

# Order of Worship

## *First Sunday of Advent*

November 30, 2025 10:00 AM

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

**Prelude**

**Emmanuel, God with Us**

John Carter

Steve McBride, piano

**Welcome**

Rev. Scott Duncan Hopkins

### **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 first candle, the candle of hope,  
we remember words of the psalmist:  
"The eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him,  
on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,"

**People: God of Promise, come into our darkness.**

**Renew your hope in us,  
for you alone bring life out of death.**

Leader: We wait in hope for the Lord;  
he is our help and our shield.  
In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.

**People: May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord,  
even as we put our hope in you.**

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

**Hymn**

**The King of Glory Comes**

### **Prayer of Confession**

**God of new beginnings,  
we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.  
We have strayed from your paths.  
We prepare for war instead of peace.**

**We dishonor one another and your creation.  
Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love,  
that our hearts may be made whole  
and we may welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance**

Rev. Rodrigo Dacri Lima

Leader: People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst,  
a tender branch, a living sign.  
By the power of the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.  
You have put on Christ, and your sins have been washed away.  
Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

**People: Amen.**

**Scripture**

**Isaiah 2:1-5**

Rev. Hopkins

**Anthem**

**Come, Lord Jesus (Even So Come)**

Jess Cates

Praise Band

Jason Ingram, Chris Tomlin

**Children's Message**

**Scripture**

**Matthew 24:36-44**

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

**Builders of Hope**

Rev. Lima

**Reception of New Members**

INTRODUCTION AND PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

*The pastor addresses the persons coming into membership and their sponsors.*

On behalf of the whole church, I ask you:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,

Reject the evil powers of this world,

and repent of your sin?

**I do.**

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you

to resist evil, injustice, and oppression

in whatever forms they present themselves?

**I do.**

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior,

put your whole trust in his grace,  
and promise to serve him as your Lord,  
in union with the church which Christ has opened  
to people of all ages, nations, and races?

**I do.**

According to the grace given to you,  
will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy church  
and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

**I will.**

*The pastor addresses the sponsors:*

Will you who sponsor these candidates  
support and encourage them in their Christian life?

**I will.**

*The pastor addresses the congregation:*

Do you, as Christ's body, the church,  
reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

**We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these  
persons now before you in your care?

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news  
and live according to the example of Christ.**

**We will surround these persons  
with a community of love and forgiveness,  
that they may grow in their trust of God,  
and be found faithful in their service to others.**

**We will pray for them,  
that they may be true disciples  
who walk in the way that leads to life.**

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith  
as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments,

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**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.]**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**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.]**

#### RECEPTION INTO THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*The pastor addresses the persons coming into membership.*

As a member of Christ's universal church,  
will you be loyal to Christ through the United Methodist Church,  
and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?

**I will.**

#### RECEPTION INTO THE LOCAL CONGREGATION

As a member of this congregation,  
will you faithfully participate in its ministries  
by your prayers, your presences, your gifts,  
your service, and your witness?

**I will.**

#### COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

*The pastor addresses the congregation:*

Members of the household of God,  
I commend these persons to your love and care.  
Do all in your power to increase their faith,  
confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

*The congregation responds:*

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you  
and we welcome you in Christian love.**

**As members together with you  
in the body of Christ  
and in this congregation  
of The United Methodist Church,**

**we renew our covenant  
faithfully to participate  
in the ministries of the church  
by our prayers, our presence,  
our gifts, our service, and our witness,**

**that in everything God may be glorified  
through Jesus Christ.**

*The pastor addresses the new members:*

The God of all grace,  
who has called us to eternal glory in Christ,  
establish you and strengthen you  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
that you may live in grace and peace.

## **Morning Prayer**

Rev. Hopkins

## **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.*

*The Great Thanksgiving prayer is offered, concluding with:*

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

**Amen.**

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**

Rev. Furtado-Gilliam

## **Hymn**

**Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates**

**Benediction**

Rev. Lima

**Postlude**

**Choral Song**

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Steve McBride, organ

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*Bulletin cover art by Maeve.*

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

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