

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 24: 36-38, 42-44

³⁶ “About the day and hour [of Jesus’ coming] no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark.

⁴²Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owners of the house had known at what point during the night the thief was coming, they would have stayed awake and would not have let their house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God!

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

(After Children’s Moment, children age 3 – 5th grade are invited to Children’s Church in Room L8, located downstairs. Children will return to the Sanctuary to receive Communion with their families.)

SERMON

Rev. Stephanie Bekhor

*HYMN #211

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

*CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Every moment of living is an opportunity to do something differently, to face the truth of our lives, to turn toward God in hope. Every confession of those things which lie in hearts is an opportunity to come closer to God. Trusting in God’s grace and mercy, let us then make our confession, first in silent prayer.

SILENT PRAYER

Holy God, we aspire to love and trust you, but so often we get in the way of ourselves. We see only the deep sadness of the world, and do not notice your people at work amid the sorrow. We assume that things will never get better, and do not see all that is good right now. We close our eyes and complain about the darkness, rather than see the light that shines all around us. Help us, Holy One. Help us to grow in love and trust, in compassion and hope, so that as the Christ Child comes to us once again, we will see him and know him and rejoice.

Friends, hear this good news: in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and freed to love and serve. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT OFFERING SPEAKER

~ Kenn Speicher, NOVA Friends of Refugees

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(After each petition, the congregation responds with: **Hear our prayer.**)

Thanksgiving

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY

Glory to the Lamb

David Blackwell

Come, let us join our cheerful songs with angels round the throne; ten thousand are their tongues, but all their joys are one: Alleluia, Glory to the Lamb. Worthy the lamb that died, they cry to be exalted thus; and worthy the lamb, our lips reply, for he was slain for us: Alleluia, Glory to the Lamb. Let all that dwell above the sky and in the earth and seas, combined to lift your glory high, and seeing your endless praise. Let all creation join in one, to bless the sacred name of him that sits upon the throne, and to adore the Lamb. Alleluia, Glory to the Lamb.

*DOXOLOGY #95

OLD 100TH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God, above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

See pp. 13-14 in the *United Methodist Hymnal*.
[We offer a gluten-free element option and always use grape juice, not wine]

THE LORD’S PRAYER

(sung)

RECEIVING COMMUNION

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Still Small Voice

Ian Assersohn

Drop thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease; take from our souls the strain and stress and let our ordered lives confess the beauty of thy peace. Breathe through the heats of our desire, thy coolness and thy balm; let sense be dumb, let flesh retire; speak through the earthquake, wind and fire, O still small voice of calm.

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*HYMN #706

Soon and Very Soon

VERY SOON

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Prelude and Fughetta (No. 2 from 5 Pieces)

Healey Willan

Participants in Today’s Worship Service:

Preaching: Rev. Stephanie Bekhor

Liturgist: Jane Hanson

Organist/Choirmaster: Jonathan Saint-Thomas

Children’s Sharing: Linnea Carlson

Acolytes: Sophia Glandon, Sloane Harrison

Join us for Coffee Fellowship by exiting the side door to the gathering area.

* * *

Please stand, as able, for those acts of worship marked with an asterisk*.

Words in bold type indicate a congregational response.

Register your attendance using the QR code below or by using the attendance card located in the pew rack.



Congregational Prayers

Healing and Sympathy:

~For Mark S., as he recovers from surgery. Mark is the husband of Cindy Huber's cousin.

~For the sister of Joy P., as she prepares for cancer surgery. Joy is a friend of Cindy Huber.

~For Carl, brother of Michele S., as he prepares for heart surgery. Michele is a friend of Cindy Huber.

For those battling cancer and long-term illness: Heather Weir, Karen Watkins, Elizabeth Carnahan, Keith Fairbrother, Jason Micheli, Sally, Joel, Chi Bahn, Christine, Mindy, Judy, Yarikza, Kate Heavner, Peter Joyce, Cindy, Tom Benson, Kay Lewis, Justin, Kent Sapp, Latifa Sharif, Rozanne, Dena, Mary Hays, Thomas Greving.

Prayers for the World:

~ For all Palestinians who have been suffering for over 80 years.

~For peace around the world and an end to war in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, Yemen, Myanmar and freedom for the millions of people living in lands occupied by countries that invaded their homelands.

To submit a prayer concern go to our website mountolivetumc.com/prayers or use the back of the attendance card.

Announcements

Advent Party today, November 30, 5-7 pm, Fellowship Hall

Stewardship 2026

As we look ahead to a new year, we invite you to prayerfully consider what "Why Church" means to you. Please consider how you can financially support our church and place your pledge card in the offering plate today, mail to the church or submit online. mountolivetumc.com/stewardship

Senior Adult Christmas Lunch

Join us for our annual Senior Adult Christmas lunch on Thursday, **December 4 at 11:30** at Metro 29 Diner (4711 Langston Blvd) for great food and fellowship. Lunch is on us! RSVP to Tina by **December 1** at tmarcus@mtolivet-umc.org or (571) 447-3619.

Advent Study

All are invited to join a 4-week (**December 4, 11, 18 & 22** at 7:15 pm) zoom discussion series on Kate Bowler's book, *The Weary World Rejoices*, a free resource which includes a daily devotional guide and a weekly group guide. Download both at katebowler.com/advent/

Find additional announcements and more on our website mountolivetumc.com or subscribe to our weekly e-news.

Announcements (continued)

Advent Offerings 2025

Make a difference for neighbors in need with a generous donation to the Mount Olivet Advent Offering. This year, three recipient organizations have been selected by the Outreach Committee that serve immigrant newcomers during these challenging times. Use the Advent Offering envelope in the pew rack or giving link on our website.

Just Neighbors

Just Neighbors is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving and supporting the immigrant community providing legal services.

Arlington Free Clinic

Arlington Free Clinic (AFC) continues to be Arlington's only provider of comprehensive healthcare services for adults living with a low income and without health insurance.

NOVA Friends of Refugees (NFOR)

NFOR is the joint refugee ministry of Mount Olivet and St. George's Episcopal Church. NFOR has established an emergency fund to help meet urgent needs of recently arriving refugees and asylees when other sources of aid have ended.

Christmas Tea...On Saturday, **December 6** at 2 PM in the Fellowship Hall, we welcome in the holiday season with our annual Mount Olivet Christmas Tea. Everyone is invited. Cookies, punch, tea, and Christmas carols await. Please let us know you are coming by using the RSVP link on our website.

Festival of Lessons and Carols...During our regularly scheduled traditional worship service on **December 14** at 9:15 AM, the Mount Olivet Choir and Children's Choirs will present their annual Festival of Lessons and Carols. The service will include all your favorite traditional carols and MORE! All are welcome.

Live Nativity, Sunday, December 21, 5:00 and 5:30 pm

Invite family, friends, and neighbors for the Live Nativity on the Green with live animals – including a camel – and a real baby! Start your Christmas week with the Christmas story and hear about the true meaning of Christmas at this beloved tradition. Join the angels singing on high during interactive carol singing. Hot chocolate makes this event great for children and families of all ages. Rain or shine. ALL are welcome!

Christmas Eve Worship

Join us for Christmas Eve at Mount Olivet!

Family Worship at 3:30 pm and 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary

No need to worry about wiggle worms here! These are interactive family-friendly services that are sure to engage all ages.

Traditional Worship at 6:30 in the Sanctuary

A classic Christmas Eve service complete with the Mount Olivet Choir, Silent Night by candlelight, and communion.

The Way Modern Worship at 8:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

A modern, laid-back Christmas Eve service with incredible music and a cozy atmosphere. This is a family-friendly service that will engage all ages!



November 30, 2025, 9:15 am

Welcome to worship at Mount Olivet. Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the season leading up to Christmas. The tree and Advent Wreath have been set up, their ever-green branches a reminder to us of the eternal, never-ending love of God. This season, we will tell the fantastical story of an incarnate God, birthed into the world as each of us is – ordinary and extraordinary, mundane and miraculous, humble and holy. May you find moments of peace, calm, and inspiration in this holy space of worship.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

Prelude on Veni Emmanuel

Sir Edward C. Bairstow

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Once again, we embark on the Advent path that points us to the coming of Jesus.

We speak of the signs and times that heralded the arrival of the baby Jesus, God Incarnate.

We tell the stories once and watch for glimpses of God's here-and-not-yet-here kingdom among us.

Come, let us worship God who shines a light to guide us on the path to peace and flourishing for all creation.

Let us worship God as we journey together toward the day we await.

*HYMN #715 Rejoice, the Lord Is King

DARWALL'S 148TH

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Unexpected God, your advent alarms us. Wake us from drowsy worship, from the sleep that neglects love, and the sedative of misdirected frenzy. Awaken us now to your coming and bend our anger into your peace. Amen.

LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE ~ The Harrison family

The story begins with hope for a child –

A child, born of woman, like us;

a child who will lead us.

A child who will inspire us.

A child who will be our living hope.

On this first Sunday of Advent, we give thanks for the coming child, Jesus.

(One blue candle, symbolizing hope, is lit.)