



# The *Light* of *Life*

Festival Service of  
Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 14, 2025  
The Third Sunday of Advent  
10:00 A.M. | Central UMC Sanctuary

# *Come, Let Us Adore The Light of Life!*

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

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## THE GATHERING MUSIC *(worshippers may enter)*

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* arr. Dallas Blair  
Nathan Clements, *organ* | Ed Mills, *trumpet*

*In the Bleak Midwinter* arr. John A. Dempsey  
Nathan Clements, *piano* | Abril Ruiz-Lopez, *violin*

*He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child* arr. Christina Harmon  
Nathan Clements, *organ* | Ed Mills, *trumpet* | Abril Ruiz-Lopez, *violin* | Michael Hall, *timpani*

† THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN *Once in Royal David's City* UMH 250

## THE GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

## † THE CALL TO WORSHIP

In the beginning, when shadows covered the earth,  
**The Light of Life was already shining.**

Through generations of waiting and longing, God spoke through prophets and promises,  
**And the Light of Life drew near to us.**

This morning we gather to hear the story again,  
the story of hope entering a weary world and love becoming flesh for all people.  
**The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

With grateful hearts we come to listen, to sing, and to welcome Christ,  
the Light who restores, renews, and brings hope, peace, joy, love, and salvation to all creation.  
**Come, Light of Life. Shine upon your people, fill us with joy,  
and lead us in your radiant grace.**

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

**THE ADVENT LESSON***The Third Candle: Joy*

Bill and Suzette Sullivan

In the midst of our waiting and longing for God to make the world right again,  
we cling to the truth that God has saved, God is saving, and God will save.  
So today, we join our voices with the prophet Isaiah, who calls us to live  
in the joy of the truth of God's salvation.

**We choose to believe that the day is coming when “the ransomed of the LORD shall return  
and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy  
and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away” (Isaiah 35:10).**

We light this candle of joy as a sign of the Truth that sets us free to live in joy as we wait and work  
for the day when all creation will flourish together.

**THE CHORAL RESPONSE***Emmanuel, Emmanuel*

UMH 204

**THE BIDDING PRAYER**

Neal Lauber

Beloved in Christ, as we anticipate this Christmas season it is our duty and delight to prepare  
ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem,  
and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us hear again from Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God  
from the first days of our sin until the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child;  
and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise.

But first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart, let us pray to him for the needs of  
the whole world, and all his people; for peace upon the earth he came to save;  
for love and unity within the one Church he did build; for goodwill among all peoples.

And particularly at this time let us remember the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed;  
the sick and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all  
who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly let us remember all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater  
light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh,  
and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one. These prayers and praises let us  
humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words that Christ himself has taught us.



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Neal Lauber

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.

## THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

### THE OFFERTORY

*Light Of The World (Sing Hallelujah)*

Bergthold/Cash

801Praise!

*Light of the world, treasure of Heaven, brilliant like the stars, in the wintery sky.  
Joy of the Father, reach through the darkness, shine across the earth, send the shadows to flight.*

*Light of the world, from the beginning, the tragedies of time, were no match for Your love.  
From great heights of glory, You saw my story. God, You entered in, and became one of us.*

*Sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah for the things He has done.  
Come and adore Him, bow down before Him. Sing hallelujah to the light of the world.*

*Light of the world, crown in a manger Born for the Cross, to suffer, to save.  
High King of Heaven, death is the poorer. We are the richer, by the price that He paid, ohh*

*Light of the world, soon will be coming. With fire in His eyes, He will ransom His own.  
Through clouds He will lead us, straight into glory. And there He shall reign, forevermore.*

*Sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah for the things He has done.  
Come and adore Him, bow down before Him. Sing hallelujah to the light of the world.*

### † THE 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 Israel.

## THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION



# *Festival Service of Nine Lessons and Carols*

## EXHORTATION TO THE NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Nathan Clements

*O Light who seeks us in the shadows, speak mercy into our wandering dust*

## THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19 (NRSVUE)

Owen Apple

*God announces in the Garden of Eden Adam and Eve's punishment for their rebellion and that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.*

<sup>8</sup> They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup> He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup> He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" <sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup> Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." <sup>14</sup> The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel." <sup>17</sup> And to the man he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; <sup>18</sup> thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

## RESPONSE

*O Come, Divine Messiah!*

arr. Howard Helvey

The Festival Choir

*O come, divine Messiah! The world in silence waits the day When hope shall sing its triumph, And sadness flee away.*

*Dear Savior haste; Come, come to earth, Dispel the night and show your face, And bid us hail the dawn of grace.*

*O come, divine Messiah! The world in silence waits the day When hope shall sing its triumph, And sadness flee away.*

*You come in peace and meekness, And lowly will your cradle be;*

*All clothed in human weakness Shall we your Godhead see.*

*Dear Savior haste; Come, come to earth, Dispel the night and show your face, And bid us hail the dawn of grace.*

*O come, divine Messiah! The world in silence waits the day When hope shall sing its triumph, And sadness flee away.*

*O Christ, whom nations sigh for, Whom priest and prophet long foretold,*

*Come, break the captive's fetters; Redeem the long-lost fold.*

*Dear Savior haste; Come, come to earth, Dispel the night and show your face, And bid us hail the dawn of grace.*

*O come, divine Messiah! The world in silence waits the day When hope shall sing its triumph,*

*And sadness flee away, and sadness flee away.*

# *O Promise-Fire of Abraham, kindle a blessing that outshines the stars*

## THE SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18 (NRSVUE)

Trent Dilworth

*God promises to Abraham that by his descendants all the nations of the earth will obtain blessings.*

<sup>15</sup> The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven <sup>16</sup> and said, “By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup> I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, <sup>18</sup> and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.”

## RESPONSE

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

West-Gernon/Wesley/Prichard

801Praise!

*Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.*

*Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King; born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.*

*You're our joy. You're our hope.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart. You're our hope.*

# *O Dawn from on High, break upon those who dwell in deepest night*

## THE THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 (NRSVUE)

Miles McGinnis

*The prophet announces the birth of a king to a people in darkness.*

<sup>2</sup> <sup>[a]</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. <sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

## RESPONSE

*Come, Dearest Child*

Ralph Manuel

The Festival Choir

*Break forth, O beauteous heav'nly light, and usher in the morning; you shepherds, shrink not with affright,  
but hear the angel's warning. This child, now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be,  
the pow'r of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.*

*This night of wonder, night of joy, was born the Christ, our brother; He comes, not mighty to destroy,  
to bid us love each other. How could he quit his kingly state for such a world of greed and hate?  
What deep humiliation secured the world's salvation!*

*Come, dearest child, into our hearts, and leave your crib behind you! Let this be where the new life starts  
for all who seek and find you. To you be honor, thanks and praise, for all your gifts this time of grace;  
come, conquer and deliver this world, and us, forever. Amen, amen.*

*O Root of Jesse, let Your radiant peace gather all creation into harmony*

**THE FOURTH LESSON**

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9 (NRSVUE)

Taylor Apple

*The king is coming and will usher in a reign of  
justice for the poor and peace for all God's creation.*

11 A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. 2 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. 3 His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, 4 but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. 6 The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed<sup>[a]</sup> together, and a little child shall lead them. 7 The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. 9 They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

**RESPONSE**

*Advent Hymn*  
801 Praise!

Christy Nockles

*Christ, whose glory fills the skies; Christ, the everlasting light;  
The Son of Righteousness arise and triumph o'er these shades of night.*

*And come, Thou long awaited One in the fullness of Your love.  
And loose this heart bound up by shame and I will never be the same.*

*So here I wait in hope of You. All my soul's longing through and through.  
And dayspring from on high, be near. And Daystar in my heart appear.*

*And dark and cheerless is the morn until Your love in me is born.  
And joyless is the evening song until Emmanuel has come.*

*So here I wait in hope of You. All my soul's longing through and through.  
And dayspring from on high, be near. And Daystar in my heart appear.*

*O Womb of Grace, receive the Holy Flame; let Light take flesh within you*

**THE FIFTH LESSON**

Luke 1:26-35, 38 (NRSVUE)

Natalie Gordon

*The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary that she will give birth to  
God's promised Son, whose kingdom will never end.*

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."<sup>[a]</sup> 29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." 34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"<sup>[b]</sup> 35 The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born<sup>[c]</sup> will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 38 Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.



## RESPONSE

*Breath of Heaven*

arr. Michael Barrett

The Festival Choir | Debbie White-Parker, soloist

*I have travelled many moonless nights. Cold and weary with a Babe inside, and I wonder what I've done.*

*Holy Father, You have come and chosen me now to carry Your Son.*

*I am waiting in a silent prayer. I am frightened by the load I bear.*

*In a world as cold as stone, must I walk this path alone? Be with me now. Be with me now.*

*Breath of Heaven, hold me together. Be forever near me, Breath of Heaven,*

*Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness. Pour over me Your holiness, for You are holy, Breath of Heaven.*

*Do You wonder as You watch my face, if a wiser one should have had my place?*

*But I offer all I am, for the mercy of Your plan. Help me be strong. Help me be. Help me.*

*Breath of Heaven, hold me together. Be forever near me, Breath of Heaven,*

*Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness. Pour over me Your holiness, for You are holy.*

*Breath of Heaven, hold me together. Be forever near me, Breath of Heaven,*

*Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness. Pour over me Your holiness, for You are holy.*

*You are holy. You are holy, holy. Breath of heaven.*

*O Bethlehem, cradle the Eternal Light in your humble quietness*

## THE SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7 (NRSVUE)

Zach Dilworth

*Against a backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born.*

2 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 All went to their own towns to be registered. 4 Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

## RESPONSE

*Messiah's Lullaby*

arr. David Schwoebel

The Festival Choir

*Sleep, sleep, sweet Child of the promise, the newborn Messiah, enthroned on the hay.*

*Sleep, sleep, while Mary, Your mother, cradles the Wonder that first Christmas day.*

*Rest, rest, while shepherds adore You, and angels sing, "Glory," to welcome the morn.*

*Rest, rest, while Joseph, Your father, ponders the myst'ry of God's Son, God's Son now born.*

*Dream, dream of Isaiah's vision, of children at play in a world filled with peace.*

*Dream, dream of new dawns arising, where babies can slumber, and all war, all war has ceased.*

*Love, love, this child of the promise, the newborn Messiah, enthroned on the hay.*

*Love, love, for He loves you dearly, thank God for giving that first Christmas day.*

*Sleep, Rest, dream, love, And thank God for giving that first Christmas day.*

# *O Shepherding Glory, illumine the night and gladden trembling hearts*

## THE SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16 (NRSVUE)

Donald Eggleston

*The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world and find him lying in a manger.*

<sup>8</sup> Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” <sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger.

## RESPONSE

*Angels We Have Heard on High*  
The Festival Choir

arr. Joan J. Pinkston

*Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o’er the plains, And the mountains in reply  
Echo back their joyous strains. Gloria, in excelsis Deo, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? Say what may the tidings be,  
Which inspire your heavenly song? Gloria, in excelsis Deo, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

*Come to Bethlehem, and see Him whose birth the angels sing; Come, adore on bended knee,  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.*

*Gloria, in excelsis Deo, Gloria, in excelsis, Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria!*

# *O Guiding Star, lead all who seek to the Light that no darkness overcomes*

## THE EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-11 (NRSVUE)

José León

*The wise men follow a star to find the child Jesus, the King of the Jews.*

<sup>2</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi<sup>[a]</sup> from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east<sup>[b]</sup> and have come to pay him homage.” <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah<sup>[c]</sup> was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup> ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd<sup>[d]</sup> my people Israel.’ ” <sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the magi<sup>[e]</sup> and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east,<sup>[f]</sup> until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped,<sup>[g]</sup> they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

## RESPONSE

### Good Christian Friends, Rejoice The Festival Choir

arr. David Lantz III

*Good Christian friends, rejoice With heart and soul and voice; Give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today; Ox and ass before Him bow, And He is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!*

*Good Christian friends, rejoice, rejoice! Good Christian friends, rejoice, rejoice, rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice!*

*Good Christian friends, rejoice, With heart and soul and voice; Now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this! He hath opened heaven's door. And we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!*

*Good Christian friends, rejoice With heart and soul and voice; Now ye need not fear the grave:  
Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all To gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save! Good Christian friends, rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice!*

*O True Light, who was before all things, Shine now in our midst with grace and truth*

## THE NINTH LESSON

John 1:1-14 (NRSVUE)

Anna McGinnis

*John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.*

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. 6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own,<sup>[a]</sup> and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,<sup>[a]</sup> full of grace and truth.

## RESPONSE

*"Gloria" from Gloria*  
The Festival Choir

A. Vivaldi/arr. Patrick M. Liebergen

*Gloria, gloria, gloria, gloria in excelsis, Deo, in excelsis Deo. Gloria, gloria, gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis, gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo, in excelsis,  
Gloria, gloria, gloria, gloria in excelsis, Deo, in excelsis Deo. Gloria, gloria, gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis, gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, in excelsis, gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*Awaken, O sleeper: the true Light of Life is born,  
and dawn rises upon all who will open their eyes*



## THE CLOSING CHARGE

Ephesians 5:8-14 (NRSVUE)

Nathan Clements

<sup>8</sup> For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, <sup>9</sup> for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup> Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. <sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, <sup>13</sup> but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup> for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,  
**“Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”**

## RESPONSE

*He Is the Light*

Ruth Elaine Schram/arr. John Purifoy

The Festival Choir | Michael Hall, *timpani*

*Now may we depart in peace, according to Your Word, blessed Lord. Now may we depart in peace, for our eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before all the world, which You have prepared before all the world.*

*He is the Light, He is the Light to bring a revelation to ev'ry nation, and the glory of Israel.  
Our eyes have seen Him. He is the Light!*

*Now may we depart in peace, according to Your Word, blessed Lord. Now may we depart in peace, for our eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before all the world, which You have prepared before all the world.*

*He is the Light, He is the Light to bring a revelation to ev'ry nation, and the glory of Israel.  
Our eyes have seen Him. He is the Light. Our eyes have seen Him. He is the Light! Amen!*

✝ THE HYMN OF DEDICATION *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

UMH 240

✝ THE BENEDICTION

## THE POSTLUDE

*Ding! Dong! Merrily on High*

arr. Jeff Perks/Evan W. Currie

**Our Service of Worship has ended. Let our Worship through Service begin.**

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# SERVING IN WORSHIP

Dr. Bill White, Jr. | *Senior Pastor*

Rev. J.D. Moffett | *Associate Pastor*

Nathan C. Clements | *Director, Organist, Pianist*

Ed Mills | *Trumpeter*

Abril Ruiz-Lopez | *Violinist*

Michael Hall | *Timpanist*

### Central Festival Choir

Barbara Antonucci, Greg Bass, Millie Baucom, David Clements, Jim Gordon, Hannah Helms, Neal Lauber,  
Ana León, José León, Anna McGinnis, Julie Miles, Tera Millward, Tammy Millward, Sandi Mills, Diana Ollis, Barbara Pfau,  
Grace Snelgrove, Katie Stewart, Debbie White-Parker

801Praise!

Millie Baucom, Jim Gordon, Ana León, Julie Miles, Diana Ollis, Debbie White-Parker

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*In 1880 E. W. Benson, then Anglican Bishop of Truro, England, composed a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, based on ancient sources, for Christmas Eve. In 1918 it was adapted for the chapel of King's College, Cambridge, by its Dean, Eric Milner-White, and was first included in its present form in 1930. The Nine Lessons given here have been customarily used in recent years at King's College.  
(from The United Methodist Book of Worship)*



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



*Dr. Bill preached his initial sermon on December 18, 1988 at Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church in Charlotte, NC, where his late father, Rev. Dr. William M. White, Sr., was the pastor. Happy 37<sup>th</sup> Ministry Anniversary!*

## Our Staff

Dr. Bill White, Jr. - Senior Pastor  
Rev. JD Moffett - Associate Pastor  
Julie Miles - Director of Youth Ministries  
Erica Kirby - Director of Children's & Weekday Ministries  
Debbie Eggleston - Business Administrator  
Jessica Parker - Administrative Assistant  
Sylvia Jenkins - Custodian



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.

 801 S. Hayne St. | Monroe, NC | 28112  704.289.3186

## 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](http://centralumcmonroe.org/media)

## Upcoming Opportunities

**Christmas Eve** **Wednesday, December 24**  
*Candlelight* 5:00 P.M. | Central UMC Sanctuary  
4:45 P.M. Musical Prelude

Dec. 14 Youth Group, 3 P.M.

Dec. 15 New Beginnings Circle, 6 P.M.

Dec. 17 Service of Solace, 5 P.M., Chapel  
Central Ringers Rehearsal, 5:30 P.M.  
Celebration Singers, 6:15 P.M.  
Christmas Choir, 6:00 pm - 8:00 P.M.  
Finance Committee Meeting, 6:00 P.M.

Dec. 18 Dr. Bill's 37th Ministry Anniversary  
Men's Breakfast Group, 8 A.M.

Dec. 19 Stephen Ministers Meeting, 9:30 A.M.

Dec. 20 Central Squares, 8 A.M.

Dec. 21 Youth Christmas Party, 3 P.M.

Dec. 22 Christmas Choir, 6:00 pm - 7:30 P.M.

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Musical Prelude, 4:45 P.M., Sanctuary  
Christmas Eve Worship, 5 P.M., Sanctuary

Dec. 28 Sunday School, 9 A.M.  
Combined Worship, 10 A.M., Sanctuary

Dec. 24-29 Church Office Closed in Observation of Christmas

To Learn more about *Advent & Christmas Central*, visit [www.centralumcmonroe.org/christmas](http://www.centralumcmonroe.org/christmas)

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

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