

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 14, 2025

We appreciate the gifts of our own Cathy Lowery as our accompanist this morning.

PRELUDE "Advent Prayer"

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

ANTHEM "Light Of Light" Joel Raney
Chancel Choir

LITANY

Leader: Advent is a time to celebrate the joy of living.

People: Lord of light, we thank you for the gift of life.

Leader: Advent is a time to celebrate the joy of relationships.

People: Lord of light, we thank you for our friends and family.

Leader: Advent is a time to celebrate the earth we all share.

People: Lord of light, we thank you for providing for our needs.

Leader: Advent is a time to celebrate eternal life.

People: Lord of light, we thank you for sending a Savior.

CANDLE LIGHTING

ANTHEM "Light Of Light" J. Raney
Congregation joins in "Light Of Light" anthem (see insert)

OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN "Good Christian Friends Rejoice" No.224

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 35:1-10 OT – page 623

ANTHEM "Advent Kyrie" P. Lantz, III
Chancel Choir

CHILDREN'S ANTHEM "Unto Us" arr. Semson
(from the musical, "Jingle Bell Beach")

DISMISSAL TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH as we sing:

God is so good, God is so good, God is so good, God's so good to me. He loves me so, he loves me so, he loves me so, God's so good to me!

SERMON "Bringing Joy God's Way" Reverend Ed Priestaf

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY "In The Bleak Midwinter" v. 4 No. 221
What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

*HYMN "Angels We Have Heard On High" No. 238

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION HYMN (8:45 A.M.)

POSTLUDE

*Please Stand As You Are Able

A nursery (located in front of the church office) is available. Parents – please set your phones on vibrate and leave your cell number with the nursery attendants so that if you are needed you can be reached.

PRAYER LIST: Linda Bridges, Eddie Bridges, Lois M. Winstead, Tom Hill Clayton, Phyllis Tuck, Leon Long, Jean Andrews, Norma Sabiston, Bob Morningstar, Sammy Blalock, Mike Wrenn, Family of Carolyn Wooley.

THIS WEEK AT LONG MEMORIAL UMC:

Sunday: 8:45 A.M. – Early Church – Chapel
11:00 A.M. – Worship – Sanctuary
5:30 P.M. – Children’s Christmas Program –
Harris Hall
Monday: A.M. – Preschool Christmas Program – Sanctuary
5:00 P.M. – Literacy Committee – 3rd Floor
Tuesday: A.M. – Preschool Staff – Harris Hall
Handbell Choir Wednesday 6:00 P.M.
Chancel Choir Wednesday 7:00 P.M.

This Week’s Scripture

Isaiah 35:1-10
Luke 1:47-55
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

Next Week’s Scripture

Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

STAFF LOVE OFFERING

During the month of November/December the SPRC Committee is asking the congregation to participate in a love offering for our staff, to be presented to them December 23rd. We as members of Long Memorial are fortunate to have such a dedicated, dependable and caring staff whom we all love and rely on. Please join in and make this a special show of appreciation. Please designate your contribution "STAFF LOVE OFFERING". Thanks in advance for your show of support.

Church Staff:

Rev. Ed Priestaf, Pastor
Charles Higgins, Director of Music
Peggy Wade, Church Secretary
Pam Day, Preschool Director
Billie Oakley, Church Treasurer
Autumn Gentry, Children & Youth Ministries’ Director
Sherry Clayton & Kayla Brown, Nursery Attendants
Wilbur Brann & Hunt Fitzgerald, Audio Technicians

DATES TO REMEMBER

TODAY: Children’s Christmas Program –5:30 P.M. –
Sunday, December 14th

NEXT SUNDAY: 9:00 A.M. - Church Wide Christmas
Breakfast – Harris Hall
Lessons & Carols Service – 10:30 A.M. (only) – Sunday,
December 21st

Christmas Eve Service – 5:00 P.M. -Wednesday, December
24th

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Here is information regarding our congregation's financial giving through December 7, 2025.

2025 Budget: \$475,801

Budget divided evenly per Sunday: \$9,150

Budget giving on Sunday, December 7, 2025: \$9,466

Average budget given each Sunday in 2025: \$8,416

Budget giving through December 7: \$416,115 (87% of budget given through 94% of the calendar year)

Amount of 2025 budget still to raise: \$59,686 (13% of the budget)

The average amount needed per Sunday through the rest of the year to meet the 2025 budget is \$19,895.

We thank you for your faithfulness in discerning what God has called you to share. We trust that God will help us all be good stewards of the blessings God has provided!

We are making progress on a church in paying our annual apportionments to the conference. We have sent over \$22,000 and have approximately \$35,000 outstanding. Apportionments are used to do the work of us United Methodists together as a Conference in eastern North Carolina and throughout the world. The funds provide training to clergy and laity, help with mission responses to natural disasters, pay for our church's leaders and administrative staff, in addition to many other ministries. Each year the conference calculates an apportionment amount for each church, based on the expenditures of that church in proportion to other churches. Larger-budget churches are apportioned higher amounts than smaller budget churches.

As a reminder, you can make contributions to the church by cash or check on Sundays or during office hours throughout the week, or you can use the "Vanco Mobile" app on your phone to make single or recurring payments, or you can arrange through the church office to utilize an Electronic Funds Transfer (direct deposit) on a regular basis. If you wish to change your EFT amount, please send an email to LMfinsec@esinc.net or come to the office to fill out a form. You can also mail a check to the church's PO box: Long Memorial UMC, PO Box 310, Roxboro, NC 27573.



LONG MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Roxboro, NC 27573
336-599-1193

We are on the web at: longmemorialumc.org

Like us on Facebook: Long Memorial United Methodist Church

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that
whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.
John 3:16*

*Our Mission Is To Make Disciples Of Jesus
For The Transformation Of The World*

Leader: This Is The Day The Lord Hath Made
People: Let Us Rejoice And Be Glad In It.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome you to Long Memorial United Methodist Church! It is our sincere desire that your worship time with us will be enjoyable and edifying. If you are interested in learning more about our community please see the "visitor" section of this bulletin.