

SHARING THE LIGHT

+HYMN 253

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

Karen Bates, guitar

+HYMN 270

“Joy to the World!”

+BENEDICTION

Sharon's Christmas Prayer

John Shea

*She was five, sure of the facts, and recited them with slow solemnity
convinced every word was revelation.*

She said they were so poor

they had only peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to eat

and they went a long way from home without getting lost.

The lady rode a donkey, the man walked, and the baby was inside the lady.

They had to stay in a stable with an ox and an ass (hee-hee)

but the Three Rich Men found them because a star lighted the roof.

Shepherds came and you could pet the sheep but not feed them.

Then the baby was borned. And do you know who he was?

Her quarter eyes inflated to silver dollars:

The baby was God!

And she jumped in the air, whirled round, dove into the sofa

and buried her head under the cushion

which is, after all, the only proper response

to the Good News of the Incarnation.

Merry Christmas!

+POSTLUDE

“Joy to the World!”

arr. Raney

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

Serving this evening

Readers: Mindy Carte, Autumn & Summer Zoscak, Tom Foley

Greeters: Roger & Judy Davis

Director of Music: Tom Foley

Associate Director of Music: Mike Elkins

Organ: Sharon Heinrich

Clarinet/Sax: Ken Mehalko

Flute: Lisa Heinrich

Guitar: Karen Bates

Sound/Video: Jim Heinrich & Doug Thorn



The United Church of Christ
(Congregational)

Christmas Eve

Family Service
of Lessons and Carols



Tuesday, December 24, 2025
7:00 p.m.



The United Church of Christ (Congregational)
Rev, Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor
Christmas Eve Worship 7 p.m.

PRELUDE "Il est né (He is Born)" Traditional French Carol

WELCOME Pastor Heidi

INTROIT "What Child is This?" Traditional English Melody, arr. Elkins

†CALL TO WORSHIP

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

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

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

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

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

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

† HYMN 249 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

FIRST LESSON Genesis 1 excerpts (The Message)
God looked over everything he had made; it was so good, so very good!

UNISON PRAYER
Lord of all that is, we are grateful for the beauty and diversity of Creation. Fill our hearts with your love and mercy. Amen.

HYMN 278 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

SECOND LESSON Jeremiah 23:5-6
"The time is coming when I will choose as king a righteous descendant of David."

UNISON 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.

HYMN 286 "Once in Royal David's City"

THIRD LESSON Isaiah 11:1, 6-8
Wolves and sheep will live together in peace, and leopards will lie down with young goats.

UNISON 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.

SONG "Away in a Manger" Traditional
Karen Bates, guitar

FOURTH LESSON Isaiah 9:2-6
He shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

UNISON 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 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" Praetorius
Lisa Heinrich, flute

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES Mindy Carte, Autumn & Summer Zoscak
Reader: Rejoice, O people of God! The light of Christ has come into the world!

Reader: With all the company of heaven, with sounds of great joy, you have come into the world. Tonight is a time for celebration. As we light the Christ candle, let us sing together, "Good Christian Men, Rejoice!"

HYMN 273 "Good Christian Men, Rejoice!"

FIFTH LESSON Luke 2:8-14
Suddenly a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased!"

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

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN Pastor Heidi
OFFERING/OFFERTORY "Coventry Carol" Traditional English Carol
Ken Mehalko, clarinet

SIXTH LESSON Luke 2:1-7
Joseph went to register with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him. She was pregnant, and while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby.

UNISON PRAYER
Lord, you came to us as an innocent, vulnerable baby. Help us to show love and care to the most vulnerable among us, every day. Amen.

HYMN 277 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

SEVENTH LESSON John 1:1-4, 14 (The Message)
In the beginning, the Word already existed; the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

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



ANNUAL REPORTS

Chairmen of church organizations: Annual reports are to be submitted electronically and are due in the church office on **January 4, 2026**. Please be kind and email your reports in on time. Thank you!!! Once completed, Annual Reports will be available for pickup prior to the Annual Meeting.



BE A GREETER! A new sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area is waiting for your name to be added as a greeter. No experience is necessary—we will show you everything you need to know. Being a greeter is a wonderful way to get to know people and welcome them to worship!



Also, please sign up to sponsor altar flowers for 2026. The chart is in Pilgrim Hall.

HYMN SING SUNDAY--DECEMBER 28th!

The last Sunday of 2025!

Celebrate the end of an eventful year with your church family as we worship and sing together during our 10 a.m. worship. Plus, we will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism!



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.



If you were kind enough to place a poinsettia on the altar for tonight's services, please take your plant home with you following worship. We would appreciate if you would take your poinsettia from the front or sides of the display on the altar. Remaining plants will be given to those in need of a little Christmas cheer.



PLEASE NOTE: The Church office will be closed tomorrow, December 25th. **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

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



One more light for those all alone or spending that first holiday without a loved one. Leaving a light on for those who don't want to be here this season

Serena Abruzzino

Merry Christmas with love to my mom, Dorothy Ritchie
Gina Cathcart

For the loving Davis & Heglund families
For the loving Demichei & Penasa families

Roger and Judy Davis

In loving memory of a dear sister, Gwen Giddings
In memory of family and friends

Jim and Linda Dettmer

In honor of our church musicians
Carol Foley

In loving memory of Bill Fraunfelder
In loving memory of my parents, Don and Betty Bushea
And my grandmother, Ethel Perrin
Barb Fraunfelder

In loving memory of my parents, Anita and Bill McKenna
Dennis Smith and Barb Fraunfelder

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 loving memory of our parents Don & Lois Winch
and William & Ruth Giuliano, and brother, Mark Giuliano
Bill and Beth Giuliano

In loving memory of Charles & Thelma Hawk
In loving memory of Richard & Sally Mack
With love to Riley, Jack, Lacey, Ella, and Henry from Nana & Papa
Dale and Cathy Hawk

In memory of my husband, George Hemphill
In memory of my parents, Tom and Nancy Stewart
Marsha Hemphill

In loving memory of Erik O. Jannsohn, John W. Dickson
and Mary Joyce-Smith & James J. Joyce, Sr.
The Joyce-Jannsohn-Dickson Family

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

Merry Christmas, Trevor and Abby!
Love, Aunt Sarah Keenen

In loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Edward Kundtz
Rev. Jill Kundtz

In loving memory of Bruce Lerch, Winifred & Carol Lerch and
William, Gertredude, and William & Mary Hackman
Susann Lerch

A babe in a manger brings fresh HOPE; let our LOVE fill our actions;
in JOY may we serve; and may we live together in PEACE.
Pastor Heidi

In memory of Max and Elsie DeWitt, Sarah Perciak, James Perciak,
Elton & Virginia Bedford, and Michael & Erma Kalanich
Tom and Debbie Perciak

In memory of our family members: George Reed, Sr., Marie Wolf,
Paul & Eileen Mlinek, and Dave Mlinek
George and Joyce Reed

In memory of Bill--Dad--Papa
In loving memory Pete & Edna Lansell and Leroy & Rusha Ritchie
Dorothy Ritchie and family

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 and our uncle, Bill Clements
Becky and Bill Robinson

In loving memory of our departed family members: Jean, Joe, and Mick Rung;
Willie Mae, Jimmy Lee, Sr., Jimmy Lee Jr., and Ruby Cuyler
Sam, Lora, Samuel, and Braxden

In loving memory of our grandparents, especially Grandpa Davis
In loving memory of Uncle Rudy
The Sekorky Family

Merry Christmas! In Loving Memory of: Tad & Gen Thorn, Tom O'Shea & Mae O'Shea, Alan Van Kramer, Susan Tressa, Charles Garner, Mike Lucan, Jan Stough, Thomas Raymond, and in honor of Dick Colmery. A very blessed new year to all!
Sandy O'Shea, Doug, Schyler, Devin, and Leo Thorn

Merry Christmas!
Bev Wehr and Ken Mehalko
In loving memory of Bob Zimmerman
Mary Ellen Zimmerman

