



UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

God has called University Baptist Church to minister to the University Community and to the residents of the Greater Charlottesville-Albemarle Community, serving as agents of Christ's love and justice for those in need and offering a vital family of faith.

**December 21, 2025
4th Sunday of Advent**

GATHERING

Marking the Hour

Opening Words

Rev. Megan Sharp

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Prelude

A Christmas Rondel

Charles Callahan

Lighting the Candles

We light these candles to welcome the Spirit, for they represent how Jesus is the Light of the world which guides us through life.

Opening the Bible

We open the Bible to remind us that God speaks to us through the Holy Word.

*Call to Worship

Glenna Ohlms

Look, O house of David! The Lord will give you a sign:
the young woman shall bear a child:
she shall name him Immanuel—
God is with us.

Listen, O house of David! The Lord draws near.
With love in our hearts, let us worship God!

*Hymn 140

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy

The Johnson Family

Sung Response - Hymn 95

Prepare the Way of the Lord
First together and then twice through in a round

PREPARE THE WAY

Invocation

Dr. Matthew Tennant

Greeting

*The ministries of University Baptist Church are made possible by your financial support.
Offering boxes are located at the rear of the Sanctuary and electronic giving
by scanning the QR code on the back of the bulletin.*

HEARING

Gospel Lesson

John 1:1-4, 9-13, 18b (p.862)

Linda Boston

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Morning Prayer

Roy Thomas

Assurance of Forgiveness

The God who formed us and keeps us in love is always drawing near to us in Christ,
bringing life and salvation to all.

Rest in this promise: Christ has come, Christ is coming, and Christ will come again.
Let us rest in God's forgiving grace. Amen.

*Doxology

GLORIA

**Let the nations shout and sing, glory to their Savior bring.
All below and all above sing your praise with joy and love.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.**

Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:26-38 (p.831)

Joyce Martin

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Anthem

Sing Out, My Soul (Hymn 646)
Sanctuary Choir

Jacques Bertier

Hymn 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem (verses 1 & 2)

ST. LOUIS

[MARY, JOSEPH, AND BABY ENTER SANCTUARY followed by a STAR]

Hymn 115

Away in a Manger (verses 1 & 2)
[ANIMALS MOVE TO THE FRONT DURING THE SINGING]

MUELLER

Anthem

Glory, Glory, Glory (Hymn 584)
Sanctuary Choir

Pablo Sosa

Hymn 118

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks (verses 1 – 4)
[SHEPHERDS AND SHEEP MOVE TO THE FRONT DURING THE SINGING]

CHRISTMAS

Anthem	<i>How Far Is it To Bethlehem</i> Sanctuary Choir [TOWNSPEOPLE MOVE TO FRONT DURING SINGING]	traditional melody
	How far is it to Bethlehem? Not very far. Shall we find the stable room lit by a star? Can we see the little child. Is he within? If we lift the wooden latch may we go in? May we stroke the creatures there, ox, ass, or sheep? May we peep like them and see Jesus asleep? If we touch his tiny hand will he awake? Will he know we've come so far just for his sake? Great kings have precious gifts, and we have naught. Little smiles and little tears are all we brought. For all weary children Mary must weep. Here, on his bed of straw sleep, children, sleep. God in his mother's arms, babes in the byre, sleep, as they sleep who find their heart's desire.	
*Hymn 136	<i>Go, Tell It on the Mountain (verses 1 & 2)</i> [ALL CHARACTERS RETURN TO THEIR SEATS DURING THE SECOND VERSE]	GO TELL IT
Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 7:10-16 (p.554)	Rev. Sharp
Leader: The Word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God!		
Homily	Making Good Choices	Dr. Tennant

RESPONDING

Invitation		Dr. Tennant
*Hymn 119	<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>	MENDELSSOHN
*Benediction		Dr. Tennant
*Postlude	<i>Angels From the Realms of Glory</i>	arr. Paul Rutz

*Please rise as you are able, in body or spirit.

Instrumentalists:
Organ/Piano: Barbara Moore; Percussion: Bobby Gregg, Theo Gregg

This Week at UBC

SUNDAY, Dec. 21 8:30 Finance Committee Meeting 9:30 Seekers and ESOL Classes 9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study 11:00 Morning Worship	WEDNESDAY, Dec. 24 Church Office Closed 5:00 Christmas Eve Service
MONDAY, Dec. 22 12:00 Missions Council Meeting	THURSDAY, Dec. 25 Church Office Closed
TUESDAY, Dec. 23 6:30 Prayer Shawl Group	FRIDAY, Dec. 26 Church Office Closed

University Baptist Church

Thank you for coming to worship today. We are blessed by your presence, and we trust that this hour will help to deepen your spiritual life. We look forward to meeting you personally at the close of the service.

About Us: University Baptist Church is a vibrant community of faith, bringing together university students and area residents in worship, study, and service to our community. We seek to be an authentic community of Christians who love and care for each other as a family, and openly welcome and include all people regardless of age, race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, or background. We believe that all people have important gifts to share in God's family, working together as the hands and feet of our good and loving God. Learn more at universitybaptist.org.

Newsletter: If you would like to stay updated on all the latest news and events at UBC, please call or email the church office at linda@universitybaptist.org.

Additional Parking: Additional parking is available at the 14th St. Garage. Just show them your bulletin when you leave.

Worship Online: Visit universitybaptist.org/live to download the Sunday worship bulletin and find instructions for how to watch live services online or listen on the radio.

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Personal Hearing Receivers: Hearing devices are available from an usher.

Giving: Please place your gift in one of the boxes at the back of the Sanctuary or mail your contribution to the church office. You can also give online by scanning the QR code below or texting "give2ubc" to 73256.

Prayer Requests: Prayer Request cards are available in each pew rack. They may be left in an offering box or handed to an usher or minister following worship.

Newsletter



Website



Giving



Church Staff

Senior Minister – Dr. Matthew Tennant

Associate Minister for Music & College Students – Rev. Megan Sharp

Voces Laetae Director – Will Cooke

Organist – Barbara Moore

Office Coordinator – Linda Weirich

Financial Coordinator – Amanda Ohlms

Church Administrator – Alan Hendricks

Maintenance Assistant - Hunter Cooper