



HOME MORAVIAN CHURCH

Welcome Home



HomeMoravian.org

Sunday, December 14, 2025

Founded 1771

Fulfilling Christ's call to love God, live in community, and serve our neighbor.

*"Let thine eye be opened toward this house night and day,
even toward the place of which thou hast said, My name shall be there."*

- Text for the day on which the Site of Salem was selected.

Salem Square
Winston-Salem, NC

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 14, 2025
MORNING WORSHIP – 10:00 A.M.

WATCHWORD OF THE WEEK: *Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.*
-Isaiah 35:4

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTSThe Rev. Dr. Craig Atwood

PRELUDE: *Wachet auf! Ruft uns die Stimme*, BWV 645
(Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying)..... J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES.....The Stone Family

A LITURGY FOR ADVENT

T. Emmanuel

*Light up this house with glory, Lord,
enter and claim your own;
Receive the homage of our souls,
erect your Temple throne.*

*Light up this house with glory, Lord,
the glory of your love
That forms and saves a church below,
and makes a heav'n above.*

The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it; the world, and
those who live in it;

**For God has founded it upon the seas, and established it
on the rivers.**

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in
God's holy place?

**Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do
not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear
deceitfully.**

They will receive the blessing of the Lord, and vindication
from the God of their salvation.

**Such is the company of those who seek God, who seek
the face of the God of Jacob.**

T. Cassel

*Come, O long-expected Jesus,
born to set your people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
O, in you our rest shall be.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope to all the earth impart;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.*

Even as we pray for the coming of our Lord, let us in confession cleanse our hearts, praying that the Christ may find fit rooms there.

Gracious God, have mercy on us. We acknowledge our sins. The good that we knew to do, we have not done; the harm from which we should turn, we have instead inflicted. We have failed to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you. Instead of building bridges, we have built walls, hoping to protect our hearts. Forgive us, and come to us, and give us the courage for righteous relationships.

Through John the Baptizer, we hear the Lord's promise: Turn away from your sins, and God will forgive your sins. Peace be with you.

God be with us all.

God is coming near.

We open the doors of our hearts.

Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors!

That the king of glory may come in.

Who is this king of glory?

The Lord of hosts; the Lord of hosts is the King of glory.

T. Morecambe

*Lift high your heads, O gates, before the Lord!
Unfold to greet our God with one accord!
Break free the bonds that bind you to your walls!
Welcome the mighty God, the Lord of all!*

*Lift up your heads, O ancient doors, and give
Passage unbarred to God, in whom we live:
Who is this God, who merits such delight?
The Lord Almighty, crowned in glory bright!**

**Hymn text from The Psalter for Christian Worship (Witherspoon Press, 2010).
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SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Psalm 146:5-10

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God,
who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;

who keeps faith forever;

who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

the Lord loves the righteous.

The Lord watches over the strangers,

he upholds the orphan and the widow,

but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

The Lord will reign forever,

your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the Lord!

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

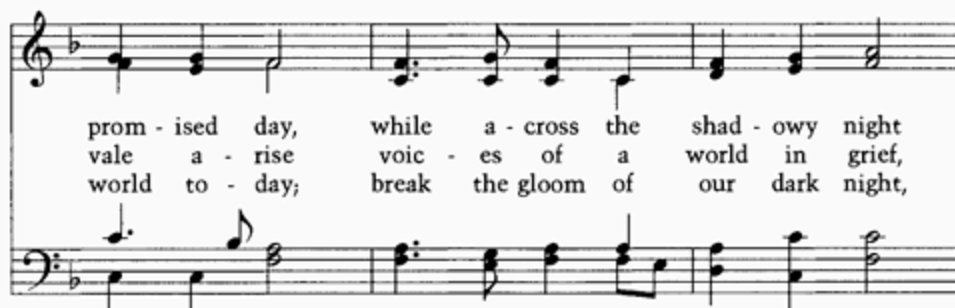
During the next hymn, children aged 3 through 3rd grade may follow Children's Worship leaders to continue worship in CE-106. Visitors can check in Godly Play guests using the QR code found in the pews.

HYMN 276 - *Veiled in Darkness Judah Lay.....T. Nicht so traurig*

276 Veiled in Darkness Judah Lay



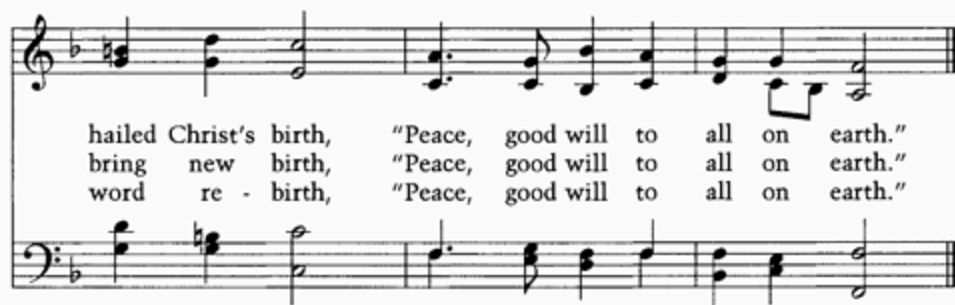
1 Veiled in dark - ness Ju - dah lay, wait - ing for the
 2 Still the earth in dark - ness lies. Up from death's dark
 3 Light of light, we hum - bly pray, shine up - on your



prom - ised day, while a - cross the shad - ovy night
 vale a - rise voic - es of a world in grief,
 world to - day; break the gloom of our dark night,



streamed a flood of glo - rious light, heav'n - ly voic - es
 prayers of those who seek re - lief, to our dark - ness
 fill our souls with love and light, give your bless - ed



hailed Christ's birth, "Peace, good will to all on earth."
 bring new birth, "Peace, good will to all on earth."
 word re - birth, "Peace, good will to all on earth."

TEXT: Douglas LaToll Rights (1915); alt. Eleanor Rights Roller (1991). © by Eleanor R. Roller
 TUNE: Johann Georg Ebeling (1637-1676)

7.7.7.7.7.
 NICHT SO TRAUIG

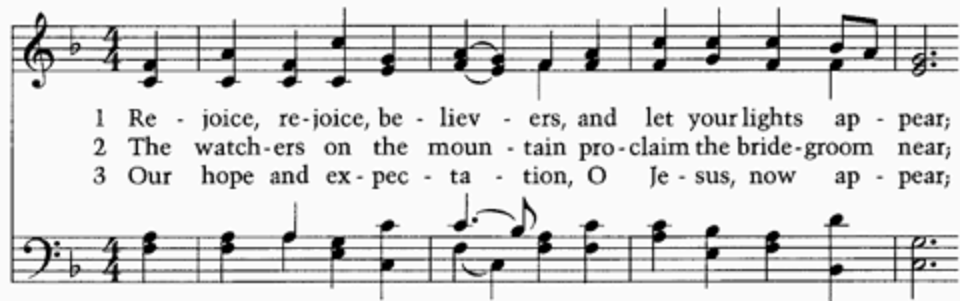
OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 35:1-10.....

..... Rev. Ginny Hege Tobiassen

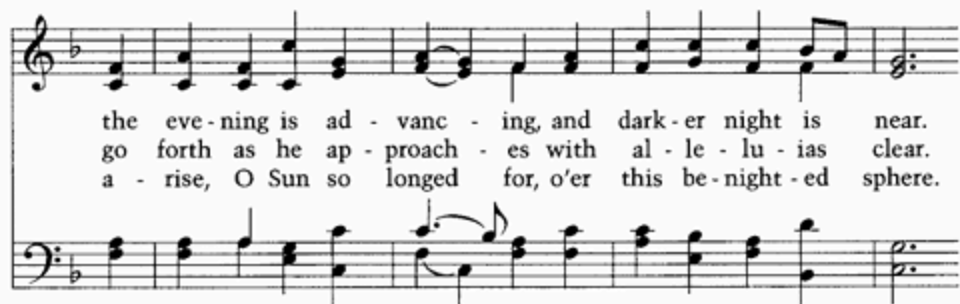
SERMON

HYMN 256 - *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*.....T. *Rejoice*

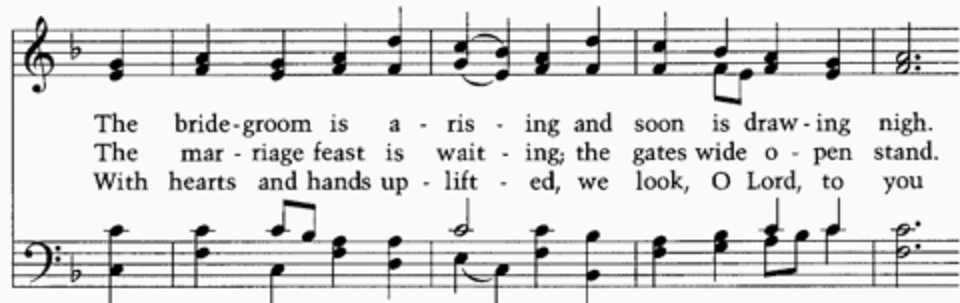
Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



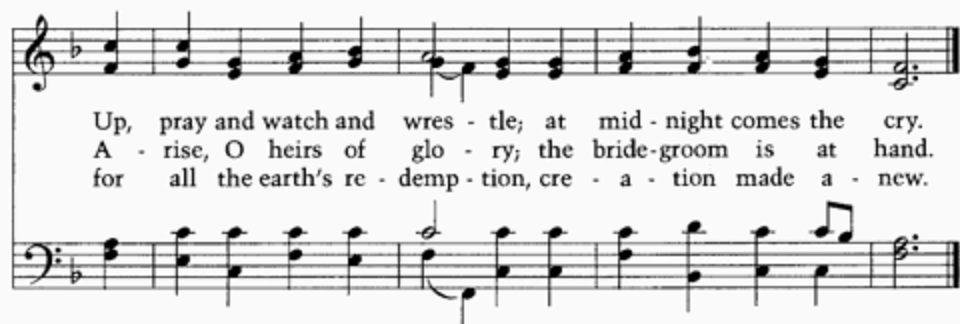
1 Re - joice, re-joyce, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch-ers on the moun - tain pro-claim the bride-groom near;
 3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we look, O Lord, to you



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride-groom is at hand.
 for all the earth's re - demp - tion, cre - a - tion made a - new.

TEXT: Laurentius Laurenti (1700); Tr. Sarah Borthwick Findlater (1854), alt.
 TUNE: Johann A. Freylinghausen (1710); C. Gregor Choralbuch (1784)

7.6.7.6.D. Iambic
 REJOICE (151 I)

OFFERTORY INVITATION..... Rev. Dr. Atwood

The offertory provides an opportunity to reflect on the many ways that we can express our gratitude in response to God: with time, treasure, talents, and testimony. For financial giving online: Use the Moravian Ministries Foundation giving portal at <https://mmfa.info/giving-portal/>. Click the DONATE tab on any page of the Home Church website. For more information, go to homemoravian.org/donate. You can make one-time or recurring gifts. Text HOME to 73256 on your phone.

ANTHEM:

Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes.....

.....Jill B. Bruckart (2025)

Home Church Choir

Thou shalt know him when he comes; not by any din of drums, nor the manner of his airs, nor by anything he wears. He is coming to us, will abide with us, will be in us. We will know him when he comes. Thou shalt know him when he comes; not by his crown or his gown, but his coming known shall be by the holy harmony which his coming makes in thee. Thou shalt know him when he comes. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD Rev. Tobiassen

HYMN 268 - *How Shall I Meet You, Jesus.....T. St. Theodulph*

268 How Shall I Meet You, Jesus?

Descant

3 No long - er need we sor - row nor wor - ry night and

1 How shall I meet you, Je - sus? How shall I wel - come
 2 Great love a - lone com - pelled you to leave e - ter - nal
 3 No long - er need we sor - row nor wor - ry night and

day how we might draw him to — us with -

you? What all the world is seek - ing, great
 light, to come and dwell a - mong — us and
 day how we might draw him to — us with -

in our heart's em - brace. He of his own will

trea - sure of the soul! O, set your light be -
 share our com - mon plight. The whole world's grief and
 in our heart's em - brace. He of his own will

TEXT: Paul Gerhardt (1653). Tr. Jean Dogga Pearson (1992). Tr. ©1992 by Jean Dogga Pearson
 TUNE: Melchior Teschner (1615); C. Gregor Choralbuch (1784)
 DESCANT: Nola Reed Knouse (1993)

Alternate key, hymn 391
 7.6.7.6.D. Iambic
 ST. THEODULPH (151 G)

ADVENT

find us and full of love and grace take

side me, my spir - it now re - new, so
suf - f'ring and earth's un - spo - ken pain, your
find us and full of love and grace take

up each anx - ious bur - den and bless each soul with peace.

that I may dis - cov - er what great - ly pleas - es you.
per - fect love em - brac - es till on - ly love re - mains.
up each anx - ious bur - den and bless each soul with peace.

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE – 832, *The Grace of Our Lord*

*While singing, we extend the right hand of fellowship.
We invite you to continue your fellowship as you exit during the postlude.*

SERVICE MUSIC

832 The Grace of Our Lord

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The lyrics are: 'The grace of our Lord Je - sus Christ, and the love of God, and the com - mu - nion of the Ho - ly Spir - it, be with us all, be with us all. A - men.' The score ends with a double bar line. The tempo/meter is marked as 'Irregular (540 E)'.

TEXT: 2 Corinthians 13:13
TUNE: Christian Gregor (1763)

Irregular
(540 E)

POSTLUDE:

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates
.....Jan Bender (1909-1994)

SUNDAY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP, CE-106, 10:20 a.m. (aged 3 through 3rd grade),
The Shepherds Show the Way to Bethlehem (Advent III)

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES WILL NOT MEET TODAY, due to the churchwide Christmas party being held in the Fellowship Hall following worship service.

CALENDAR

Sunday	-	11:00 am	Churchwide Christmas Party, Fellowship Hall
Monday	-	11:30 am	Praying in Color, Parlor
Tuesday	-	8:30 am	Men of Church Breakfast, Club Room
		3:00 pm	Finance Committee, RB-225
		6:30 pm	Beginner Band, RB-5
		7:30 pm	Chorale Band, RB-5
Wednesday	-	7:00 am	Breakfast, Cagney's Restaurant
Thursday	-	11:30 am	Men of Church Lunch Group, Club Room
		5:30 pm	Gregor BellChor, Bell Room
		6:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
Saturday	-	8:30 am	Women's Fellowship Walk, Reynolda Gardens
		10:00 am	Hanging of the Greens, Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary
Next Sunday	-	10:00 am	Worship Service
		5:00 pm	Home Church Family Lovefeast

ANNOUNCEMENT

We extend a cordial welcome to all visitors this morning and invite you to join us again whenever possible. Please take a moment to sign the Friendship Register, pass it both ways in your pew, and greet those near you.

The flowers are placed in the Sanctuary today *in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. CC (Cicero and Flora) Disher, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony H. (Mike and Bea) Disher, and Mr. Richard Warren Jr.* by Tony and Charlotte Warren Disher.

The wreaths are placed on the outside doors of the Sanctuary *in loving memory of I.B. and Mary Southerland* by I.B. and Carol Southerland and their family.

We thank Susan Foster for sharing her gifts as a guest organist today.

The annual “Hanging of the Greens” will be held on Saturday, December 20, at 10 AM. Meet in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be served for all volunteers. For more information contact I.B. Southerland.

2026 Daily Texts have arrived! Pick up weekdays in the church office or Sunday mornings on the cart outside the office. Payment is due at pickup. Extra copies available for purchase in the office during the week.

Watchnight Service, Wednesday, December 31, 8:00

p.m.: This one-hour service of Holy Communion will be shared at St. Philips Moravian Church. Angelica Regalado-Cieza, pastor of Fries Memorial Moravian Church, will speak. **All band members are invited to assemble for a prelude 30 minutes prior worship.**

Large print bulletins are available. See an usher for details.

Youth News: No Power Hour today—enjoy the Christmas party!

Scripture Meditation 12/14/2025

“Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.” – Isaiah 35:6

This line from Isaiah reminded me of something I heard this week from a German philosopher named Ludwig Feuerbach. Writing about baptism, Feuerbach said: *“Water is the purest, clearest of liquids; in virtue of this, its natural character, it is the image of the spotless nature of the Divine Spirit.”*

This line is somewhat surprising, because Feuerbach was an atheist; yet he saw the ritual of baptism as an essential recognition of our connection to the sacred substance that keeps us alive: water.

When I heard that quote, I realized that I am not often grateful for water. I treasure my morning coffee, and I like a good soup; but, especially with all the hype about hydration these days, sometimes drinking water feels like a chore.

It takes a beautiful poet like Isaiah and a thoughtful writer like Feuerbach to remind me how vital water is. I think of my college days in California: One summer, the drought was so bad that our showers were timed. Sometimes I appreciate precious things only when they are scarce. But I’m trying to become someone who recognizes the importance of all those little miracles that I experience every day—even something as ordinary to me as a drink of fresh water. – Philip

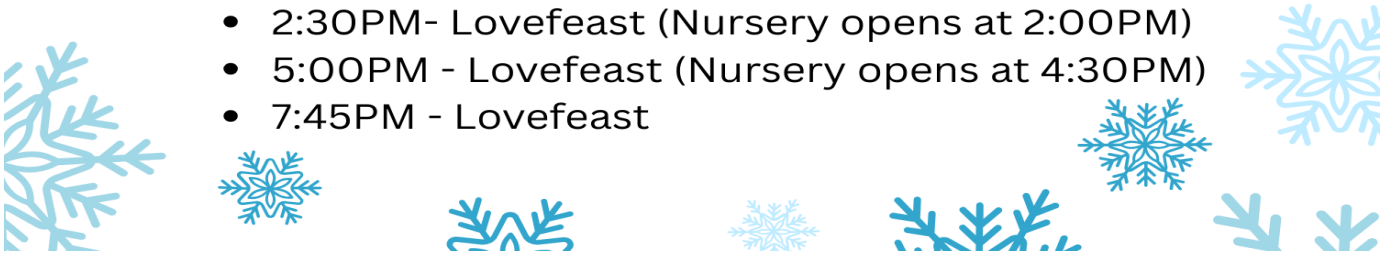


Upcoming Events:

- Saturday, Dec. 20 at 10AM - Hanging of the Greens (lunch provided)
- Sunday, Dec 21 at 5PM - HMC Family Lovefeast, Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Schedule:

Wednesday, Dec. 24 | Sanctuary

- 11:00AM - Children's Lovefeast
 - 2:30PM- Lovefeast (Nursery opens at 2:00PM)
 - 5:00PM - Lovefeast (Nursery opens at 4:30PM)
 - 7:45PM - Lovefeast
- 

“Passing Notes”

We are not playing “Whisper Down the Lane,” a children’s game of passing along a message that gets less accurate with each telling. The word Jesus uses is “witnesses.” What have been our encounters with the works of God in our world? What have been our experiences of Jesus? Do these match up with our hopes and expectations? Do they align with our understanding of the Spirit’s power? This Third Sunday of Advent raises many questions. What are you hoping to see? What are you waiting for?

A note from prison, “Is it you?” We’ve been waiting, “Is it true?”

Please go and ask, “Can it be?” All I’ve heard, I long to see!

All I’ve heard, I long to see!

Go tell John to make up his mind. Of all who seek and all they find.

Of all the fallen. All who stand. Everyone rising from holy land.

Everyone rises from holy land!

A note from Jesus, “Did you go?” To see reeds break; hear wind blow?

Listen and hear, when I say: You have walked with God today!

You have walked with God today.

Chorus

A note for ages, sent to all. Make us ready, none shall fall.

One who is great. One alone. One to break this heart of stone!

One to break this heart of stone!

Chorus



The Broke Kings (David Melby-Gibbons & Brian Dixon)

Tricklebee Café, Milwaukee, Wisconsin;

Emmaus Moravian Church, Emmaus, Pennsylvania

The Moravian Church

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025



HOME
MORAVIAN CHURCH



Virginia Hege Tobiassen, *Pastor* Craig Atwood, *Associate Pastor*

Glenn Siebert, *Director of Music*

Jonathan Williams, *Organist*

Becky Hodges, *Director of Christian Formation*

Philip Montgomery, *Youth Ministry Coordinator*

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(10 a.m. Morning Worship is broadcast on WSJS-AM 600)