

# Salem United Methodist Church

First Sunday of Advent – November 30, 2025

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Isaiah 2:1-5)

Let us enter into God's presence so that God may teach us his ways and we may live in God's light. We hope for the day of God's enduring peace and wholeness for all creation.

OPENING PRAYER (in unison): **O God of promise and redemption, we lift our heads and our hearts to you. You are the One who gives us hope. Help us to prepare the way for our Savior to reign in our lives. We place our trust in you for you are our sure and steadfast anchor. So we celebrate the promises you have already fulfilled, and the fulfillment of promises to come. Help us to bring hope as we offer our thankful praise to you. In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

\*OPENING MUSIC "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" #211 v. 1,2,6,7

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Hope. May the light sent from God shine in the darkness to show us the way of salvation. O come, O come, Emmanuel.

SUNG RESPONSE "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" #204  
**Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel. God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CHOIR ANTHEM "Living Hope" arr. Dan Galbraith

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison): **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.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 1:5-13 (CEB)

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

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

MESSAGE

"Get Ready for Jesus - Have Hope"

\*DOXOLOGY "What Child Is This" #219, v. 3 and refrain

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him; The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him. This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste, to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.**

\*PRAYER OF COMMITMENT (in unison): **Holy God, we give you thanks for your gift of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and for the abundant and eternal life you offer to us. Thank you for the daily blessings by which you sustain us. We respond to your grace with these gifts, and our faithful service. Bless this offering that it may be used for your glory, and to witness to the hope and salvation Jesus Christ brings. We commit ourselves and our gifts to preparing the way of Christ. Amen.**

\*CLOSING MUSIC "Lift Up Your Head, Ye Mighty Gates" #213

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE Irish Blessing  
**May the road rise to meet you. May the wind always be at your back.  
May the sun shine warm on your face. The rain fall soft on your fields.  
And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.**

\*POSTLUDE

## **SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IN THE WORLD**

Live stream notice: We are blessed to be able to live stream and record our 10:45 a.m. worship service. Anyone in the sanctuary during that time may appear on camera as part of the service and consents to filming. Our camera is directed at the front of the sanctuary. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Stacey.

Welcome to Salem United Methodist Church! Thank you for joining us today in worship.

Our Worship Leaders Today:

Ellie Brown, Liturgist  
Katy Stevens, Director of Music  
Rev. Dr. Stacey Nickerson, Pastor ([pastor@salemunited.org](mailto:pastor@salemunited.org))

Mark Carter, Tech Team Producer  
Bryan Niles, Tech Team Director

**Choir Rehearsal** begins at 9:45 a.m. in the sanctuary.

**Junior Church** begins after the Children's Message.

**This Week** (see our website for details: [salemunited.org](http://salemunited.org))

Monday, 12/1 7:30 p.m. – Alcoholics Anonymous (Parlor)

Wednesday, 12/3 10:00 a.m. – Morning Bible Study (Office)

Saturday, 12/6 8:00 – 10:15 a.m. – Breakfast with Santa (Hall; \$10 adults, \$5 kids 6 and under)

Saturday, 12/6 10:30 a.m. – Special Church Conference meeting (Sanctuary) – all are invited to attend as we vote for our new Unified Leadership Board structure as discussed in our October 12 Congregational Information Session.

**Upcoming** (see our website for details: [salemunited.org](http://salemunited.org))

Saturday, 12/13 6:00 p.m. – Young Adult Group Christmas Party (John Sivey's house; dinner and Christmas desserts served)

Sunday, 12/21 both services – College Student Recognition Sunday

**Christmas Families:** Salem is supporting Magnolia Elementary School this year by providing gifts to be distributed to the families of children from the school. Please prayerfully consider making a monetary donation to be used toward purchasing the requested gifts. Please place donations marked "Christmas Gifts" in the offering plate or mail your donation to the church office; you may give online as well. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Carter.

**Christmas Eve Worship Schedule on December 24 (both services available online as well as in person in the sanctuary):**

6:45 p.m. Handbell Choir Prelude

7:00 p.m. Worship

11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Worship



**SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**UPPER FALLS, MD**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025**