

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Christmas in July



EVERYTHING I WAITED FOR

JULY 12, 2026

4201 FAIRFAX DRIVE, SUITE 1, ARLINGTON, VA 22203

We Gather

Prelude "Pastoral Symphony" from *Handel's Messiah*

Welcome
(Scan the QR code for digital connection card)



*Song "Sing We Now of Christmas" UMH #237, v.1

*Call to Worship

Leader: This summer morning, we celebrate the faithfulness of those who waited.

People: Simeon and Anna waited their whole lives to see the Lord's salvation.

Leader: They did not rush. They did not grow weary. They remained watchful and devoted.

People: In this season of unexpected Christmas, we too are called to faithful watching.

Leader: Come, let us worship the God who rewards the patience of the faithful.

All: Amen.

*Song "The King of Glory Comes" TFWS #2091

Prayers of the People

Leader: Immanuel, God with us,

People: We lift our prayers to you.

*Please stand in body or spirit.

We Hear

Special Music *Tu scendi dalle stelle* (Italian traditional)
Greg Capaldini, Soloist

Children's Sermon

Prayer of Illumination "Like a Child" TFWS 2092, v.3

Scripture Luke 2:21-40 (Common English Bible)

When eight days had passed, Jesus' parents circumcised him and gave him the name Jesus. This was the name given to him by the angel before he was conceived. 22 When the time came for their ritual cleansing, in accordance with the Law from Moses, they brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. (23 It's written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male will be dedicated to the Lord.") 24 They offered a sacrifice in keeping with what's stated in the Law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

25 A man named Simeon was in Jerusalem. He was righteous and devout. He eagerly anticipated the restoration of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. 26 The Holy Spirit revealed to him that he wouldn't die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 Led by the Spirit, he went into the temple area. Meanwhile, Jesus' parents brought the child to the temple so that they could do what was customary under the Law. 28 Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God. He said,

29 "Now, master, let your servant go in peace according to your word,

*30 because my eyes have seen your salvation.
31 You prepared this salvation in the presence of all peoples.
32 It's a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and a glory for your people Israel."*

33 His father and mother were amazed by what was said about him. 34 Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "This boy is assigned to be the cause of the falling and rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that generates opposition 35 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your innermost being too."

36 There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, who belonged to the tribe of Asher. She was very old. After she married, she lived with her husband for seven years. 37 She was now an 84-year-old widow. She never left the temple area but worshipped God with fasting and prayer night and day. 38 She approached at that very moment and began to praise God and to speak about Jesus to everyone who was looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

39 When Mary and Joseph had completed everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to their hometown, Nazareth in Galilee. 40 The child grew up and became strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God's favor was on him.

Reader: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Everything I Waited For"

*Please stand in body or spirit.

We Respond

Sermon Reflection Questions

1. What do you think sustained Simeon and Anna through decades of waiting?
2. What does Simeon and Anna's faithfulness teach us about holding onto hope?
3. What do you notice about Anna's response to seeing Jesus? What does her response suggest about what happens to us when genuine hope is fulfilled?

Prayer

Lord's Prayer

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. 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.

*Giving our gifts to God and passing the peace



To donate online please scan the QR code.

To give cash or check please put your donation in the basket in the front of the sanctuary next to the baptismal font.

*Song UMH #95 Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

We Go

Announcements

*Song "O Come, All Ye Faithful" UMH #234, vv. 1-3 & 6

*Benediction

*Sung Benediction "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" UMH #251, v. 3

Postlude Postlude on "In the Bleak Midwinter"

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Liturgist	Lane Timm
Reader of the Word	Alisa Thomas
Pianist	Greg Capaldini
Preacher	Rev. Sarah Harrison-McQueen

Assistive Listening Available

You can now connect your Bluetooth-enabled hearing aids directly to our sound system using the *ListenWIFI* app on your smartphone. Look for laminated signs at the sanctuary entrances for simple setup instructions. Need help? Just ask a greeter or staff member—we're happy to assist!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Help Prepare to Host Kathy Kane's Celebration of Life

On Sunday, July 12, we need a few helping hands to set up additional chairs in the sanctuary so that we're prepared to host Kathy Kane's celebration of life on Saturday, July 18.

On July 18, we need a few Central UMC folks to help as ushers and greeters for Kathy's service. If you're able to help please let Pastor Sarah know by emailing pastor@cumcballston.org or calling 703-527-1783.

If you'd like to share a memory or see the photos shared online, please scan the QR code or visit <https://bit.ly/3RrwPK0> to view her online obituary.



Share Your Musical Gifts This Summer

Musicians and singers of CUMC, have you ever wanted to share your gifts in Sunday worship without making a regular time commitment? Each Sunday from the July 4th weekend through Labor Day weekend, there will be opportunities to contribute by playing an instrument, singing, or even gathering an informal group.

There may be openings for preludes and postludes, accompaniment for congregational hymns, or special music in place of the usual choir anthem.

If you are interested, please email Greg Capaldini at conductor@cumcballston.org or leave a message with the church office at 703-527-8844.

Men's Group – Fellowship & Games | Sunday, July 19

All men of Central are invited to our monthly Men's Group gathering. This is a relaxed time to share laughs, build friendships, and strengthen one another in faith. We'll enjoy board and card games together and good fellowship. Bring yourself, invite a friend, and feel free to bring a snack to share.

These gatherings are a great way to grow in community with other men of the church, encouraging each other as we live out our faith in daily life. Join us Sunday, July 19 from 3–5 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Church Fellowship Karaoke Night

Come join us on **Friday, July 24, from 5:30–7:30 PM** for an evening of singing, laughter, and fellowship!

Sing along to your favorite songs with lyrics on the screen, making it easy for everyone to join in the fun.

Everyone is welcome—bring your voice, your joy, and, if you'd like, a dish to share. We can't wait to see you there!

Questions? Contact the church office at office@cumcballston.org or 703-527-8844.

Read the Word in Worship

Interested in reading scripture during our service? We'd love to have you join our rotation! If you feel called to share God's word, please see Pastor Sarah or email her at pastor@cumcballston.org to sign up or learn more.

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