

SONG "All is Well" Smith  
James Foley, French horn

OFFERING/OFFERTORY "Gesù Bambino" Yon  
Lisa Heinrich, Flute

SIXTH LESSON Reading: Luke 2:1-18  
*Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glorify to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."*

PRAYER: Lord, you came to us as a child, in humility and vulnerability. May we always show loving care to those around us, especially those who need it most. Amen.

SONG "See Amid the Winter Snow" arr. Schram

SEVENTH LESSON Reading: Matthew 2:1-12  
*After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."*

PRAYER: Lord, you are the giver of all good gifts. Teach us to freely share our gifts with others, for the glory of your name. Amen.

SONG "Little Drummer Boy" Davis  
Karen Bates, Rob Toth, percussion

EIGHTH LESSON Reading: John 1:1-4; 14  
*In the beginning, the Word already existed; the Word was with God, and the Word was God. From the very beginning the Word was with God.*

PRAYER: God of power and might, you are beyond all time and space. May we never fail to recognize your majesty and give praise to you in all we do. Amen.

†SHARING THE LIGHT/ HYMN 253 "Silent Night, Holy Night"

NINTH LESSON Reading: Matthew 28:16-20  
*Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

PRAYER: Lord, you call us to be your witnesses to the ends of the earth. Give us words filled with the power of Love. Help us proclaim your good news with our whole lives. Amen.

†CLOSING HYMN 270 "Joy to the World!"

†BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE "Joy to the World!" arr. Raney

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## The United Church of Christ (Congregational)

# Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service  
of Lessons and Carols



Sunday, December 24, 2023  
10:00 p.m.



# The United Church of Christ (Congregational)

Rev, Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Christmas Eve Worship 10 p.m.

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE "Mary Did You Know?" Lowry/Greene  
Sandy O'Shea, vocalist

WELCOME Pastor Heidi

INTROIT "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" Traditional

## † RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Tonight, we come to glorify God, rejoicing with all Creation in the birth of the Savior.

P: God comes, so we might believe, and be blessed.

L: Our hearts leap for joy, for God is coming to us as a child.

P: God comes for those who hunger for hope, and for those who thirst for grace.

L: Holy is the One who comes in God's name, fulfilling every promise of God.

P: God comes to walk with those who follow in faith, to bring peace to our shattered world.

†OPENING HYMN 249 "O, Come, All Ye Faithful"

FIRST LESSON Reading: Genesis 1 (excerpts)  
*God looked at everything he had made, and he was very pleased.  
Evening passed and morning came—that was the sixth day.*

PRAYER: Lord of mercy, in spite of our sinfulness, your love for us never wavered. Fill our hearts with your mercy. Teach us to love; show us how to forgive one another. Amen.

HYMN 278 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

SECOND LESSON Reading: Jeremiah 23:5-6  
*"This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Savior."*

PRAYER: Lord, you have promised that your reign would be a time of never-ending justice and peace. May we have the courage to bring your justice in our time. Amen.

SONG "Carol of the Child" Arr. Nix

THIRD LESSON Reading: Isaiah 11: 1- 9  
*The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.*

PRAYER: Lord, we eagerly wait for the day of your perfect peace. May we work together for peace, in our hearts, in our families and in our world. Amen.

## HYMN

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;  
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.  
With God our creator, family all are we.  
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"

Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.  
With every step I take, may this be my solemn vow:  
To take each moment, and live each moment in peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

## FOURTH LESSON

Reading: Isaiah 9:2-6

*He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

PRAYER: God, you are always with us. May we always trust in your presence, and let our light shine brightly in the world. Amen.

## SONG

"Coventry Carol"

English Melody

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Kristen & Brian Kohler

Leader: In a world where so many people live in despair, God lights a Candle of Hope in our hearts.

**People: "By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation. You are our Hope, to the ends of the earth and the farthest seas."**

Leader: In a world where so many people experience hatred, God lights a Candle of Love in our hearts.

**People: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, so that everyone who believes in him would not perish, but have everlasting life."**

Leader: In a world where so many people are living with sorrow, God lights a Candle of Joy in our hearts.

**People: "The root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will find hope in him."**

Leader: In a world where so many people experience violence, God lights a Candle of Peace in our hearts.

**People: "By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness, to guide our feet into the way of peace."**

Leader: In a world where so many people wait in darkness, light comes into our hearts, through a baby born in a manger. He is Emmanuel, God with Us! This is the word of the Lord:

**People: "For to us a child is born; to us a Son is given. He shall be called Wonderful Counselor; Almighty God; Everlasting Father; Prince of Peace."**

Leader: The Light that shines in the darkness cannot be extinguished.

People: Thanks be to God.

## HYMN 273

"Good Christian Men Rejoice"

## FIFTH LESSON

Reading: Luke 1:26-38

*It was in the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy when God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, who was a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.*

PRAYER: Lord, in faith, Joseph and Mary trusted you. May we grow in our ability to trust, and always rely on you. Amen.



**WOULD YOU LIKE A WAY TO SERVE GOD AND SERVE YOUR CHURCH AT THE SAME TIME? How about volunteering to serve on a church board or committee?**

The Nominating Committee, through the Official Board, will be looking for church members to fill the many open positions on our boards. Please consider saying **YES** when a member of the Nominating Committee asks you to serve. Some of the positions that are available

include:

**Moderator**, who presides over the Official Board and represents the church in the community

**Vice-Moderator**, who works in tandem with the Moderator, serves on the Nominating Committee, and enlists volunteers for dinners and other Official Board events

**Treasurer**: Manages the outgoing finances of the church in conjunction with the Financial Secretary

**Diaconate**, which oversees the worship operations and church services. The committees of the Diaconate are Acolytes, Altar, Coffee Hour, Funeral, Greeters, Membership, Nursery, Pastoral Relations, Special Events and Ushers

**Board of Trustees**, which oversees the finances and physical plant of the church. The committees of the Trustees are Building and Grounds, Finance, and Long-Range Planning and Memorial/Endowment

**Mission & Outreach**, which sponsors projects and our church's benevolence in the local, national, and international communities, including the 5 for 5 offerings through the United Church of Christ

**Stewardship**, which administers a yearly campaign to assess and inspire giving of time, talent, and treasure

**Christian Education**, which oversees the Sunday School and Adult Education programs

**Music Committee**, which supervises all aspects of the Music Ministry

Remember the old but true saying, *Many hands make light work*. Plan to be a part of one of these boards or committees. Thank you for your consideration.

**THE CHRISTMAS FUND**

Formerly known as Veterans of the Cross, this special offering of the United Church of Christ provides direct financial assistance to retired and active United Church of Christ authorized ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses, including pension and health premium supplementation, emergency assistance, and Christmas thank-you checks. A ministry of the Pension Boards, the offering is received throughout December. Offering envelopes are in the pew racks.



**Serving this evening**

Readers: Bruce Keenen and Dave Williams

Greeter: Linda & Dan Ponstingle

Advent Candle Lighters: Kristen & Brian Kohler

Ushers: Elaine Coffey

Director of Music: Thomas M. Foley

Associate Director of Music: Mike Elkins

Organ: Sharon Heinrich

Soloist: Sandy O'Shea

Flute: Lisa Heinrich

French Horn: James Foley

Percussion: Karen Bates, Tom Foley

Sound/Video: Jim Heinrich & Doug Thorn

Our Chancel Choir: Richard Densmore, Ingrid Dickson, Jackie Foley, Craig Hardy, Frank Jefferis, Irene Joyce, Bruce Keenen, Pam Keenen, Sarah Keenen, Carol Konet, **Sharon Maresco, Sandy O'Shea, Sarah Toth, Robert Toth, Dave Williams, Mike Willis**

**DO MORE IN 2024!**

Sign-up sheets are waiting for **your name** to be added as a greeter or usher. **Don't know how to do either of those things?** No worries—we will show you everything you need to know! No experience is needed and everyone is welcome

to be a part of our church life. **Also, please sign up to sponsor altar flowers for 2024. The chart is in Pilgrim Hall.**



**HYMN SING SUNDAY--DECEMBER 31<sup>st</sup>**

**New Year's Eve**

Celebrate the end of an eventful year with your church family as we worship and sing together during our 10 a.m. worship.



**CHURCH CHRISTMAS MAIL BOX**

To send Christmas greetings to fellow members and friends, **the church "mail box"** is again available in the Gathering Area. Please remember to check the box for greetings you receive. Also, please do not put cards in the box for friends who are not in town for Christmas. The church office cannot mail your personal Christmas cards. Cards left after Christmas will be discarded. Thank you.



To the Glory of God,  
the poinsettias are given...



*In honor of our loved ones in heaven and the lost soul with no one for the holidays. Most importantly, Happy Birthday, Jesus!*

**Abruzzino-Krisak Familia**

*In honor of all my grandchildren with joy!*

**Teri Barbish**

*With love to my parents, Bill and Dorothy Ritchie  
In memory of my grandparents, Pete & Edna Lansell  
and Leroy & Rasha Ritchie*

**Gina Cathcart**

*In loving memory of Debbie Churnega Krause—miss you!*

**With Love, Mom & Kenn**

*In loving memory of the Davis Heflund family  
In loving memory of the Penasa Demichei family*

**Roger and Judy Davis**

*In memory of family and friends*

**Jim and Linda Dettmer**

*In loving memory of Aimee J. Jannsohn, Eric R. Jannsohn,  
Michael E. & Deborah Dickson, and Brooke M. Akins*

**The Dickson-Joyce-Jannsohn Family**

*In loving memory of Bill Fraunfelder*

**Barb Fraunfelder**

*In memory of my beloved husbands John Komp and Don Garber  
and Mom & Dad, Mary & John Sainsbury*

**Nancy Garber**

*In memory of our parents and grandparents, Donald & Betty Babics*

**The Gigliotti and Kubancik Families**

*In memory of our parents and grandparents, Joanne & Louis Gigliotti, Sr.*

**The Gigliotti Family**

*In memory of our parents and grandparents Don & Lois Winch  
and William & Ruth Giuliano—always in our hearts*

**Bill, Beth, and Luke Giuliano**

**Nicole and Brett Wade**

*In loving memory of Charles & Thelma Hawk*

*In loving memory of Richard & Sally Mack*

**Dale and Cathy Hawk**

*In loving memory of Erik O. Jannsohn  
and Mary Joyce-Smith & James J. Joyce, Sr.*

**The Joyce-Jannsohn-Dickson Family**

*In loving memory of June & Joseph Harshey, Frank & Rose Kapcar  
and Linda Kapcar*

**Frank and Carole Kapcar**

*In memory of Uncle Jimmy and mom, Caroline Davis*

**Kristen and Brian Kohler**

*Merry Christmas, Trevor and Abby!*

**Love, Aunt Sarah Keenen**

*In loving memory of Charles Angus McDougall, aka the **Pastor's Wife.***

**Pastor Heidi**

*With love and blessings to all of our family and friends*

**Judi and George Pavisich**

*In memory of Gregory Perciak, Sarah Perciak, Max & Elsie DeWitt,  
Elton & Virginia Bedford,*

**Tom and Debbie Perciak**

*In loving memory of our grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Clements*

*In loving memory of our parents, Roger and Lorna Robinson*

*In loving memory of our aunt, Rhea Clements*

**Becky and Bill Robinson**

*In loving memory of Joe & Marian Davis, Rudy & Mary Penasa*

*Dolores & Orrville Marshall, and Betty Sekorky*

**The Sekorky Family**

*In memory of Rev. & Mrs. George A. Smith*

*In honor of all Special Olympians*

**Peter Smith**

*The Blessings of Christmas on all our church family and friends, and in loving  
memory of Bernice Cooper, Tad and Gen Thorn, Suzanne Tressa, Charles Garner,  
Mike, Lucan, Jan Stough, and in honor of Alan Van Kramer*

**Sandy O'Shea, Doug, Schyler, Devin, and Leo Thorn**

*With loving thoughts and prayers for our grandchildren (all 10 of them)*

**Barbara and John Toth**

*In loving memory of Steve Herzog*

*Bill & Jane Herzog and Tom & Donna Fargo*

**Sarah Toth**

*In loving memory of those who have passed before us*

**Carol Woodward**

*In loving memory of Bob Zimmerman*

**Mary Ellen Zimmerman**

