



**You are held in grace.**

**Trust in this good news.**

Leader: Thanks be to God! I remember. I believe.

**People: Now we need your help.**

**We, too, have tried to make our own way.**

**We have tried to lace our own shoes, to build our own houses,  
to kindle our own faiths.**

**We have said a thousand times, "turn back," as if we are fine on our own.**

**But the days are long and we are forgetful.**

**We need your help. Can you remind us?**

Leader: I will remind you of this everlasting truth: You are not alone.

Where you go, God goes.

You are held in grace.

Trust in this good news.

**People: Thanks be to God! We remember. We believe. Alleluia! Amen.**

**Anthem**

**Children, Let's Wait for the Baby**

Thomas Keesecker

Youth Choir

**Children's Message**

**Scripture**

**Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

**Words for the Beginning: We Can't Go Alone**

Rev. Wines

**Reception of New Members**

INTRODUCTION AND PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

*The pastor addresses the persons coming into membership and their sponsors.*

On behalf of the whole church, I ask you:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,

Reject the evil powers of this world,

and repent of your sin?

**I do.**

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you

to resist evil, injustice, and oppression

in whatever forms they present themselves?

**I do.**

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior,

put your whole trust in his grace,  
and promise to serve him as your Lord,  
in union with the church which Christ has opened  
to people of all ages, nations, and races?

**I do.**

According to the grace give to you,  
will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy church  
and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

**I will.**

Will you who sponsor these candidates  
support and encourage them in their Christian life?

**I will.**

*The pastor addresses the congregation:*

Do you, as Christ's body, the church,  
reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

**We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these  
persons now before you in your care?

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news  
and live according to the example of Christ.**

**We will surround these persons  
with a community of love and forgiveness,  
that they may grow in their trust of God,  
and be found faithful in their service to others.**

**We will pray for them,  
that they may be true disciples  
who walk in the way that leads to life.**

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith  
as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments,

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
[who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,**

**is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.]**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**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.]**

#### RECEPTION INTO THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*The pastor addresses the persons coming into membership.*

As a member of Christ's universal church,  
will you be loyal to Christ through the United Methodist Church,  
and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?

**I will.**

#### RECEPTION INTO THE LOCAL CONGREGATION

As a member of this congregation,  
will you faithfully participate in its ministries  
by your prayers, your presences, your gifts,  
your service, and your witness?

**I will.**

#### COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

*The pastor addresses the congregation:*

Members of the household of God,  
I commend these persons to your love and care.  
Do all in your power to increase their faith,  
confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

*The congregation responds:*

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you  
and we welcome you in Christian love.**

**As members together with you  
in the body of Christ  
and in this congregation  
of The United Methodist Church,**

**we renew our covenant  
faithfully to participate  
in the ministries of the church  
by our prayers, our presence,  
our gifts, our service, and our witness,  
that in everything God may be glorified  
through Jesus Christ.**

*The pastor addresses the new members:*

The God of all grace,  
who has called us to eternal glory in Christ,  
establish you and strengthen you  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
that you may live in grace and peace.

**Prayer of the People**

Rev. Furtado-Gilliam

**Offering**

*You are invited to make your offering to support the ministry and mission of Clarendon UMC.  
You may text to give at 84321 or go to the Online Worship page of our website  
and click "Make your online offering."*

**Communion Music**

**Pastorale: Christmas Concerto, Op.6, No. 8**

Arcangelo Corelli

**Sending Forth**

**Hymn**

**Glory (Let There Be Peace)**

**Benediction**

Rev. Wines

**Postlude**

**Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

Linda Scholes

Wesley Ringers

---

**About the bulletin cover:**



Each week of our Advent and Christmas series has a different quilt pattern associated with it. This week's theme is "WE CAN'T GO ALONE." This quilt square design is called a "log cabin", and is meant to symbolize that together we can hold one another up and make something greater.

"Glory (Let There Be Peace)" words and music by Chris Stevens, Matt Maher and Rachel Popadic  
© Meaux Mercy | Moody Producer Music | Be Essential Songs | I Am A Pilgrim Songs | Rachel Taylor Music  
CCLI License # 2907617

Greeting & Advent Wreath Lighting, Prayer of Confession & Words of Forgiveness written by Rev. Sarah  
(Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org