

**McFarlin Memorial United Methodist Church**  
**Sanctuary Worship: December 14, 2025**

**Call to Worship**

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light - John Behnke

Stephen Wurst, organ

**Welcome**

Rockford Johnson

**Dramatic Scripture Reading/Advent Candle Lighting**

Manny Tijerina – Narrator/Zechariah

John's Birth & Zechariah's Song - Luke 1:57-80

*About the Advent Wreath: Advent (to arrive) names the four Sundays before Christmas when we anticipate a fuller realization of the coming of Christ among us once again. The four exterior candles represent the gifts of God's grace made clear in the arrival of Jesus: joy, hope, peace and love. The central candle represents the presence of Christ. Each of the four Sundays of Advent, one more exterior candle is lit. Finally, the Christ candle is lit on Christmas Eve as a reminder of Christ's ongoing presence.*

**\*Hymn # 206**

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

**Children's Choir Anthem**

(8:30) Born, Born in Bethlehem- arr. Donald Moore  
(11:00) Christmas ABCs - Joel Nagy

3rd-5th Grade Choir  
PreK-2nd Grade Choir

**Children's Time**

Zach James

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;**

**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

*Children's worship for grades K-5 will dismiss following the children's message at the 11:00 service.  
Parents, please pick your children up in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor children's area following the service.*

**Congregational Prayer/The Lord's Prayer**

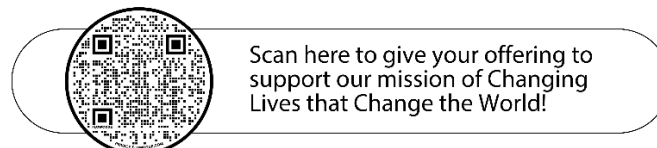
8:30 Wendi Neal; 11:00 Scott Meier

**\*Hymn # 230**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

**\*Invitation to Our Offering**

Wendi Neal



**Anthem** (8:30) Away in a Manger - arr. Bob Chilcott McFarlin Singers  
UMH #217

(11:00) Candlelight Carol - John Rutter Chancel Choir

*How do you capture the wind on the water? How do you count all the stars in the sky?  
How do you measure the love of a mother Or how can you write down a baby's first cry?*

*Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn.  
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Angels are singing; the Christ child is born*

*Shepherds and wise men will kneel and adore him, seraphim round him their vigil will keep.  
Nations proclaim him their Lord and their Savior, but Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep. (refrain)*

*Find him at Bethlehem laid in a manger; Christ our Redeemer asleep in the hay.  
Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation, a child with his mother that first Christmas day. (refrain)*

**\*Doxology # 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 uplifts!**  
**Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Sermon** Preparing for the Dawn of a Distinctive Optimism Rockford Johnson  
Luke 1:57-80

**Invitation to Christian Discipleship** Rockford Johnson

**\*Hymn # 213** Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates, vs. 1-3

**Reception of New Members**  
**We welcome you to this congregation and with you we renew our vows to uphold the church**  
**with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.**

**\*Sending Forth** Rockford Johnson

**\*Benediction # 213** Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates, vs. 4

**Thy Holy Spirit lead us on until our glorious goal is won;**  
**eternal praise, eternal fame be offered, Savior, to thy name!**

**Postlude** Postlude on "Truro" - Seth Bingham Stephen Wurst, organ

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Dr. Stephen Wurst, Dir. of Music Ministries and Organist  
Dr. Giovanni Corrodus, Assoc. Dir. of Music Ministries and Director of Choirs  
Kayley Williamson, Director of Children's Choirs

*Scan this code for  
Worship attendance,  
Prayer requests, Giving,  
or to find ways to connect!*

