



3RD SUNDAY OF *Advent*  
*Bon Air United*  
*Methodist Church*

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DECEMBER 14TH, 2025  
11:00AM

1645 BUFORD ROAD  
N. CHESTERFIELD, VA 23235

[WWW.BONAIRUNITEDMETHODISTCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.BONAIRUNITEDMETHODISTCHURCH.ORG)

Today is the third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete (Latin for rejoice) Sunday. The scriptures we read today highlight the joy of Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, and Mary, the mother of Jesus our Lord. The pink candle reminds us to rejoice, as true joy comes from following God's will, practicing patient obedience to the ways of the Lord, and recognizing the ever-present Holy Spirit.

Rejoice in the Lord, always, again I say, "Rejoice!" -Philippians 4:4.

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PRELUDE

*Prelude on VENI EMMANUEL*

Gerard Krapf

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Beloved, we gather to rejoice in God who does wondrous things, who promises that someday all manner of things shall be well.

**We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.**

We worship with joy now, confident that God will not stop until all creation is at peace.

**We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.**

We lift up our voices in song and story, in prayer and praise, as we remember and rejoice in all that God has done and will do among us.

**We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.**

Come! Let us worship God with joy as we work with God toward the day when all of creation lives in everlasting joy.

**Come! Let us rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.**

HYMN 211

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

### LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Led by the Hunnicutts: Grant, Elaina, Amelia, and Sunny

First Reader: In the midst of our waiting and longing for God to make the world right again, we cling to the truth that God has saved, God is saving, and God will save. So today, we join our voices with the prophet Isaiah, who calls us to live in the joy of the truth of God's salvation.

**All: We choose to believe that the day is coming when "the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away" (Isaiah 35:10).**

Second Reader: We light this candle of joy as a sign of the Truth that sets us free to live in joy as we wait and work for the day when all creation will flourish together.

*Light two blue candles and the pink candle of the Advent wreath.*

UMH 206 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (refrain only)  
In him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

#### PRAYER FOR GAUDETE SUNDAY

Holy God of Joy,

We rejoice in the reality of who you are. We live within the joy of your love for us.

Our contentment comes and goes. Our happiness ebbs and flows.

Our feelings depend upon our circumstances, our physical health, our brain chemistry.

But our joy is deeply rooted in our identity as your beloved children. And we give you thanks.

**Amen.**

Brothers and sisters,

As we joyfully await the glorious coming of Christ, let us pray for the needs of the church,  
our community, and the world.

*Prayers of the People concluding with:*

God of joy and exultation, you strengthen what is weak;

you enrich the poor and give hope to those who live in fear. Look upon our needs this day.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison):

**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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

ANTHEM

*Comfort, Comfort*  
Chancel Choir

arr. John Ferguson

GOSPEL LESSON

LUKE 1:39-45, 46-56

SERMON

The Lord is Coming: Lighten Up

Rev. Mayton

HYMN UMH 221

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

CRANHAM

## RECEPTION of NEW MEMBERS

UMH 33

9:00 Diana Worley

11:00 Melanie Brown

Myrna Rooks

Joe, Lauren, Annabelle, and Poppy Schmitt

Rick and Sharon Thompson

## OFFERING OUR TITHES and GIFTS to GOD

OFFERTORY

*Offertory on ES IST EIN ROS*

John Leavitt

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Mayton

\*CLOSING SONG TFWS 2281 *May You Run and Not Be Weary* PRINCE OF PEACE

**May you run and not be weary. May your heart be filled with song.**

**And may the love of God continue, to give you hope and keep you strong.**

**And may you run and not be weary, May your life be filled with joy!**

**And may the road you travel always lead you home.**

POSTLUDE

*Postlude on VENI EMMANUEL*

Robert J. Powell

*\*Please stand as able.*

***Bold** indicates congregation response.*

*TFWS - The Faith We Sing. UMH- United Methodist Hymnal.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

On **December 21st**, the Chancel Choir, Wesley Ringers and Bon Air Brass will present **“Singing the Darkness to Light,”** a program of music bridging the Advent and Christmas seasons with songs, anthems and voluntaries celebrating the light of Christmas brought into the world by Jesus Christ.

## WEDNESDAY, CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

- 11:00am CHRISTMAS COMMUNION - Rev. Mark Rooks presiding
- 5:00pm FAMILY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION
- 7:00pm TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION  
Rev. Mike Mayton presiding
- **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28<sup>th</sup> - 1 Sanctuary Service at 10:00am**