



**First United Methodist Church  
Andover**

3801 Polo Club Blvd.  
Lexington, KY 40509  
[andoverlex.org](http://andoverlex.org)

**Sunday, December 22, 2024**

PRELUDE

***Sussex Carol; Traditional English, arr. Ham***

WELCOME

\* HYMN OF PRAISE

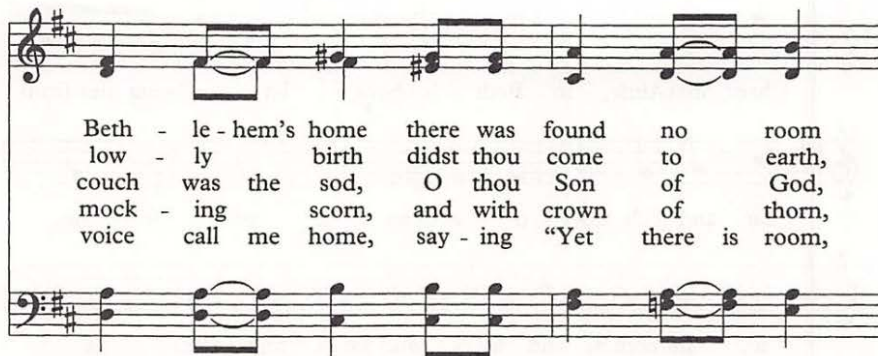
2100 Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne



1. Thou didst leave thy throne and thy king - ly crown,  
2. Heav - en's arch - es rang when the an - gels sang,  
3. The fox - es found rest, and the birds their nest  
4. Thou camest, O Lord, with the liv - ing Word  
5. When heav'ns arch - es shall ring and its choir shall sing



when thou cam - est to earth for me; but in  
pro - claim - ing thy roy - al de - gree; but in  
in the shade of the for - est tree; but thy  
that should set thy peo - ple free; but with  
at thy com - ing to vic - to - ry, let thy



Beth - le - hem's home there was found no room  
low - ly birth didst thou come to earth,  
couch was the sod, O thou Son of God,  
mock - ing scorn, and with crown of thorn,  
voice call me home, say - ing "Yet there is room,

WORDS: Emily E. S. Elliott  
MUSIC: Timothy R. Matthews (Phil. 2:5-11)

MARGARET  
Irregular



for thy ho - ly na - tiv - i - ty.  
and in great hu - mil - i - ty.  
in the des - erts of Gal - i - lee.  
they bore thee to Cal - va - ry.  
there is room at my side for thee!"

O come to my heart, Lord Je - sus,  
O come to my heart, Lord Je - sus,  
O come to my heart, Lord Je - sus,  
O come to my heart, Lord Je - sus,  
And my heart shall re - jice, Lord Je - sus,

there is room in my heart for thee.  
there is room in my heart for thee.  
there is room in my heart for thee.  
there is room in my heart for thee.  
when thou com - est and callest for me.

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 80:1-7

Leader: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!

**People: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

Leader: O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.

**People: You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.**

Leader: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

\* OPENING PRAYER

In this season of Advent, we wait for you to break into our worlds, unexpectedly. Help us to stay awake, to be aware, to hope against hope. We pray for your peace in this world when You will settle things fairly between nations, and make things right between peoples. Surprise us with the possibilities of how your vision of peace and hope might take root, and how we might live into this vision of justice and love for all of creation. Even so Lord Jesus Come. Amen.

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Apostles' Creed, Ecumenical Version*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe 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, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living 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.**

\*universal

\* GLORIA PATRI

MEINEKE

**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.**

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

Reader One: When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared in Micah 5:2-5, "But you, O Bethlehem, who is one of the little clans of Judah, from you, shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore, he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then, the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now, he shall be great to the ends of the earth, and he shall be the one of peace.

**People: God invites us to receive the promise of God's salvation and the sustenance of God's mercy and grace. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, we also answer God's invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.**

Reader Two: We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God's promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God's love for all creation.

OFFERTORY

**Away In A Manger; Murray, arr. Vandall**

Piano Duet

*There are several ways you can give financially. 1) Online at AndoverLex.org;  
2) By texting ACG to 84321; 3) In the offering plate as it is passed;  
4) By mail to the church office at 200 W. High Street, Lexington, KY 40507*

*We would love connect with you and know how we can pray with and for you.  
Contact information and Prayer Requests can be submitted using cards in the seatbacks  
or by texting your request to 859-274-9471. Cards can be placed in the offering plate.*

\* DOXOLOGY

**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 OF PRAYER (Verses 1-5)

**We Light The Advent Candles**

German Folk Tune



1. We light the Ad-vent can - dles a - gainst the win - ter night,  
2. The first one will re - mind us that Christ will soon re - turn.  
3. We light the sec - ond can - dle, and hear God's ho - ly Word,  
4. Three can - dles now are gleam - ing and show us the true way,  
5. Four can - dles burn - ing bright - ly; Love's light with - in us bloom.



to wel - come our Lord Je - sus who is the world's True Light,  
We light it in the dark - ness and watch it gleam and burn,  
it tells us, cling to Je - sus, pre - pare to meet your Lord,  
re - jice, the Bap - tist cries out, your Lord has come to - day,  
Pre - pare, my heart, be - lieve it, and give the Christ child room,



to wel - come our Lord Je - sus who is the world's True Light.  
We light it in the dark - ness and watch it gleam and burn.  
it tells us, cling to Je - sus, pre - pare to meet your Lord!  
re - jice, the Bap - tist cries out, your Lord has come to - day!  
pre - pare, my heart, be - lieve it, and give the Christ child room.

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

**Happy Birthday, Jesus; Cymbala**

Gloria Maddox, soloist

## CHILDREN'S BLESSING

*At this time children up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade may go to Kid's Worship. This is a time of worship geared to our young ones. We do welcome children to remain in worship with their families. We want to support families in whatever works best for you!*

### \* GOSPEL READING

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,  
<sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

<sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit

<sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

<sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?

<sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy.

<sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord,

Luke 1:39-55, NRSV

<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

Leader: This is the word of God, for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God**

## SERMON

### INVITATION

Pastor: Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

### CONFESSION AND PARDON

**People: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Leader: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

**All: Glory to God. Amen.**

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR ADVENT

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty (almighty God), creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, whom you sent in the fullness of time to be a light to the nations. You scatter the proud in the imagination of their hearts and have mercy on those who fear you from generation to generation. You put down the mighty from their thrones and exalt those of low degree. You fill the hungry with good things, and the rich you send empty away. Your own Son came among us as a servant, to be Emmanuel, your presence with us. He humbled himself in obedience to your will and freely accepted death on a cross. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the

new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**People: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. 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. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God), now and for ever.

#### BREAKING THE BREAD

Leader: Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ. The pastor lifts the cup in silence, or while saying: The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



HYMN OF RESPONSE (Verse 1,2,3)

249 There's a Song in the Air

1. There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!  
2. There's a tu - mult of joy o'er the won - der - ful birth,  
3. In the light of that star lie the a - ges im - pearled;  
4. We re - jice in the light, and we ech - o the song

There's a moth - er's deep prayer and a ba - by's low cry!  
for the vir - gin's sweet boy is the Lord of the earth.  
and that song from a - far has swept o - ver the world.  
that comes down through the night from the heav - en - ly throng.

And the star rains its fire while the beau - ti - ful sing,  
Ay! the star rains its fire while the beau - ti - ful sing,  
Ev - ery hearth is a - flame, and the beau - ti - ful sing  
Ay! we shout to the love - ly e - van - gel they bring,

for the man - ger of Beth - le - hem cra - dles a King!  
for the man - ger of Beth - le - hem cra - dles a King!  
in the homes of the na - tions that Je - sus is King!  
and we greet in his cra - dle our Sav - ior and King!

WORDS: Josiah G. Holland, 1874  
MUSIC: Karl P. Harrington, 1904

CHRISTMAS SONG  
66.66.12 12

\* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

***Hallelujah Joy!; Handel, arr. Hayes***

\* Please stand as you are able.

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Preacher: Rev. Brandon McGinnis  
 Liturgists: Jake Tecau  
 Acolyte: Jasper Adler  
 Children’s Moment: Greg House  
 Kids Worship: Joni Meade  
 Minister of Music: Janell Hamilton  
 Choir Accompanist: Susan Jones

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<b>Andover Attendance &amp; Stewardship</b>	
Full financial details can be found monthly in the Friday email newsletter	
Last Week’s Attendance .....	117
Average Attendance, Last Four Weeks .....	104
Giving Received Last Week .....	\$15,862
Giving Needed Weekly .....	\$7,192
2024 Budgeted Giving.....	\$374,000
Year-to-Date Received .....	\$278,745
Remaining Need .....	\$95,255

## Announcements

### Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Join us on Tuesday for our Christmas Eve Service starting at 6:00 PM. It will be a beautiful evening filled with carols, candlelight, a message of joy and hope, and Holy Communion. Whether it's your family tradition or your first time joining us, all are invited and welcome to celebrate. Make this night special—come as you are, and let's rejoice together!

### Holiday Week Church Office Hours

The Church office will be open Monday and Tuesday, December 23 and 24, and Monday and Tuesday, December 30 and 31, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. If you wish to stop by the office to drop off any year-end contributions outside of these hours, please let Jennifer (jennifer@lextogether.org) or Ryan (ryan@lextogether.org) know so they can ensure someone is there to meet you. There are several ways to give: 1) online at [andoverlex.org](http://andoverlex.org), 2) placing gifts in the offering plate, or 3) mailing them to 200 W. High Street, Lexington, KY 40507. If you would like help with a stock transfer, other distributions, details about your pledge, or your current year giving, don't hesitate to contact Jennifer or Ryan.

### Three Ways to Find More Information

- 1) If you have an Apple or Android phone or tablet, we have an app. Search your app store for "Church Center." Once you have it installed it will ask you to find your church. Look for "First United" in the "40509" and it will be the first church that comes up!
- 2) From a web-browser visit <https://1stumc.churchcenter.com/>
- 3) We have updated our website itself to link directly to everything we are doing. Visit us at [AndoverLex.org](http://AndoverLex.org)

## 2024 Christmas Poinsettias Remembering and honoring our loved ones

### *In Memory of...*

Bobby D. Branham  
Sandra D. Branham  
Cordis and Golda Brown  
Nellie & Bill Collins  
Geneva and Raymond Combs & Nonnie and Madison Ritchie  
Croley and Tucker families  
Carolyn and Winford Crosthwaite  
John and Jana Davis  
Ken Engle and my parents  
Mr. & Mrs. Dexter Green  
Daisy Nell & Raymond Hornback  
Charles "Chip" Kinsel  
Bud and Butch Lewis  
Richard Monohan, Jr.  
John Paul Moore

### *Remembered by...*

Bobby Branham  
Bobby Branham  
Vicky Brown  
Ray and Betty Hornback  
Ray and Willa Combs  
Russ and Julie Croley  
Larry and Junius Crosthwaite  
Billie Davis  
Nancy Engle  
Ernie and Georgia Stamper  
Ray and Betty Hornback  
Nell Kinsel  
Harriett Lewis  
Susan and Greg Monohan  
Susan and Greg Monohan

My parents, Jay and Ellie Colbert  
My parents, Ted and Margaret Kelley  
My grandparents, Elizabeth and Jack Colbert  
My grandparents, Hilda and Art Rott  
My great aunt and uncle, Bert and Walt Schrader  
Our brothers  
Our parents  
Our parents  
Our parents  
Our parents, Pat & Don Gerdom and Floyd & Arlene Booth  
Anna Jo Potter and Rick Kirby  
Tom Slaughter  
Mr. & Mrs. Forest Stamper  
Jewell and Stewart Wilson

Jan Colbert  
Marilyn Mitchell  
Jan Colbert  
Jan Colbert  
Jan Colbert  
Stacy and Lynne Stidham  
Charlene and Rich Lautzenhiser  
Stacy and Lynne Stidham  
Richard and Donna Thompson  
Peter and Jan Gerdom  
Larry and Junius Crosthwaite  
Louise Slaughter  
Ernie and Georgia Stamper  
Larry and Junius Crosthwaite

***In Honor of...***

Chuck and Angel Adams  
Georgeann Brown and Family  
Children's Ministry Volunteers  
Sam and Aaron Conant  
Rev. Webster and Sherry Cox  
The Fleming Family  
The Harper Family  
Pat Huff's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
Pat Huff  
Jingle Jam Committee & Jubilation Ringers  
Jubilation Ringers  
Lydia Lee & Samuel Lee  
The Monohan Family  
The Moore Family  
My Children and Grandchildren  
Ms. Nona Polly & Mr. Charles Hall  
Jimmy, Kara, Reed, and Ryan Sanders  
John, Everly, and Eli Sanders  
Becky Sayers and Family  
Shannan Stamper and Georgia Jane

***Remembered by...***

Emilie Conant  
Ernie and Georgia Stamper  
Darren Wallace  
Emilie Conant  
Darren Wallace  
Susan and Greg Monohan  
Susan and Greg Monohan  
Elliott and Kuyper families  
Richard and Donna Thompson  
Joni Meade  
Darren Wallace  
Ray and Willa Combs  
Susan and Greg Monohan  
Susan and Greg Monohan  
Nancy Engle  
Ray and Willa Combs  
Jim and Mattie Sanders  
Jim and Mattie Sanders  
Ernie and Georgia Stamper  
Ernie and Georgia Stamper