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3. Click the website pop-up and fill out the connection card.

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### Give Now

Scan the box to the right to be directed to our online giving page.



A Stephen Minister provides confidential support, encouragement, listening, and prayer to those going through a difficult time. Contact: SUMC office, website, or Laurie NardoKunst: 910-934-5457.



***“Worship God, Love One Another, Serve the World”***



**November 30, 2025**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**8:30 a.m. Worship**

665 W Corbett Avenue  
Swansboro, North Carolina 28584  
910 326-4822  
[www.SwansboroUMC.org](http://www.SwansboroUMC.org)

**Pastor Laura Thompson:** [PastorLaura@swansboroumc.org](mailto:PastorLaura@swansboroumc.org)  
**Pastor Elias Ballew:** [PastorElias@swansboroumc.org](mailto:PastorElias@swansboroumc.org)  
**Music Director: Lindsay Williams:** [Music@swansboroumc.org](mailto:Music@swansboroumc.org)  
**Piano and Organ:** Terri Boykin

## 8:30 Worship

### GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

\*Call to Worship

On Sundays and Mondays,  
**on good days and bad days,**  
early in the morning and very late at night,  
**here in this room, and out in the world,**  
**God, we long for you to break in.**

Meet us in this space.

**Surprise us with your presence.**

Fill this room with your good news.

**With hope, we sing, we worship, we pray. Amen!**

\*Hymn “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” UMH #211

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Ever-present God, we long to feel you close.**

**We long to feel your presence in our lives.**

**We long for you to break through the chaos and suffering of this world.**

**However, if we’re honest, we rarely stand still long enough to feel you in our midst. Forgive our rushing and distractions.**

**Forgive our wandering hearts, and center us in this space.**

**Remind us that even in the time of Herod, even on the longest nights, you are always there. Amen.**

Words of Forgiveness

...Hear and believe the good news this Advent season:

**Nothing can keep God’s love away.**

**We are seen. We are forgiven. We are not alone. Amen.**

\*Passing the Peace

*Welcome! Please take the next 60 seconds and find someone you did not come to church with and greet them in Jesus' name!*

Lighting the Advent Wreath

### PRAISE AND PROCLAMATION

Scripture Lesson Lamentations 3:55-57 Jim Brewster

SwanKids Worship

*All kids are welcome to follow our staff for SwanKids Worship during the sermon.*

Anthem

\*Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:5-13

Sermon

“What do you fear?

Rev. Elias Ballew

In a Time of Herod, We Long for God to Break In”

### RESPONSE

\*Hymn of Response “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” UMH 196

\*Affirmation of Faith

**We have seen the valley.**

**We have seen a sky without stars.**

**We have seen the longest night, and still we believe.**

**We believe in a with-us God. We believe in the hope of tomorrow.**

**We believe that good news is louder than fear.**

**We believe this good news is for all people.**

**So even when our knees shake,**

**even when our voice trembles, even when fear is all around us,**

**we will hold onto that good news.**

**We will reach for each other.**

**We will look for God in our midst.**

**We will sing songs of joy.**

**We will proclaim: Unto us, love is born.**

**We have seen the longest night,**

**and we have seen unimaginable love. So still, we believe. Amen.**

Congregational Sharing: Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer

Giving of our Tithes, Offerings, and Connection Cards

Offertory Song

\*Doxology UMH #94

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving

### SENDING

\*Hymn “People Look East” UMH #202

\*Dismissal with Blessing

\*Postlude “Longing for Light”

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

*\* Please stand as you are able.*