



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(Congregational)
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Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Sunday, December 6, 2020 – Online
Second Sunday of Advent
Sacrament of Holy Communion

OPENING MUSIC "O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful" Tattersall's Psalmody

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT "Comfort Ye" Handel

CALL TO WORSHIP

Listen to what the Lord our God says to us: Peace is God's hope for us; salvation is God's gift to us. See what the Lord our God reveals to us: righteousness is the path to the Kingdom; faithfulness is the highway we build. Tell what the Lord our God asks us to speak: prepare God's way; the Christ is coming to redeem us.

HYMN "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

Infant holy Infant lowly For His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing little knowing, Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging, angels singing, Noels ringing, tidings bringing
Christ the Babe is Lord of all. Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story--Tidings of a gospel true
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing greet the morrow;
Christ the Babe was born for you. Christ the Babe was born for you.

CCLI Song # 3763676 Edith Margaret Gellibrand Reed | Linda Mawson
© Words: Public Domain Music: Traditional Polish Melody

LIGHTING THE SECOND CANDLE OF ADVENT: PEACE

The Sekorky Family

On this second Sunday of Advent, we listen for a word of peace. We listen for stories where people stop hurting each other and start helping. We listen for words of peace from our leaders, and we remember that Christ is the Prince of Peace. We light this second candle for the peace we listen for, that sings in our hearts, that God's reign is near.

PRAYER AS WE LIGHT THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE:

Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare, for a gift that compels us with justice to care. Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease. One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.

RESPONSE

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

O come Thou Dayspring come and cheer Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, Shall come to thee, O Israel.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:1-5 (New International Version)

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice of one calling:

"In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.
And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it
together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

SHARING AND PRAYERS

MUSIC "Agnus Dei" Smith

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

BEING COMMUNITY WHEN WE ARE APART

OFFERTORY "Emmanuel" McGee

Advent. A time for new beginnings. A time to celebrate the presence of God in our world. A time to remember that Jesus was brought into the world as part of a human family, grew up as a very human child, and taught us to love one another for who we are in community. Together, we again commit our lives and our resources to finding new, innovative ways to continue to walk with Jesus, even during this season of pandemic. 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.myoffering.com/eonline/index.php/dashboard/login/5027>

or mail your offering to **Strongsville UCC 13740 Pearl Road Strongsville, OH 44136**. You may also save a stamp and drop your envelope in the church mailbox at any time.

SECOND READING Mark 1:1-8 (New International Version)

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah,

the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:
“I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way”—
“a voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

REFLECTION

“Getting Ready”

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Adapted from Wells, Samuel. Liturgy on the Edge: Pastoral and Attractional Worship. Norwich: Canterbury Press, 2018.

Listen to these words from a book called Liturgy on the Edge:
Appreciating God’s longing for us to come home is the moment we open our eyes to grace: forgiveness is not earned—and it draws a line under what has gone before. It says that no matter what you’ve done or left undone, no matter how unlovable you think you are, God’s love, which heals all, is poured out for you. For you. God wants to restore relationships with both the individual disciple and the body of the Church. Let’s pray together:

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Holy One, draw us near, we pray, for we live in fretful times, wondering if we will ever come out of them. Wash over us with your grace. Help us, Holy Jesus, who understands the agony of being human, for we long to be faithful, but find it all too easy to be seduced by worry. Fill us with your peace. Blessed Spirit, whose very breath gives us life, bring us courage as we stay apart, for others and for ourselves, while others mock us for being foolish. Help us to love others as you love. (silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In the midst of all uncertainty, remember that God loves us, God forgives us, and God restores us to new life. As we journey together, allow your heart to dwell on this truth.
The Child is coming again, bringing grace, offering mercy, and wrapping us in God’s loving arms. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

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.

HYMN

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

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 as our creator, Children all are we.

Let us walk with each other, In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me; Let this be the moment now,

With ev’ry step I take, Let 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.

CCLI Song # 93690 Jill Jackson | Sy Miller

© 1955. Renewed 1983 Jan - Lee Music

BENEDICTION FOR A PEOPLE OF PEACE

Be people of peace. Let peace live in your heart, and share the peace of Christ with all you meet. Share peace by acting out of compassion, not fear. Share peace by listening to all sides of the story. Share peace by praying for our world. In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share peace. As you go out into the wonder of God’s creation, share peace and hope with those you meet. Amen.

POSTLUDE

“I Extol You”

Randolph

SERVING

TODAY – DECEMBER 6

NEXT SUNDAY – DECEMBER 13

Dave Williams

Liturgist

Irene Joyce

Tom Foley

Director of Music

Tom Foley

Mike Elkins

Associate Director of Music

Mike Elkins

Doug Thorn

Sound

Doug Thorn

Chuck McDougall

Video

Chuck McDougall

Dave Williams

Special Music

Venner Clarinet Quartet

The Sekorky Family

Advent Readers

The Zielinski Family

Happy Birthday today to Sarah Keenen, Bob Zimmerman,
Rowan Garcia, Lauren Knotts, and Erin Chapman!

Additional song credits

O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful Johannes D. Falk, translated by Henry Katterjohn. Music: Tattersall's Psalmody, 1794. O Sanctissima Sicilian Mariner's Hymn Music: Public Domain

Comfort Ye from Messiah Part I Georg Frideric Handel, 1741 Published by G. Schirmer, Inc., 1912. Public Domain

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) CCLI Song # 626713 Michael W. Smith
© 1990 Sony/ATV Milene Music (Admin. by Sony/ATV Music Publishing)

Emmanuel CCLI Song # 12949 Bob McGee
© 1976 C.A. Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)

I Extol You CCLI Song # 18307 Jennifer Randolph
© 1985 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing (Integrity Music, David C Cook))

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The steeple will light the sky this week—

In honor of Sarah Keenen's Birthday today—Your church family

*In loving and respectful memory of all the men and women who
sacrificed their lives for our country's freedom during wartime and
in gratitude to their families who sacrificed their loved ones.*

In honor of veterans wherever and whenever they served.

Lola Millhoane



**Many thanks to Dave Williams for
participating in today's worship
service, and we welcome the return of
Mike Elkins today!**

Thanks also to Dave, Jennifer, Oliver, and Matilda Sekorky for
lighting the Second Candle of Advent: Peace.

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Weekly Offering Needed	\$ 3,473.27
Last Week's Offering Received	<u>\$ 2,936.00</u>
Difference	(-\$ 537.27)

Thank you very much for your support of our church.



OUR PRAYER LIST

Please provide updates for this list to the church office.

Long-Term Care or Homebound: Janet Kato, Martha Liebert, 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., Mike & Linda Elkins, Linda Elliott, Don Gleichauf, Sue Hawk, Steve Herzog, Paul Hirt, Carole Kapcar, George Kapcar, Tony Koussa, Lori Kovatich, Karl & Sharon Kuhlenschmidt, Millie Lafave, Lacey Marshall, Brigitte Matchett, Judy Maur, Laurie Meister, Michele Mihlack, Lola Millhoane, Judi Pavisich, Lisa Pogozelski, Joyce Reed, Dorothy and Bill Ritchie, Alysha Rolland, Ginger Rothel, John & Maggie Struhar, Keith Sullen, Jamie & Josh Trinckes, Sharon Wilson, Sally Vetovitz, Peg Weakley, Claire Wills, Marty Winch

Extended Church Family: Ron, Yvonne, & Ronnie Adams (Judi Pavisich's friends), 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), Donna Fargo (Sally Herzog's mom), Kim Filiatraut (Sarah Keenen's friend), Elizabeth Fulford (Lora Rung's friend), Dana Hardy (Craig's wife), Kelly Kling (Strongsville Emergency Food Bank), Rev. Kent Knife (retired pastor from MHUCC), 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), 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.



MITTEN TREE—LAST CHANCE!

Today is the last day to bring your items to the church during office hours and they will be placed on the Mitten Tree. Everything collected will be sent to the needy on December 8th. Thank you to everyone who has brought in hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, and socks so far!



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.



Are you an online Christmas 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 received a check for \$33.57 from Amazon in November. Thank you!**



NEED AN EASY WAY TO CHRISTMAS SHOP? GIFT CARDS!

You can still order gift cards by calling **Jim Joyce** at 216-267-5043 in advance with your order. Hurry—limited stock available!

You may pick up your cards at the church office with your payment at a convenient time. **Thank you to those who continue to support this project by purchasing gift cards!**

SPONSORSHIP OF CAROLINE IN INDIA

It's time to sign up for 2021: The cost is \$30 per month. Please call the church at 440-238-6697 or email at strongsvilleucc@gmail.com to sign up.

December, 2020—Sharon & Jim Heinrich
January—The Sunday School
February—Ginger Rothel
March—
April—Ginger Rothel
May—
June—
July—
August—
September—
October—
November—
December—

The Child Sponsorship Program is a part of Global Ministries, United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ (Christian) Churches.



ADVENT GIFT FOR YOU—Advent packets are ready for pick-up during church office hours—9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday through Friday!



AN EXPRESSION OF THANKS

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks for your prayers, expressions of sympathy and the support of the members of Strongsville United Church of Christ. It was a real shock and surprise when our Debbie died. Your support mattered a great deal to us all.

The Churnega, Krause, and Sobek family