



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Congregational)
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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, December 27, 2020 – Online



OPENING MUSIC "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" Pachelbel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" Praetorius

CALL TO WORSHIP God of all Creation, this was going to be the year when we gave away more than we spent, but we didn't. This was going to be the season when we spent more time with others, but the virus kept us apart. This became the Christmas when phone calls replaced visits, when Zoom gatherings were the best we could do. Our to-do lists became measures of our day-to-day lives. This holy season of rebirth nearly became lost in the clutter and despair. As we draw closer still to the Baby born into poverty and weakness; to the One who loves and welcomes us all; to the Child who gathers us all closer to his presence, may we be drawn more deeply into the heart of God. Amen.

HYMN "We Three Kings"

We three kings of Orient are, Bearing gifts we traverse afar--
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star!
O, star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to Thy perfect light!

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain; Gold I bring to crown Him again
King forever, ceasing never Over us all to reign
O, star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to Thy perfect light!

Frankincense to offer have I; Incense owns a Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising, all men raising, Worship Him, God on high.
O, star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to Thy perfect light!

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume Breathes a life of gathering gloom--
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, Sealed in the stone cold tomb.
O, star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to Thy perfect light!

Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and sacrifice;
Alleluia, alleluia! Earth to heav'n replies:
O, star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to Thy perfect light!

CCLI Song # 38002 John Henry Hopkins Jr. © Words: Public Domain
Music: Public Domain

FIRST READING **Matthew 2:1-6** (New Revised Standard Version)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him,

"In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:
And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

SHARING AND PRAYERS

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. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

MUSIC "We Three Kings" arr. Niehaus

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

BEING COMMUNITY WHEN WE ARE APART

OFFERTORY "Away in a Manger" Murray

This past year has been long and challenging for us all. We want to believe, with the turn of the calendar page, that things will improve. This congregation has the power to continue to make the world a better place in 2021. Let us again commit our lives and our resources to continuing to find new, innovative ways to walk with Jesus, sharing God's Love in all circumstances. We appreciate your commitment to giving freely of your talents and your treasure, as you are able. Thank you. To give online, you may go to:

<https://www.myeoffering.com/eonline/index.php/dashboard/login/5027>

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Janet Kato, Marge McKinney, Karen Rak, Connie Rebar, Trish Shields

Church Family: Joan Beckwith, Adria Bond, Eddy Bond, Mary Carey, Elaine Coffey, Betty Craig, Christina Craig, Sam Cuyler Jr., Linda Elliott, Don Gleichauf, Sue Hawk, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Elliott Joyce, Carole Kapcar, Tony Koussa, Lori Kovatich, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Lacey Marshall, Brigitte Matchett, Judy Maur, Laurie Meister, Michele Mihlack, Lola Millhoane, Judi Pavisich, Joyce Reed, Dorothy and Bill Ritchie, Ginger Rothel, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Jamie & Josh Trinckes, Sharon Wilson, Sally Vetovitz, Peg Weakley, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Dorene Baldrige, Jackie & Phil Berkheimer (Judi Pavisich's friends), Amy Carroll (Marty Winch's sister), Judy Carte's son-in-law, Ryan, Ruby Cuyler (Sam's sister), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Julie Kowell (Sarah Cathcart Wilhoit's friend), Diane Mason (Lora Rung's friend), Pat Masuga (Dan's mom), Donna McDonald (the Ritchies' friend), Zachary McKeever (Pastor Heidi and Chuck's great-nephew), Linda McNabb (Ginger Rothel's sister-in-law), Mae O'Shea (Sandy O'Shea's mom), Carrol Riley (Marjorie Morrison's dad), Terry Robson (the Camps' friend), Mike Rung (Lora's brother), Anneke & Lukas Scholtz (Irene Jannsohn's sister & brother-in-law), Amanda Shannon (Sarah & Jon Hayes' friend), Sherry Sheeks (Mark Camp's sister), Chris Vozniak (Lora Rung's friend), Brad Williams (Judi Pavisich's friend), Daphne Wilson (Irene Jannsohn's niece)

Please contact Pastor Heidi if you would like to pray for others via the email prayer chain.



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.



OFFERINGS RECEIVED

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Weekly Offering Needed | \$ 3,473.27 |
| Last Week's Offering Received | \$ 3,224.00 |
| Difference | -(\$ 249.27) |

Thank you very much for your support of our church and its ministries.

THRIFT SHOP NEWS

The Thrift Shop will be closed on Christmas Eve, December 24th and New Year's Eve, December 31st.

PLEASE NOTE: DONATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED DURING THIS TIME.

The Thrift Shop will be back in business on Thursday, January 7, 2021 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.



ANNUAL REPORTS

Although we are not meeting in person, we will still be compiling our Annual Report. **Chairs of church organizations: Annual reports are due in the church office on January 8, 2021.**

Please email your report to strongsvilleucc@gmail.com and be kind to the Church Secretary by getting your reports in promptly during this unusual time.

Thank you!!!

Financial Officers of all church organizations: Please submit your financial records, reports, and bank statements to the church office for audit by January 4, 2021.



Are you an online shopper? If so, why not benefit the church while you make your purchases from Amazon? It's incredibly easy! Here's what you do:

1. Instead of typing amazon.com into your search bar, type in **smile.amazon.com**.
2. Select United Church of Christ Congregational Strongsville by clicking this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-1298100>
3. Shop as you would normally—that's it!

Your addresses, billing information, and shopping cart are still saved and your Prime membership privileges still apply. A small percentage of your purchase price will go toward supporting the church. **We have earned \$269.05 from Amazon through November. Thank you!**

ANNUAL WINTER RETREAT

February 12-14, 2021

at Templd Hills Camp in Bellville, Ohio

As of now, we are planning for this event to take place in whatever safe form presents itself. This Retreat will be different than any other year, but we hope it will still be a time for fellowship with your family and perhaps a change of scenery. Plans will be extremely flexible and subject to change based on the camp's safety protocols.



Rachel Zielinski and Irene Joyce had a Zoom meeting with the Heartland Conference outdoor ministries administrator, Jill Frey, on December 2nd to discuss the possibilities. More information, including deadlines and protocols, will be disseminated through email and Facebook. Prices will be as follows:
ADULTS (12 and up): \$75
CHILDREN (6-11): \$20
CHILDREN (5 and under): FREE



NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2021, The Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ is offering an online worship experience featuring music and the word to celebrate Epiphany.

The link will be available on our church's website

www.strongsvilleucc.com

and through the weekly email, which will include the bulletin and other resources. We hope that you will enjoy and be inspired by this service from our partners in ministry.

DON'T FORGET TO PICK UP OUR PRESENT TO YOU:

“Christmas Presence”

This FREE CD features vocalists Dave Williams, Sarah Keenen, Cindy Smith, Marsha Coleff, Brittany Fernandez, Tom Foley, and Mike Elkins, plus instrumental pieces by the Satori Winds, Tom Foley and Mike Elkins.

If you have not already gotten your copy of the CD of Christmas music put together by our music team, please stop by during church hours:

Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

