



Madison Street

United Methodist Church

Service for the Lord's Day ~ December 21, 2025 ~ 10:15 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

A professionally staffed **nursery** is located through the double doors on the west side (front left) of the sanctuary. Our nursery is available for children and infants through age 3. **Restrooms** are also located through the double doors on the west side (front left) of the sanctuary.

ENTRANCE

The Chiming of the Hour

The Words of Gathering & Invitation to Worship

The Rev. Harriet Bryan

The Prelude

“Christmas Prelude”

arr. Sam Ellson

Jeffrey Thomas, Organist

+The Call to Worship (+Indicates stand as your able)

Lucretia Campbell

Leader: We gather on the way to Bethlehem, where Love takes on flesh.

People: Let us open our hearts to welcome Christ among us.

+The Processional Hymn No. 220 “Angels from the Realms of Glory” REGENT SQUARE

The cross leads the procession as a reminder that Jesus Christ, the Word of God and savior of humanity, is at the center of our worship.

The acolytes light two candles on the altar to symbolize the dual nature of Jesus, fully human and fully divine.

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Justin, Jenna, Gracie & Gannon Longacre

The journey continues, and this candle will help light our way.

We are on our way to more love.

So many around us are in need of grace,

in need of welcome,

in need of loving acceptance.

We are a people who can bring Good News.

Stories of generosity remind us—

again and again—

that goodness is the very nature of God.

God’s light goes before us;

we are not alone.

Lighting of the Hope, Peace and Joy candles.

Today we light the Candle of Love,

as signs of God’s promise and our calling to share that love with the world.

Lighting of the Love candle.

Congregational Response

Come, Lord Jesus, and teach us to love as you love.

Sung Response

“Light the Light, the Fire of Life”

IL EST NE

Tune found on Hymn No. 228.

Light the light, the fire of life, let the candle reveal His glory.

Jesus Christ has come to earth and for us shall come again.

Light the candle of His love, light the light of Bethlehem’s stable,

light the candle of His love, light the light by which we see.

Light the light, the fire of life, let the candle reveal His glory.

Jesus Christ has come to earth and for us shall come again.

+The Opening Prayer

Lucretia Campbell

Holy and Living God, we pray for hearts and minds
to open wide to merciful acts in your name.
Too often, we clench our fists in fear that what we have
will not be enough for us.
Give us the humility to make more room.
Call us to a “generosity of grace.”
Call us to be generous—not to a fault—but to a future
where all have a place and a home where they are deeply loved.
We pray this in the name of your Son,
Jesus, the Christ, your Love Incarnate. Amen.

+The Words of Assurance

Lucretia Campbell

Hear these words of assurance:
God is with us every step of our way toward the Love of Bethlehem.
Jesus is being born into our lives even now.
The Spirit is transforming us in this place.

Peace be with you!
And also with you.

As people forgiven and freed,
I invite you to pass the Peace of Christ among you.

The Act of Praise

“Glory to God” (from Messiah)
G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

Madison Street Choir

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, goodwill toward men.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

The Epistle Lesson

Romans 13:8-11

The Rev. Bo Myers

+The Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:1-14

Rev. Myers

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Revs. Bryan & Myers

Siblings in Christ:

Through the Sacrament of Baptism

we are initiated into Christ's holy Church.

We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation

and given new birth through water and the Spirit.

All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

I present Gracie Sue Longacre and Gannon Robert Longacre for holy baptism.

Pastor asks parents to reaffirm their renunciation of evil and their faith in and loyalty to Christ.

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 them

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.

Next Gen Kids Moment

The Rev. Anne Hough

After the Next Gen Moment, children ages Pre-K through Grade 5

will be dismissed to Kids Core to worship in an exciting, child-oriented way!

At the conclusion of worship, dismissal locations are: Pre-K: Rm. 305, Kindergarten: Rm. 308, Grades 1-5: Rm. 307

*Pre-K – Kindergarten: **Baby Jesus** Grades 1 – 5: **Advent III***

+Hymn No. 236

“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”

CHRISTMAS CM

The Sermon

“Bethlehem: A Place of Humble Love”

Rev. Bryan

+The Affirmation of Faith

The Rev. Dr. Tim Sharp

We believe in God above us,
creator and lover of the earth,
origin and destiny of us all.

We believe in God beside us,
Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,
God coming to us in the fragile promise
of a baby yet unborn—
who emerges as the herald of hope,
God's laughter in the face of despair.
Plunged into death and hell,
he broke free the captives,
and is leading the way to the land of promise
where justice and peace will flourish.

We believe in God within us,
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the church,
spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of resurrection and eternal life. Amen.

The Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Sharp

*If you have a prayer request to share with our pastors, please email us at prayer@madisonstreetumc.org
or fill out a prayer card found in the R.O.W. books and place in the offering plate.*

The Offering of Our Gifts to God

Rev. Bryan

*Your generosity enables us to make a difference in our community and world.
To give online, go to madisonstreetumc.org/giving or scan the QR code located on the green online giving card.
To give from your phone, text GIVE2MSUMC to 73256.*

The Offertory

"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"
arr. Sam Ellson

Jeffrey Thomas, Organist

+The Doxology

AWAY IN A MANGER

Tune found on Hymn No. 217

Praise God for these gifts that we offer today
and bless them for good in the world, this we pray.
Praise Jesus, the Christ-Child, our Hope and our Stay,
the Spirit, our Keeper, our Guide on the Way.

SENDING FORTH

+The Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Rev. Bryan

+The Hymn No. 238

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

GLORIA

+The Benediction

Rev. Bryan

+The Postlude

“Joy to the World”

arr. Sam Ellson

Jeffrey Thomas, Organist

*The acolytes lead us into the world carrying the light of Christ as a reminder
that God sends each of us into the world to share Christ's light with others.*

The nativity on the altar is given to the glory of God in loving memory of David Howard IV by the Howard family.

The nativity on the front lawn is given to the glory of God in loving memory of Carl Gadsey by his family.

Worship Leaders in Today's Service:

The Rev. Harriet Bryan ~ Senior Pastor

The Rev. Bo Myers ~ Associate Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Tim Sharp ~ Pastoral Associate for the Arts

Lucretia Campbell ~ Congregational Care

Ashley Menard & Bruce Armstrong ~ Technical Team

Justin, Jenna, Gracie & Gannon Longacre ~ Advent Candle Lighters

The Rev. Anne Hough ~ Next Gen Moment Leader

AJ Fish & Theo Drake ~ Acolytes

Jeffrey Thomas ~ Organist

Madison Street Choir

Today's liturgy is adapted from Marcia McFee's Worship Design Studio (USA).

The Affirmation of Faith draws from language from the Iona Community (Iona, Scotland) and from Nathan Nettleton of the South Yarra Community Baptist Church (Melbourne, Australia).

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Stay informed about all our events through our Friday email “This Week at Madison Street.”

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and by email; info@madisonstreetumc.org.

To contact a staff member, please email firstname@madisonstreetumc.org
(ex. janet@madisonstreetumc.org)



OFFICE HOURS & GIVING NOTICE

During the week after Christmas, the Madison Street church office will operate on a limited schedule as some staff work remotely or take scheduled time away. Please call the church office before stopping by, as availability will vary.

The business office will have limited hours from **Monday, Dec. 29** through **Wednesday, Dec. 31**.
9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

*(Please note: To count as a **2025 charitable contribution**, gifts must be postmarked, submitted electronically, or delivered to the church by **December 31, 2025**; gifts received after will be recorded for 2026.)*

This Week at *Madison Street*

Sunday, December 21

8:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Nursery/Childcare Available (2 nd Floor Sanctuary Hall)
9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	Sunday Morning Choir Makeup Rehearsal (Choir Room)
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Sunday Morning Small Groups (Various Locations)
10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Beyond Limits (Rm. 215 – Sanctuary Hall)
10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Worship (Sanctuary & Streaming)
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	UMYF (MSUMC)
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Blue Christmas (Chapel)

Monday, December 22

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	UWF/Esther-Rebekah Group (Rm. 103)
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Wednesday, December 24

12:00 p.m.	Office Closed at Noon for Christmas
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service (Sanctuary)
10:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
11:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.	Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service (Sanctuary)

Thursday, December 25

All Day	Office Closed for Christmas
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Friday, December 26

All Day	Office Closed for Christmas
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Sunday, December 28

8:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Nursery/Childcare Available (2 nd Floor Sanctuary Hall)
9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	Sunday Morning Choir Makeup Rehearsal (Choir Room)
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Sunday Morning Small Groups (Various Locations)
10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Beyond Limits (Rm. 215 – Sanctuary Hall)
10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Worship (Sanctuary & Streaming)

A poster for a Blue Christmas service. The background is a close-up of blue Christmas ornaments and green pine branches. The text is in white and blue. At the top, it says "Sunday December 21, 5:00 p.m." in white. Below that, "Blue Christmas" is written in a large, elegant blue script. In the center, a dark blue rounded rectangle contains white text: "This quiet service makes space for those who carry sorrow, grief, or weariness into the holidays. Together we will remember that God's light meets us even in the longest night." At the bottom left is the Madison Street United Methodist Church logo, and at the bottom right is the text "Madison Street UMC Chapel" in white.

Sunday December 21, 5:00 p.m.

Blue Christmas

This quiet service makes space for those who carry sorrow, grief, or weariness into the holidays. Together we will remember that God's light meets us even in the longest night.

Madison Street
United Methodist Church

Madison Street UMC Chapel

In Loving Memory

J.G. Davis

Hazel, Jimmy & J.C. Frey

John E. Halliburton

Virgina S. Halliburton

Jo Hoagland

Matthew "Matty" Hodges

Karen J. Hodges

Price, Nancy & John Hopson

Robert T. & Billie Faye, Wyatt Bradley & Neil Johnson

John R. Jones

Family Members

Gail S. Peay

Austin Peay, Martha Peay Evans, & Ross Evans

James Smith

James Smith

LeeLee Wall

David William III & IV

In Honor of

Harry & Jean Bryan

Our Grandchildren

MSUMC Clergy & Staff

Given By

Frances Davis & Family

Ruth & Jerry White

Charlsie & John Halliburton & Family

Charlsie & John Halliburton & Family

The Olita Family

Mark Hodges

Mark Hodges

Price & Kay Hopson

Lynda Wyatt Johnson

Carolyn Jones & Family

Tom & Mary Rives

The Peay Families

The Peay Families

His Family

David & Sharon Harris

The Olita Family

Their Family

Given By

Harriet Jean Bryan

Jerry & Anne Clark

MSUMC Staff-Parish Relations Committee

CHRISTMAS EVE

Communion & Candlelight Services

December 24, 5:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m.

