



# Third Sunday of Advent

*The purpose of Groce United Methodist Church is to build the family of God through praising God, bringing others to Christ, teaching the faith, strengthening the fellowship, and sending forth in service.*

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**Jill Rhinehart—Pastor**  
**Becky Wilburn—Music Director/Organist**  
**Debbie Ross—Handbell Director**  
**Gayle Decker—Administrator/Treasurer**  
**Mariah Wright— Secretary**  
**Kelley Woehl—Youth Director**  
**Tammy Peek—Custodian**

# SUNDAY WORSHIP CELEBRATION

December 14, 2025

**\*Where indicated, please stand if you are able.**

CHIMES OF THE HOLY TRINITY

PRELUDE

“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen/ O Come, O Come Emmanuel”  
*Flute Trio*

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jennifer Prince

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

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

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

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

Leader: 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.

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

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

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

Leader: Let us pray. 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.

**\*OPENING HYMN**

“Good Christian Friends Rejoice”

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Angela Dotson and Melinda Day

ANTHEM

RECEIVING OF NEW MEMBERS

SCRIPTURE

MESSAGE

RECEIVING GOD’S GIFTS

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY

“Immanuel”  
*Martin*

Nate Rhein, Lauren Rhein, Danny Owenby

Matthew 1:18-24  
*NT Page 1*

“Joseph of Bethlehem”

*Ushers will come forward*

“Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine”  
*Arr. Lau*

SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE

UMH pg. 12-14

COMMUNION HYMN

“Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine”

*See bulletin Insert*

COMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

\*CLOSING HYMN #431

“Let There Be Peace On Earth”

\*SENDING FORTH / BENEDICTION

Go forth in peace. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

CHIMES OF THE HOLY TRINITY

POSTLUDE

“Rejoice and Sing”  
*J.S. Bach*

*Our service of worship has ended.  
Now, our worship through service begins.*

POINSETTIAS

In honor of **Jim and Nancy Creel** — Given by Carol Arrowood

In honor of **Katie Laymon** — Given by Joe Early

In honor of **Joe Early II** — Given by Joe Early

In honor of **Church Staff** — Given by Stan Boyd

In Honor of **Jim & Olivia Saxman, Kristan & Elizabeth Underwood**  
— Given by Ed & Nancy Saxman

In Honor of **their grandchildren** — Given by Gary & Betty Brockway

In Memory of **Mark Arrowood** — Given by Carol Arrowood

In Memory of **Dudley Culp** — Given by Pamela Budd

In Memory of **Dorothy Thompson** — Given by Kimberly Coleman

In Memory of **Sydney and James Carroll** — Given by Stan Carroll

In Memory of **Joyce Burgess** — Given by Stan Carroll

In Memory of **Mr. and Mrs. Guy Burgess** — Given by Stan Carroll

In memory of **their parents** — Given by Gary & Betty Brockway

In Memory of **Dean, Brian, & Adam Troxell**  
— Given by Will & Michelle Troxell

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\*The first four pews on both sides are fragrance-free.\***

**The Flowers on the Altar** are dedicated to the Glory of God, and given by **The Altar Guild!**

**Sunday’s Ushers:** Thank you to our Ushers! **John Smith, Bob and Tracey Briggs, Betty Jones** (Steward), **True Morse!** Thank you to our Nursery Volunteer **Sandra Crouch!**

CHURCH CALENDAR: DEC. 14– 20

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>9:00:</b> Agape Class	<b>11:00:</b> Prayer Group	<b>11:00:</b> Advent Study Group	<b>10:00:</b> Sarah Circle	<b>1:30:</b> Tai Chi		
<b>10:30:</b> Worship Service	<b>3:00:</b> Hand-bells	<b>1:30:</b> Tai Chi <b>7:00:</b> SMBB	<b>5:30:</b> Pickle-ball			
<b>12:00:</b> Youth	<b>6:00:</b> Labyrinth		<b>6:00:</b> AA			
<b>2:00:</b> Return to Bethlehem			<b>6:00:</b> Chancel Choir			