

ADVENT

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom

- Isaiah 35:1



Sunday, December 14, 2025

Prayer candles are available at the communion rail
Financial gifts may be made in the wooden offering boxes
Please silence your electronic devices

THE GATHERING & CARILLON PRELUDE

THE WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Lo, How a Rose Mary Beth Bennett
E'er Blooming Text & Tune at UMH# 216

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

THE ENTRANCE HYMN* UMH #211
O Come, O Come Emmanuel vss. 1, 5 - 7

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION*

God, we confess that we have often
placed our hope in people and things
that can't fulfill our every need.
We have searched for peace in shallow
places.
We have mistaken joy for temporal
pleasure and artificial exhilaration.
We have put limits on the ways we love,
excluding those who need our loving
kindness the most.
God, when we have lost our way,
show us yours.
Guide us to the hope in you that will
renew our strength.
Lead us to your peace that transcends all
understanding.
Fill us with a joy we can only experience
in your presence.
Remind us that you have always loved us
with an everlasting love,
so that we may share that love with
others.
AMEN.

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON*

Pastor

In this season of desolation and uncertainty, it is
good to know that God's love for us is sure - that
God's commitment to us is definite - that God is
guiding us as the compassionate companions that
we are called to be for each other. Let us live into
this gift.

AMEN.

THE ADVENT RESPONSE* UMH #206
Refrain of *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON
Isaiah 35: 1 - 10

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
Leader
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC Stacey Nordmeyer
An Advent Acclamation

THE THANKSGIVING & DOXOLOGY*
UMH #219 (verse 3)

THE GOSPEL LESSON
Matthew 11: 2 - 11

THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD UMH #216
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

THE MESSAGE The Reverend Don Ackerman
When the Desert Blooms

cont.

THE CLOSING HYMN* UMH #206
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

THE BENEDICTION*

THE POSTLUDE Pietro Yon
Creator of the Stars of Night Text & Tune at UMH# 692

* - Please stand as you are able
UMH - The United Methodist Hymnal

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

The Reverend Don Ackerman
Pastor

Tessa Polen
Liturgist

Julie Smith
Director of Children's Ministries

The Crossroads Choir
Beth Polen, *Director of Music Ministries*

Christopher Dazey
Organist, Pianist & Carillonneur

THIS WEEK AT CROSSROADS

Wednesday, December 17
Men's Prayer Breakfast
9:00 am - Conference Room
(Last meeting of 2025 - see you again in 2026!)

Friday, December 19
Gibbs Food Ministry
2:00 pm - Education Wing

SIGN UP FOR OUR EMAIL NEWSLETTER
The Crossroads Chronicle Weekly

cantonforallpeople.org/email

Happy
Birthday

12/14 - Thomas Syler
12/18 - Reneé Lilly,
Claudia Selby
12/19 - Larry Smith,
Michelle Evans
12/20 - Jean Keating
12/21 - Ruth Rice

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS EVE POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias are still available for \$10
Order forms are located on the wooden tables
throughout the sanctuary

Forms must be received by
THIS Wednesday, December 17
for publication in the Christmas Eve Bulletin

CHRISTMAS EVE

Wednesday, December 24

Our traditional candlelight service at 5:00 pm
Featuring the Camarada Brass
along with our Christmas Festival Choir and organ
Music begins at 4:30 pm

Oatmeal Ministry Gift Bags

*TODAY is the last day for socks and candy
for our annual Christmas gift bags!*
Thank you to everyone who has donated already!



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING PART OF A
WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP ABOUT
THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA RULES?

BY ROBERT MORGAN?

CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE
(OFFICE@CROSSROADS120.ORG)
OR TALK TO AMY RIVERS
ON A SUNDAY MORNING

If enough women are interested,
the group will begin meeting in January!

CELEBRATE
THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD
& A NEW MINISTRY

Welcome Mary Jo Yeakel
Sunday, January 11, 2026 - 10:00 am

 **CROSSROADS**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

120 Cleveland Ave SW Canton, OH 44702

To help keep our sacred space clean, at the conclusion of the service,
please return this bulletin to one of the wooden tables located throughout the sanctuary

CROSSROADS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
120 Cleveland Ave SW • Canton, OH, 44702 • 330-455-0153 • cantonforallpeople.org