WE HOPE YOU'LL JOIN US FOR THESE UPCOMING **WORSHIP SERVICES**

CHRISTMAS EVE

Wednesday, December 24

4:00pm | Family-friendly service Children help tell the Nativity story (no signup or prep needed!). Candle lighting will include flameless candles for kids.

> 7:00pm | Traditional candlelight service *Also live streamed on YouTube

> 11:00pm | Traditional candlelight service

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS Sunday, December 28 10:00am | Sanctuary

Scan the QR code to find the events calendar

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NewnanFUMC.org/events





CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Andrew Chappell, Senior Pastor **Rev. Lisa Dempsey, Interim Pastor**

Rev. Connor Bell, Associate Pastor

Seth Crile, Facilities Manager Dr. Caitlyn Dixon, Minister of Music Janet Marie Gunnels, Communications Director Patty Hall, Kitchen Hostess Tiffany Hanson, Church Sexton Carol Hartenbower, Administrative Assistant Jodi Horne, Nursery Coordinator Carrie Horsley, Church Sexton

Bonnie Krider, Asst. Director of Music Owen Lambert, Finance & Business Director Dr. Dawn McCord, Organist Susan Mitchell, Preschool Director Paul Mosley, Youth Minister Julie Perkins, Accompanist Kim Stokes, Finance Secretary Andrea Stuart, Director of Children's Ministries





Order of Worship



Caitie Dixon

GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Andrew Chappell

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow, a light has shone.

For the yoke that was weighing upon them, and the burden upon their shoulders, you have broken in pieces, O God, our Redeemer.

OPENING PRAYER Caitie Dixon

God of mercy, hear our prayer in this Advent season for ourselves and for our families who live with painful thoughts and memories. We ask for strength for today, courage for tomorrow, and peace for the past. We ask these things in the name of your Christ, who shares our life in joy and sorrow, death and new birth, despair and promise. Amen.

†HYMN "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" verse 1 No. 196

SCRIPTURE READING Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 Janet Marie Gunnels

HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem" verse 1 No. 230

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 22 (selected verses)

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from helping me, so far from the words of my groaning?

O my God, I cry by day but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.

In you, our ancestors trusted. They trusted and you delivered them.

It was you who brought me from the womb,

you who kept me safe on my mother's breast.

Since my mother bore me, you have been my God.

Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

God does not despise the affliction of the afflicted.

God does not hide from me.

When I cry to God, God hears me.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem" verse 3 No. 230

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 40 (selected verses) Janet Marie Gunnels

HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem" verse 4

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 11:28-30 Janet Marie Gunnels

PRAYER & MEMORY ORNAMENTS

During the song of reflection, you are invited to write the name of a person, place, or thing you are grieving on an ornament. Hold on to that ornament until later in the service, when you will be invited to hang it on the tree.

SONG OF REFLECTION "Find The Light" David Ramirez Rev. Andrew Chappell

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Caitie Dixon

No. 239

No. 230

After each petition, please respond with the words in bold as follows: Lord, hear our prayer,

And in Your merciful love, answer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" (verses 1, 3, 4) No. 218

LIGHTING OF CANDLES

As we sing our final carol, you are invited to come forward to hang your ornament and to light a candle.

HYMN "Silent Night, Holy Night" (verses 1, 3, 4)

†SENDING PRAYER Caitie Dixon

Almighty God, we thank you for your constant love and for the blessings of this day. We know that even when we cannot see or feel you, still you are there. Help us to remember you and to listen for your voice in the words of family, friends, and strangers. Kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may know you as you reveal yourself in the world and in our lives. Let the light of your holy Spirit shine like these candles in the darkness, lighting the way for all who feel despairing, lost, or forgotten, and grant that it may come to dwell so deeply in our hearts that when we leave this place it may shine on, for us and for those we meet along the way. Amen.

†BENEDICTION Rev. Andrew Chappell

Rev. Andrew will be available at the front of the chapel after worship for anyone who wishes to speak about their grief.

†Please stand as you are able. All music used with permission: CCLI# 1494932 Please silence all cell phones during worship. No food/drinks in the Sanctuary.