

A Service of Lessons and Carols

December 14, 2025 at 9:15 a.m.

Mount Olivet United Methodist Church
Arlington, VA

For acts of worship marked with an asterisk (*), please stand as you are able.

Words in **bold type** indicate a congregational response, spoken or sung.

In reverence for God and out of respect for this sacred space, please refrain from applause until after the Benediction. You will be given the opportunity to acknowledge all musicians at that time.

Childcare is available for infants to age 3 during the service. The nursery is located on this floor, to the left of the sanctuary. All ages are welcome to attend the entire service.

Gathering

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

Organ Prelude

Three Meditations for Christmas

Gilbert Martin

I. Cradle Song

II. In Dulci Jubilo

III. Once in Royal David's City

Marche Héroïque

G.P. Telemann arr. C. Callahan

Introit

All This Time

William Walton

All this time this song is best: "Verbum caro factus est." this night there is a child born that spring out of Jesse's thorn; We must sing and say there-for. Jesus is the child's name, and Mary mild is his dame; all our sorrow shall turn to game: It fell upon high midnight: The starres shone both fair and bright; The angels sang with ask their might. Now, kneel, we down on our knee, and pray we to the Trinity our help, our succour for to be. Latin: Verbum caro factus est. English: The word is made flesh.

Greeting

***Call to Worship**

Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**Sing to the Lord, praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day.**

Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

**Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;
let the sea resound, and all that is in it.**

Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them;
let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.

**Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes,
he comes to judge the earth.**

He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples in his faithfulness.

(Psalm 96)

***Hymn #234**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

*Prayer of the Day (unison)

Holy God, your prophets have long spoken of the one who would come to save us. Now the promise is fulfilled; now your kingdom has come near. Send us as messengers of your way, to go and tell all the world of the wonders we have seen and the good news we have heard; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lighting the Third Advent Candle

~ Spencer and Avery Jones

Throughout all human history, God's promise has stayed the same:

"I will be your God, and you will be my people."

We worship God Emmanuel, a name which reminds us of the promise:

God is with us.

On this third Sunday of Advent, we give thanks for God's abiding, joy-filled presence among us.

The pink candle symbolizing joy is lit.

Children's Anthem

Who Would Imagine a King

Gary Hallquist

Mommies and daddies always believe that their little angels are special indeed, and you could grow up to be anything, but who would imagine a king? A shepherd or teacher is what you could be, or maybe a fisherman out on the sea, or maybe a carpenter building things, but who would imagine a king? It was so clear when the wisemen arrived and the angels were singing your name, that the world would be different 'cause you were alive; that's why heaven stood still to proclaim. One day, an angel said quietly that soon he would bring something special to me. And of all of the wonderful gifts he could bring, who would imagine, who could imagine, who would imagine a king?

Children's Moment

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Word

God speaks to us in scripture and song.

First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

Cindy Huber

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.

Anthem

Heavenly Star

PEPPER CHOPLIN

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| Second Lesson | Genesis 22:15-18 | Sara Scarlett McDonnell |
| <i>God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.</i> | | |
| Hymn #224 | Good Christian Men Rejoice | IN DULCI JUBILO |

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| Third Lesson | Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 | Brian Butler |
| <i>The prophecy for the coming of the savior.</i> | | |
| Anthem | Unto Us A Son Is Born | TREVOR MANOR |

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| Fourth Lesson | Isaiah 11:1-3 | Sherri Hunter |
| <i>The peace that Christ will bring is for shown.</i> | | |
| Anthem | See Amid The Winter Snow | DAN FORREST |

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| Fifth Lesson | Luke 1:26-35, 38 | Jane Hanson |
| <i>The Angel Gabriel greets the Blessed Virgin Mary.</i> | | |
| Hymn #220 | Angels From The Realms of Glory | REGENT SQUARE |

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| Sixth Lesson | Luke 2:1, 3-7 | Kristen Nelson |
| <i>St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.</i> | | |
| Anthem | The First Noel | DAN FORREST |

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| Seventh Lesson | Luke 2:8-16 | Kelly George |
| <i>The Shepherds go to the manger.</i> | | |
| Anthem | Away in a Manger | JAY ROUSE |

Thanksgiving

We express our gratitude to God through our tithes and gifts.

Collect for Advent
**As a farmer plants the seeds
And waits for the rains to come
Let us entrust our gifts to the Lord
As we await the coming of God's reign. Amen.**

The Offertory
Our Advent offering benefits the causes listed in the Announcements section.

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| Anthem | Wise Men Seeking Jesus | Jonathan Willcocks |
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Wiseman seeking Jesus, traveled from afar, guided on their journey by a beauteous star. But if we desire him, he is close at hand; for our native country is our Holy Land. Prayerful souls may find him by our quiet lakes, meet him on our hillside when the morning breaks. In our fertile cornfields while the sheaves are bound, in our busy markets, Lord Jesus Christ is found. He is more than near us, if we love him well; for he seeks us ever in our hearts to dwell.

*Doxology #95

OLD 100TH

*Prayer of Dedication

Thanks be to you, O God, maker of heaven and earth – giver of justice, lover of righteousness, hope of the afflicted, and friend of the poor. Your faithfulness never fails. Take and use these gifts we offer to further the promise of the world to come; through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

Sending

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

*Hymn #246

Joy To The World

ANTIOCH

*Advent Blessing and Benediction

At the close of the pastor's benediction, the congregation is invited to acknowledge by applause the efforts of all those who participated in today's service.

POSTLUDE

Sortie for Organ and Brass

Michael Silhavy

Leading Today's Worship Service

Officiating Pastors: Rev. Dr. Sara Keeling

Liturgist: Cindy Huber

Children's Sharing: Linnea Carlson

Acolytes: Sophia Glandon, Alahnie Sherman, Sam Meek

Children's Choir: Silvia Brunson, Betty Carlson, Hazel Carnahan, Harper Ford, Natalie Ford, Brandon Gilley, Stone Keeling, Whitney Kuhl, Elliot Lucking, Theo Lucking, Lena Rordam, Alahnie Sherman, Mica Tejada

The Mount Olivet Choir: Alison Andrews, Rev. Stephanie Bekhor, Ryan Brown, Meredith Chistolini, Emily Dozier, Holly Fletcher, Doug George, Didi Kumalo, Susan Leland, Jim Maxstadt, Jim McElfish, Karen McElfish, Jett McReynolds, Kim Mullin, Eric Myers, Cindy Newcomb, Janet Oak, Drew Pathwick, Lou Phelps, Vince Price, Jill Ramirez, John Roehl, Kim Roehl

Organist and Choirmaster: Jonathan Saint-Thomas

Music Ministry Assistant: Cindy Newcomb

Brass Quartet: Chandler Comer (Trombone), Ryan Fuhrman (Trumpet), Zach Sellers (Trombone), Nick Serbu (Trumpet)

Announcements

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 giving link or Advent Offering envelope in the pew racks on Sunday.

Just Neighbors...Just Neighbors is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving and supporting the immigrant community. They provide high-quality immigration legal services to low-income immigrants, asylees and refugees.

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.

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! Start your Christmas week with the Christmas story and hear about the true meaning of Christmas at this beloved tradition. 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!

Estimate of Giving

Please consider how you can financially support our church and submit your Pledge card for 2026. You can place your pledge card in the offering plate on Sundays, mail it to the church or submit online.

Youth Choir Concert

Join us for the Youth Choir Concert tonight, December 14 at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited!

Staff Love Gift

Your Gifts for Their Gifts! One of the easiest and most meaningful items on your Christmas Shopping list is the "Love Gift" for our Mount Olivet pastors and staff. Each year we express appreciation for their gifts, talents and tireless service by making financial contributions during Advent for this special fund. It is given to show that we recognize all that they do throughout the year for our community. So, give generously and note on your check that this is for the 2025 Love Gift. You can also donate online at mountolivetumc.com/giving

Happy Birthday Jesus Cupcakes!

Our tradition at Mount Olivet is to give each child a cupcake to take home after the Christmas Eve family services so they can sing happy birthday to Jesus! Sign up to provide cupcakes at the link on our website. Contact Linnea Carlson with any questions at lcarlson@mtolivet-umc.org.

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

Prayer Concerns

Healing and Sympathy:

- ~ For Susan Newton, who will be undergoing treatment for cancer of the gallbladder.
- ~ For Mark S., as he recovers from surgery. Mark is the husband of Cindy Huber's cousin.
- ~ For Chris C., a friend of Cindy Huber, who is recovering from fractures after a fall.

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.