

## Welcome to Ephesus!

If you're here for the first time, please fill out a 'Let's Get Acquainted' card available in the foyer and drop in an offering box or hand it to Dr. Bowman as you leave. Thank you!



### UPCOMING EVENTS AT EPHEsus

**Praying with the Pastor:** Join Dr. Bowman on Tuesday from 11 AM to 12 Noon. All are invited to meet in the Education Bldg. in room 302 for this time of sharing. Don't forget to bring your Bible!

**LOTTIE MOON INGATHERING:** All are invited to participate in The Ingathering for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Whether one has already given or yet still plans to give in the future, all are invited to participate in this ingathering. One may participate by bringing an offering envelope to the front at the time of the ingathering. This simply shows support in this most important mission effort of sharing Christ around the world.

**STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFTS:** Ephesus has a long standing tradition of showing our love and appreciation to our staff for their hard work throughout the year. This is a tradition we'd like to continue this year. From now through Sunday, December 14, you can make a donation marked 'Staff Christmas' via the collection boxes, online or by mail. We thank you for honoring those who serve the church!

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX SHIPPING:** Many thanks to everyone for your generous support of OCC Shoeboxes to send to children around the world. We need to send Samaritan's Purse a donation to cover shipping for the boxes we collected (\$10 per box). If you feel led to help in this way, we ask that you kindly mark your envelope 'OCC Shipping' and place in the collection box in the church foyer or you can make your donation online via the church website.

**We are thankful to Billy Elledge for donating the wreaths on the front doors of our sanctuary during this Advent season.** These are donated in loving memory of his family members that have gone to be with the Lord.

#### Contact us at...

Dr. Craig Bowman, Interim Pastor, (336) 416-4063  
Jody Branch, Music Director: jodylbranch@gmail.com  
Kim Harris, Admin. Asst.: office@ebcraleigh.org, 919-851-1928  
Available on Tuesdays from 8:00-5:00.



Scan to sign up for our weekly email newsletter

#### Thank you for your faithful and generous giving!

Here are three convenient ways to give:

1. Place in the locked boxes at each entrance to the Sanctuary in the foyer.
2. Mail checks to Ephesus Baptist Church, 6767 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh, NC 27606.
3. Online [www.ephesusbaptistchurch.org](http://www.ephesusbaptistchurch.org) or use this QR code.



Scan to Give

## SECOND SUNDAY OF *Advent*

EPHESUS BAPTIST CHURCH  
DECEMBER 7, 2025

# SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## DECEMBER 7, 2025

**PIANO PRELUDE**  
(Nancy Harris)

**WELCOME AND MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES**  
(Dr. Craig Bowman)

**VIDEO**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE:**

**HYMN OF PRAISE #76: O COME, O COME EMMANUEL (V.1,2&4)**

**LITANY OF PREPARATION**

**LOTTIE MOON INGATHERING**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**SCRIPTURE READING: LUKE 2:8-14**

**MESSAGE: THE COMING OF PEACE**  
(Dr. Craig Bowman)

**HYMN OF INVITATION #86: O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM (V.1&4)**

**CLOSING HYMN #89: O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL (CHORUS ONLY)**

## LITANY OF PREPARATION

**Pastor:** We come to a time of preparation as we recognize and reflect upon the beauty and glory of Christ in the adorning of the Church Sanctuary. The Sanctuary itself points to the safe place, the refuge every believer has as we place our trust in Christ. To adorn the Sanctuary is to highlight the refuge we have in Christ our Savior.

**People:** We are grateful to God for His gift of the Christ Child.

**Pastor:** Though there are several types of decorations used in the adorning of the Sanctuary, we come this morning to focus upon only one, the Chrismon. At the front of the Sanctuary is a Chrismon tree, being decorated with an assortment of Chrismons. The Word Chrismon means Christ monogram. Each Chrismon points to a characteristic of Christ reflecting upon His beauty and glory. We now identify four Chrismons pointing to Christ. The first is the Alpha and Omega Chrismon.



**Rosemary Boles:** In the Greek alphabet, Alpha is the first letter and Omega the last. This symbol represents Jesus' words: "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end" (Rev. 1:8). This means that Jesus was given authority over all creation and time (Math. 28:18). This signifies that Jesus is the first and the last, the beginning and the end, and that nothing exists apart from Him. Let us now hear of the Jerusalem Cross Chrismon.



**Jessie Hedrick:** The Jerusalem Cross points us to the crucifixion of Christ, the breaking of His body and the shedding of His blood for our sins. It is also used to remember the four Evangelists (Mathew Mark Luke John) who sought to communicate The Gospel. Lastly the Jerusalem Cross points to the call for all believers to share God's Good News to the four corners of the earth. Now we remember the Lamp Chrismon.



**Deddie Marshall:** The Lamp Chrismon points to Jesus as the Light of the world. In John 8:12 Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." Jesus promises us His light as we choose to follow Him in the darkness of this world. Lastly, we reflect upon the Crown Chrismon.



**Sandy Thomas:** The Crown Chrismon symbolizes Jesus as King, His victory, and eternal reign. It points us to Jesus as the King of Kings, given a name above every name. Philippians 2:9-10 "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth..."

**Pastor:** We adorn the Sanctuary during this season of Advent as a means of showing the beauty and glory of Christ. Join with me now and let us thank our Lord for all His beauty and glory by standing and sharing in the Lord's Prayer.

**People:** 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.