonroe.org/media

Welcome to Central United Methodist Church in Monroe, NC, where we believe in a holistic approach to ministry. We address the needs of the whole person: body, mind, and spirit. We have numerous ministries and programs that enable us to effectively serve God, our community, and each other.

Come and experience our vibrant and meaningful worship, where faith is formed and reformed and connections are strengthened through fellowship.

We hope that you will live out your call to Christian Discipleship by uniting with Central UMC, share your spiritual gifts and talents, and be a witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Yours In Christ,
Dr. Bill White, Jr.
"Dr. Bill"
Senior Pastor



Scan the QR CODE to download **THE CENTRAL APP** to Register your attendance, Find a ministry, Give your offering, and more.

Central uses visual and audio images of participants in our worship services and events for broadcast, event promotion, publicity, and other related communications endeavors.

Upcoming Opportunities

NEXT SUNDAY!

The Light of Life

Festival Service of
Nine Lessons and Carols

10:00 A.M. | Sanctuary

With 9:50 A.M. Gathering Music

- Dec. 8 Board of Trustees Meeting, 6 pm
Grace and Mercy Circle, 6:30 pm
- Dec. 9 Office Closed for Staff Event, 11 am - 5 pm
- Dec. 10 Central Ringers Rehearsal, 5:30 pm
Finance Committee Meeting, 6 pm
Celebration Singers, 6:15 pm
Christmas Choir, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- Dec. 11 Men's Breakfast Group, 8 am
Soul Food Bible Study, 10 am
- Dec. 14 Sunday School, 9 am
Festival Service of Nine Lessons & Carols, 10 am, Sanctuary
Youth Group, 3 pm
- Dec. 15 New Beginnings Circle, 6 pm
- Dec. 17 Service of Solace, 5 pm
Central Ringers Rehearsal, 5:30 pm
Celebration Singers, 6:15 pm
Christmas Choir, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- Dec. 18 Men's Breakfast Group, 8 am
Soul Food Bible Study, 10 am
- Dec. 19 Stephen Ministers Meeting, 9:30 am
- Dec. 20 Central Squares, 8 am

To Learn more about *Advent & Christmas Central*, visit www.centralumcmonroe.org/christmas

For more details about Central's Upcoming Opportunities and to view the full Central Link, visit centralumcmonroe.org/news OR visit the NEWS icon on the Central App home page!

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