



**Cooper Memorial UMC  
Third Sunday of Advent  
December 24, 2017**



DECEMBER 24, 2017 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our souls magnify the Lord,  
and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.

**God has looked with favor  
on the lowliness of God's servant.**

God's mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

**God has shown strength with God's arm.**

**God has scattered the proud  
in the thoughts of their hearts.**

God has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;

**God has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.**

Come, for God is doing a new thing!

Come, let us worship God!

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*[Light the first three candles of the Advent wreath.]*

After the angel came to Mary and told her that she would conceive the child in her womb and would call him Jesus, Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." (Luke 1:38, NRSV.)

And Mary sings her Song of Praise:

(2)

...My soul magnifies the Lord...he has scattered the proud

...He has brought down the powerful from their thrones

...He has lifted up the lowly

...He has filled the hungry

...He has provided for the poor (Luke 1:46-55)

We marvel at Mary, the mother of the Messiah, herself a single, teenaged mother, herself poor and powerless. But she understood that the baby she would call Jesus was sent, not just to her, but to the world...

...To the hungry

...To the weak

...To the very young and the very old

...To those who suffer or are in pain

*[Light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath.]*

We light this fourth candle to remember Mary, the mother of Jesus. May the light of this candle also remind us that the light of Jesus shines for everyone.

**ALL: COME, LORD JESUS. AMEN**

**SONG**

*Go, Tell It On the Mountain*



(3)

**CHILDREN'S CORNER**

**SCRIPTURE**

Luke 1:1-20

**THE MESSAGE**

**SONG**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (#240 vs 1 & 3)*

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**THE CELEBRATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**THE OFFERTORY PRAYER**

O Lord, our God, we praise you for your generosity. You provided tents, safety, and sustenance for your people Israel when they followed your pillar of fire in the desert. You called them to trust and worship you alone. Today, you give us what we need to live, work, and rest in peace. Help us never to take for granted your provisions for us: shelter, food, and Christian fellowship. We give these offerings for the ministries of our church to bless people in need of your help and love. May they come to know Jesus Christ, whose kingdom will last forever. Amen.

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**SONG**

*Joy to the World (#246 vs 1 & 4)*

(4)

THE BENEDICTION

Never put your faith in worldly status,  
and never underestimate your heavenly importance.

**My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.**

Let your trust in the coming of Christ soar within you like  
wings of joy.

Go out into the world and serve one another as God-  
bearers.

**My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.**

Grace, mercy and peace, from God our Creator,  
through Jesus our Saviour,  
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit our Nurturer,  
be with you this day and evermore.

**Amen!**



DECEMBER 2017  
CALENDAR-AT-A-GLANCE

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>** - 9:15am Coffee & Fellowship  
9:30am Sunday School  
10:30am Worship ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent  
11pm Christmas Eve Service

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup>** – Merry Christmas

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>** – 6pm-8pm Hickman BB (GYM)

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>** – 6pm Okolona Open Table/Holy CoW!  
7pm Bible Study

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>** – 11am Bible Study  
6pm-9pm East Elite BB (GYM)

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup>** – 6pm-8pm Hickman BB (GYM)  
Wedding Rehearsal

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>** – Wedding

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>** - 9:15am Coffee & Fellowship  
9:30am Sunday School  
10:30am Worship ~ First Sunday of Christmas

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