

Order of Worship

Third week of Advent

December 14, 2025 10:00 AM

Welcome to this time of worship, as we gather in the name of Jesus Christ.

Please fill out the red attendance pad located at the end of each pew.

** At this sign you are invited to rise in body or spirit.*

Prelude

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

arr. John Carter

Steve McBride, piano

Welcome

Rev. Rodrigo Dacri Lima

Greeting & Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Leader: Year after year we light Advent candles
in preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ.

People: We wait and watch for Jesus, the Light of the World.

Leader: As we light the third candle, the candle of joy,
we remember the words of the psalmist:
"You show us the path of life.

In your presence there is fullness of joy."

**People: God of Promise, come into our darkness,
renew your hope, peace, and joy in us,
for you turn our mourning into dancing!**

Leader: Let the light of your face shine upon us, O Lord.

**People: Our hearts trust in you, and we are helped.
Our hearts leap for joy and we will give thanks to you in song.**

All: We wait. We watch. Come, Lord Jesus!

Hymn

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Lord Christ,
we confess our willingness to be loved
but also our reluctance to love.

People: We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love
but also our refusal to forgive.

**We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love
but also our resistance to follow you without question.**

Leader: In this Advent time, forgive us our failure to respond as we should.
Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you:

People: with joy, as the shepherds;
with gratitude, as Simeon;
with courage, as Mary;
with love, as you have loved us.

All: Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

Assurance of Pardon

Rev. Scott Duncan Hopkins

Leader: The night is far gone, day is on the horizon.
In Christ we are forgiven and given strength to face a new day, rejoicing,
and to participate, fully awake, in living and loving in this graced
community of faith named Clarendon Church.
Let us celebrate this great joy.

People: Amen.

Scripture

Isaiah 35:1-10

Rev. Lima

Anthem

Will You Be Ready?

Mark Patterson

Children's Choir

Children's Message

Scripture

Matthew 11:2-11

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Be Strong! Don't Fear! Here Is Your God!

Rev. Hopkins

Morning Prayer

Rev. Lima

Offering

*You are invited to make your offering to support the ministry and mission of Clarendon UMC.
You may go to the Online Worship page of our website and click "Make your online offering."*

Holy Communion

Rev. Nilse Furtado-Gilliam

*In the United Methodist tradition, all who seek to lead a Christian life,
together with their children, are invited to receive communion.*

Leader All

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

8 Leader All

Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.

17 Leader All

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The pastor continues...

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord; God of pow-er and might.

9 Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

17 san-na in the high-est! Ho - san-na in the high-est! Ho - san-na in the high - est!

25 Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

33 san-na in the high-est! Ho - san-na in the high-est! Ho - san-na in the high est!

The pastor continues...

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.



The pastor continues...

All honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.



And now with the confidence of children of God,
let us pray as our Lord taught us:

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.

Sending Forth

Hymn

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Benediction

Rev. Hopkins

Postlude

Stately March in G

Guilmont

Steve McBride, organ

Bulletin cover art by Evelyn

Greeting & Advent Wreath lighting adapted from prayers by Lisa Ann Moss Degrenia

<https://thepastorsworkshop.com/blog/advent-wreath-prayers-hope-peace-joy-love-2>