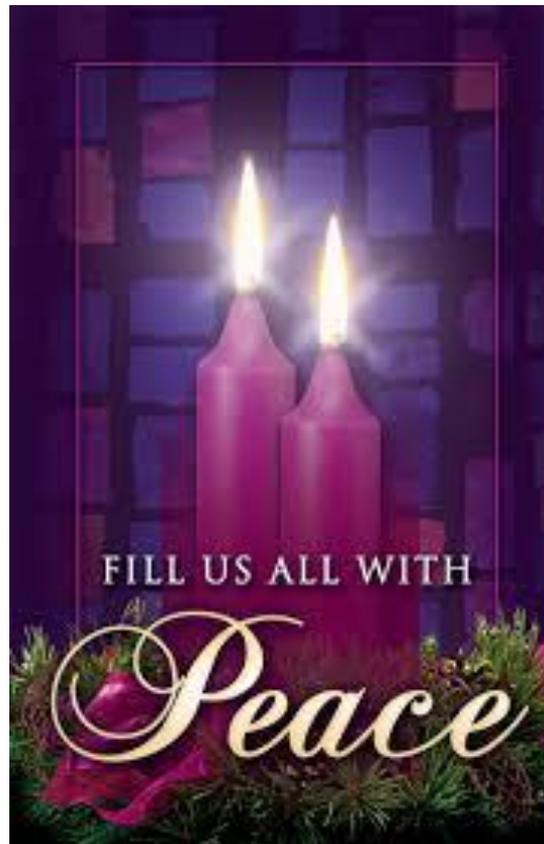


*The United Methodist Church
12 Commerce Street
Clinton, CT*



2nd Sunday of Advent

*Sunday, December 7, 2025
Advent Series
While We Wait – Be Peaceful!*

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*Please stand in body, and/or spirit

Prelude

Welcome, Acknowledgements of first-time visitors and announcements

Words to Ponder:

Lay down your burdens. Forget your fears. Christ has invited you here. live in the hope and peace of God.

Introit

“Carols Around” – Nygard

Chancel Choir

*Call to Worship (Lighting of the Advent Candle)

Bob & Sue Morrison

Leader: Advent reminds us that we are people who share a story, the story of Jesus, who enacts peace by judging in favor of the poor and deciding with equity for the meek of the earth. We long for the day when “the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them” (Isaiah 11:6).

People: Today, we choose to live the story of peace, believing that true peace comes when we seek the flourishing of all God’s creation.

Leader: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to bring Light to the places the world seeks to hide until that day when all creation lives together in harmony and abundance.

Light the second candle of the Advent wreath.

*Opening Hymn

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

No. 203

Opening Prayer (Unison)

God of hope and peace, as we worship you this day, may we catch a glimpse of your peace; may we open ourselves to receive your grace; may we welcome one another, as you have welcomed us; may we prepare hearts and our lives, for Christ to be born in us once again. And when our worship is done, may we be renewed in body and spirit, prepared to bring your righteousness and justice to the world. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Merciful God, there are days when we lose our way. We forget, or simply don't trust, your vision of peace. We ignore the cries of those seeking justice. We fail to bear good fruit in our lives. Forgive us. Remind us that we are yours. Teach us how to make peace with ourselves and with our neighbors. Help us proclaim your message of hope and continue our journey to Bethlehem— a journey of faith to a cradle of love. In the name of Emmanuel, we pray. Amen.

Brief moment for personal confession

Words of Assurance

Brothers and sisters, siblings in Christ, the God of steadfast love encourages us to continue in the faith. Rejoice, for God brings forgiveness and healing. Thanks be to God! Amen.

1st Scripture Reading (Old Testament)

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Leader: This is the Word of God.

People” Thanks be to God.

Anthem “I Shall Know Him When He Comes” – Wagner
(*Children go to Junior Church*)

Chancel Choir

*2nd Scripture Reading (Gospel Lesson)

Mathew 3:1-12

Leader: This is the Word of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

Sermon “While We Wait – Be Peaceful”

Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor

Offertory

*Doxology

#95

*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Abundant God, your blessings and righteousness are bountiful in our lives. May these gifts bear good fruit as they go forth, that peace may come, that creation may be healed, and that those who cry for justice may be heard. Amen.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Peace

Let us offer one another signs of reconciliation and love.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR ADVENT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day
when justice shall roll down like waters
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream,
when nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ,

whom you sent in the fullness of time to be a light to the nations.

You scatter the proud in the imagination of their hearts

and have mercy on those who fear you from generation to generation.

You put down the mighty from their thrones and exalt those of low degree.

You fill the hungry with good things, and the rich you send empty away.

Your own Son came among us as a servant
to be Emmanuel, your presence with us.

He humbled himself in obedience to your will
and freely accepted death on a cross.
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and cup.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Holy Communion is served

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (in unison)

Almighty God, we thank you that in your great love you have fed us with the spiritual food and drink of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ, and have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. Grant that this Sacrament may be to us a comfort in affliction, and a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all your saints; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

No. 560

Benediction

May the God of love fill you with joy and peace. May the peace of Christ be with you, now and forevermore. And may the Holy Spirit fill your days with hope. Amen.

*Response

“Bless Us Now”

Frank Milnes

Bless us now as we depart, Watch o’er us, God, while we’re apart; Give strength to conquer daily strain, and bring us to Thy house again. Amen

Postlude

Worship Resources

Call to Worship

https://ministrymatters.com/2019-10-31_worship_connection_second_sunday_of_advent_a/

Opening Prayer, Confession, Words of Assurance, Dedication, Benediction

https://ministrymatters.com/december_7_2025_second_sunday_of_advent/

Prayer of Thanksgiving – Advent United Methodist Church, Simpsonville, SC

Flowers are from Deb Anderson.

SUNDAY, DEC 7

9:00 Sunday School

10:00 Worship

11:00 Fellowship

11:15 Mission Meeting

TUESDAY, DEC 9

7:00 Bible Study Online
WEDNESDAY, DEC 10
9:30 TOPS
5:00 Soup Kitchen
THURSDAY, DEC 11
10:00 Bible Study
6:30 Scouts
7:30 Choir
FRIDAY, DEC 12
5:30 AA meeting

Ushers: Evelyn and Dennis Scaglione, Sally Maxwell and Charlotte Parisi
Camera Operator: Banks Babjak
Video Coordinator: Erica Babjak
Worship Leader: Bev Bowen
Lectionary scriptures: Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 (UM795), Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12
Sermon: Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor
Communion Steward: Sharon Minick
Fellowship Hosts: Hales
Counters: Jackie Blomberg and Sally Maxwell
Music/Choir Director: Bob Hale
Organist: Patty Hurlburt

Office Staff

Donna Carpenter-Bronson, 860-669-8396, 9-1 weekdays
Email: office@clintonctumc.org
Financial Secretary: Jackie Blomberg
Treasurer: Carol Bell

Let's fill the church with poinsettias for Christmas! Join us by dedicating a plant in honor or memory of a loved one, just let the church office know what dedication you would like in the bulletin. Include who the flowers are in honor of/memory of, and given by.

Order and pay \$10/poinsettia by December 15th, checks made out to UMC of Clinton, CT. The money collected will be given to the Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries. We are looking forward to a beautiful sanctuary for the



Holidays.

In honor of/memory of _____

Given by _____