

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

9:00 a.m. Gathering in the Spirit

## WORD OF WELCOME

### \*PRAISE & CELEBRATION OF GOD

“Angels We Have Heard on High” #238

Music arr. By Edward Shippen Barnes

### ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Carrie & Calvin Church

Leader: Last Sunday we lit the first candle—the candle of hope. Today we light the second candle, the candle of peace. We light it knowing full well that peace is elusive, and in some parts of the world, it is almost completely absent. Yet in this season of Advent, we trust that God is never absent from us. God is always preparing something new. And even where there is war and discord, whether between countries, within families, or within our own hearts, God is present, gently leading us to new possibilities. Let us pray...

**All: Loving God, in this time of preparation and planning, we thank you for the hope and peace you unfailingly offer us. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

### SPECIAL MUSIC

“Oh, What a Beautiful City”

Music arr. By R. Sparks

“King of Kings”

Words and Music by Brooke Ligertwood

## CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Pastor Brian

During the Children’s Message, children of all ages are welcome to come forward for a brief lesson with Pastor Brian. Pastor Brian will have a treat and an activity page for the children to return to their seat with.

Children’s Time will be presented on our YouTube broadcast.

## PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD’S PRAYER

## WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

During this time of music, please pass the basket at the end of your pew to the center and the ushers will collect today’s offering and connect cards. If you prefer to give online, you can do so at [grandblancumc.org](http://grandblancumc.org) today or any day! Thank you for your support of our many ministries.

\*Doxology

\*Offertory Prayer

## SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 11:1-10 NRSV

Found on page 631 of the Old Testament in your pew Bible

Carrie Church

## MESSAGE

*Sermon Series: What’s Next?  
“Emmanuel Before the Manger”*

Pastor Brian

## \*CLOSING SONG

“The First Noel” #245

## BLESSING & INVITATION

Pastor Brian

**\*Please stand** (Those who are unable to stand, please feel free to remain seated.)