WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

We Welcome One Another
(Please sign the pew pads and pass them to the others in your seating row.)

Our Prayer before Worship (responsively)
O Lord, there never seems to be enough time to do all the things that are demanded of us. Schedules become crowded. We live by the clock. We think we are ready for all events that will come our way. But we are rarely ready for you. We would like you to come to us at a planned time so that we can fit you into our busy lives. Forgive us, Lord, for trying to make you a scheduled event. We have moved you to a time on our weekly calendars. Yet you are the eternal God who has always loved us and been ready to receive us. Help us to learn that, with you as our foundation, we can handle anything that comes our way. With you as our focus, all things pale in comparison. Let us look at the priorities in our lives and see where we have placed service to you. AMEN.

Prelude
Prelude and Variations on Adoro te Devote
Gerald Near (b. 1942)

The Bringing In of the Light of Christ
Acolytes

Choral Introit
Raise Your Voices to the Lord
Evan Stephens

WE APPROACH THE ALMIGHTY

*Call to Worship
Leader: We are pulled in many directions.
People: Many duties and tasks seek to lay claim on our lives.
Leader This day, in this place, let service to God be your choice.
People: This day, in this place, we open our hearts and spirits to God.
Leader Blessed be the God of creation who has called us here.
People: Praise be to God who sustains and nurtures our lives. AMEN.

*Opening Hymn
Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending
UMH 718

*Affirmation of Faith
The Apostles’ Creed
UMH 881

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgim Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Gloria Patri
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.
WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS AND PRAISE

Sharing our Prayers of Joy and Concern

Recognition of our Veterans and Spouses  
(Servicemen and women are invited to stand as your branch of service is called.)

A Morning Prayer for our Veterans and our Lord's Prayer

Pastor: "Jesus, you said, 'There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.' Today we pray for those men and women who have, in their military service, sacrificed their time, strength, ambition, health and even their lives on this earth to benefit 'friends,' known and unknown. Many of our heroes carry scars in their hearts as well as on their bodies. Dark memories haunt their dreams at night. Fears cloud their waking hours. Jesus, you came to give us abundant life by providing a way for us to release our pain to you. On the cross you bore our sorrows and brokenness and when we trust you, we can exchange our wounds for your joy in a future unhindered by fate. Bring this gift now to the veterans of our nation who bear tangible and intangible wounds. Heal them, Jesus.

Bless the families of soldiers who bear these pains vicariously. Give them patience and wisdom and strength to endure, and more than endure to hope in faith for a blessed life. God, not everything that happens in life is good. But you promise to work all things together for good to those who love you and align their lives with your purpose. Create good in the families of veterans who have experienced pain and loss.

We honor our veterans in your name. We thank you - as we thank them - for their sacrifice. We ask you to return to them the favor of your blessing, a gift we on our own could never offer. We ask that you would give our veterans a peace beyond the peace they fought to secure, a peace in their own hearts, wrapped in the joy of a life touched by your strong hand.

In Jesus we pray...

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And, forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

GOD SPEAKS IN WORDS AND MUSIC

A Moment with God's Children  Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Blessing  
Pastor Steve

Epistle Lesson  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Anthem  
Thee We Adore - (based on the plainsong Adoro Te Devote)  
Ralph Johnson

*The Gospel (please stand)  
Matthew 25:1-13

Sermon  
The Power of Influence  
Rev. Steve Rath

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

A Call to Gather Our Tithes, Offerings, and Promises

Offertory  
Wake! Awake!  
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

*Doxology  
Praise God from Who All Blessings Flow  
UMH 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia

*A Prayer of Dedication  
Pastor Steve
WE DEPART WITH HOPE

*Closing Hymn

**Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers!**

362 (See below)

*We Take the Light of Christ out into the World*

Benediction

Pastor: *In the presence of the Lord we have reflected on his words about the wisdom of vigilance. What are we, foolish or wise? Probably a bit of the two: foolish when we sin, wise when we are vigilant and try to live a bit like Jesus and to put his words into practice. May almighty God keep you vigilant and wise and bless you: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Choral Benediction Response

**Choral Amen**

Carlton Young

ANTAL FLOWERS

To the Glory of God, the flowers on the altar table are given in honor of our veterans by Glenna Sanuels

PRAYER REQUESTS

Continual

Carolyn Blauser, Bev Dhume, Mildred Good, Geraldine Henry, Phyllis & Ted Hunter, Sue Jackman, Virginia Richey, Georgia Smith, Harold Snell, Linda Snyder, Loretta Weimer

Current

Buddy Byers, Pearl Davis, Madelyn Duffey, Bill Eberle, Laura Eldridge, David Emrick, Erba (Penny) Erbaugh, Jan Heuser, Lynda Junk, Whitney McKenzie, Chuck McMunn, Norieta McMunn, Gail Miller, Cherie Mouser, Liz Pronai, Cara Robinson, Shuna Smith, Dan Snell, Daniel Summers, Deena Townsend, Lisa Vroom, Doug Weimer, Caleb White, Mark Yoakum

Serving on Active Military Duty

Captain John Crisp, Lt Tom Crisp, Sgt Mathew Rowley

Please pray for the family and friends of those who have given their lives for our nation.

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ALTAR FLOWERS

To the Glory of God, the flowers on the altar table are given in honor of our veterans by Glenna Sanuels

PRAYER REQUESTS

Continual

Carolyn Blauser, Bev Dhume, Mildred Good, Geraldine Henry, Phyllis & Ted Hunter, Sue Jackman, Virginia Richey, Georgia Smith, Harold Snell, Linda Snyder, Loretta Weimer

Current

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Choral Benediction Response

**Choral Amen**

Carlton Young

Fuga Sol Minore

Antonin Dvorak (1841-1904)

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362 Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

Carlton Young

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ATTENDANCE AND GIVING
NOVEMBER 5, 2017

Attendance - 213*  General Fund Giving - $6,977.57
Monthly Budget Need - $25,743.00

*Includes Online Worshipers

Advent Small Group Study Opportunity: Begins Wednesday November 29th at 6:30 pm. Four one-hour sessions facilitated by Pastor Steve. The book we will be using is "Faithful" by Adam Hamilton. We will have books available to purchase for $14 at the first meeting, or you can purchase your own online. It is available as an e-book. Bring a bible or we will have one available. Description: Journey with Joseph, the earthly father, of Jesus during the four weeks of Advent. Though his words are few in the Christmas story, his actions and character reveal much about the important role he played in the birth of Jesus.

Raider Rack Christmas Drive: Support London City Schools and your Red Raiders! Purchase any Red Raider item and receive 25% off from Mabes Clothing. Bring your church bulletin to receive the discount between now and Christmas. You can drop the items off at the church at the 4th St. entrance.

Holiday Helpers Firefighters Toy Drive: Bring your new, unwrapped toys to the church as we once again participate in providing toys for the children in our community who may not otherwise receive Christmas gifts. A bin will be provided near the fourth street entrance (across from the elevator). If you prefer, you can make a monetary donation instead. Make checks payable to: Madison County DJFS/Toy Drive, and drop checks off at the church office.

Coat Drive: Your new and gently used coats will bless someone in our community. Please bring them to the church and put them in the small side of the Fellowship Hall (or ask at the office). Hanging of the Greens: In preparation for Advent, our church is decorated for the season by volunteers. With many hands, the work goes quickly and the church looks beautiful. Traditionally, this is done the Saturday after Thanksgiving which this year falls on November 25. Volunteers are asked to be at the church at 9am to help.

First United Methodist Church Christmas Movie Fundraiser at the State Theater: See Polar Express Saturday, December 2, 10:30am (Box office opens at 10am). Tickets are $5.00. Open to All! Tickets available from Henry Comer or Cathie Littleton.

Directory Project: You can now sign up online to schedule your appointment for a photography session for our new directory. You will see the link on our website, www.londonfumc.org. Help us achieve 100% participation!!! This opportunity is open to the public - everyone receives a free 8x10, but of course only those who attend our church (members & regular attendees) will receive a directory.

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<td>Jan 4-5, 2018</td>
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