

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 28, 2025

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Beloved, we have waited, watched, and witnessed the coming of the Christ child. As we gather today on the other side of Christmas, we might be tempted to ask, "What now?"

People: We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.

Leader: In this season of Christmas, we remember that though Christ has come among us, the good news of freedom for captives, flourishing for the poor, and power returned to the disempowered does not reign in so many places.

People: We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.

Leader: With Mary and Joseph, we listen for God to show us how to protect and advocate for the vulnerable among us.

People: We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.

Leader: As we gather to worship today, may God bind us together in love, empowering us to live as followers of the Christ child who declare good news wherever we go.

People: We gather today as people who wait, watch, and work for the day that all the earth awaits. Thanks to be to God! Amen.

Used with permission. Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, June 2025.

OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN "O Come, All Ye Faithful" UMH 234

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH UMH 880

*GLORIA PATRI

UMH 71

*SHARING OF 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

Matthew 2:13-23

NT – page 2

CHILDREN'S SERMON

CHILDREN DISMISSED TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH as we sing:
"Be near me Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray; bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there."
(*"Away In A Manger* UMH 217)

SERMON

"Already And Not Yet"

Reverend Julia Alliger

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE WORSHIP IN TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER

No. 94

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia!
Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up lifts! Praise
the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*HYMN

"It Came Upon A Midnight Clear"

UMH 218

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION HYMN (8:45 only)

POSTLUDE

*Please Stand As You Are Able

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Audrey and Bob Blanks by Steven, Rick, Brian, David, Pam, Zachary, Montana, Joshua, Adam and Alexander.

PRAYER LIST : Wayne Winstead, Harriett Adcock, Linda Bridges, Eddie Bridges, Phyllis Tuck, Lois Winstead, Leon Long, Jean Andrews, Mike Wrenn, Bob Morningstar.

SYMPATHY: Our deepest sympathy is extended to Pam Day and family in the death of her brother, Sammy Blalock.

THIS WEEK AT LONG MEMORIAL UMC:

Sunday:

8:45 A.M. – Early Service – Chapel

11:00 A.M. – Worship Service – Sanctuary

Tuesday:

10:00 A.M. – Town Hall – Harris Hall

***Note:** Peggy is taking off a few days the week after Christmas. If anything is needed at any time, please call Peggy on the church phone number 336-599-1193 (she will answer 24/7).

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.

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



LONG MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

226 North Main Street

P.O. Box 310

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.