

## Fourth Sunday

# OF Advent

December 21, 2025

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

✚ *Please stand in body or in spirit*

*We are pleased to welcome all who have come to worship  
with us this morning! Your presence is a blessing.*

PRELUDES ..... Praise Team

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY: Welcome & Announcements

✚ SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

✚ CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively):

It is an awesome thing to stand in the presence of God, to stand with feet on holy ground,  
**to lift our hearts and voices in worship, to open our bodies and minds to divine healing,**  
and to receive in our souls the truth of the ages.

**Come, let us worship together!**

✚ OPENING HYMN: "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" ..... UMH 240

✚ COLLECT (unison)

**O God, our Father, who has brought us again to the glad season when we commemorate the  
birth of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; grant that his Spirit may be born anew in our hearts this  
day and that we may joyfully welcome him to reign over us. Thus may we claim your promise of  
Emmanuel – God with us. Amen.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

*(Lighting of the first candle)*

We light the candle of hope, reminding us of Christ's promise to return.

*(Lighting of the second candle)*

We light the candle of peace, reminding us that we are to dispel the darkness of sickness, poverty,  
injustice, and suffering all around us.

*(Lighting of the third candle)*

We light the candle of joy, reminding us of Christ's promise of eternal life.

*(Lighting of the fourth candle)*

We light the candle of love as a sign of our faithfulness as we seek, find, and follow Emmanuel, God with us!

ADVENT CAROL: "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" verse 1 ..... UMH 218

PSALTER: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 with sung response 1 ..... UMH 801

HEBREW LESSON: Isaiah 7:10-16 (pp 681-682)

Prophecy in a time of national crisis: God will give Ahaz a sign...the birth of a child, Emmanuel.

EPISTLE LESSON: Romans 1:1-7 (p 1112)

Paul introduces himself and his ministry to the house churches in Rome.

SPECIAL MUSIC ..... Chancel Choir

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

RECEIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

✚ Festival Doxology ..... UMH 94

✚ Dedication

(Over)



✚HYMN: “Angels We Have Heard on High” ..... UMH 238  
 ✚GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 1:18-25 (pp 955-956)  
 Matthew’s account of the circumstances leading to Jesus’ birth.  
 MESSAGE: “God With Us” ..... Pastor Jim Pugh  
 SPECIAL MUSIC ..... Praise Team  
 ✚BENEDICTION  
 POSTLUDE

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of  
*Diane Matthews*  
 by her family.

**Lectionary Readings for Sun., December 28, 2025**

Isaiah 63:7-9      Psalm 148  
 Hebrews 2:10-18   Matthew 2:13-23

Give to God  
 through  
 Zion UMC



Sound:	Kenny Thomas	Accompanist:	Irene Howard
Greeter:	Gloria Brake	Choir Director:	Karla Wilkins
Videographer:	Brandon Crawford	Scripture:	Tom Wilson
Ushers:	Gene Williams & Tom Wilson	Pastor:	Jim Pugh
Advent Readers:	Spicer Leaming & Joe Turner		

**ATTENDANCE**

Sun., December 7, 2025: In-person: 37   Online: 18 (church cancelled on December 14)

**Zion’s Mission Statement**

The mission of Zion UMC is to provide a loving community to welcome all who seek a Gospel-based commitment with Jesus Christ, through which their relationship with Him can thrive and to provide opportunities to serve others in His name.

**Zion’s Core Values**

- Worship is the core of our life together.
- We are family.
- We grow disciples.
- We honor God by serving others.
- We live as God’s stewards.
- We respect our heritage.

**OTHER INFORMATION**

Praise and Prayer Concerns may be emailed to [office@zionumccambridge.org](mailto:office@zionumccambridge.org).  
 They will not be read during today’s service, but added to next week’s list.  
 Check us out on our website: [ZionUMCCambridge.org](http://ZionUMCCambridge.org),  
 like us on Facebook: Zion UMC Cambridge