

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021

United Church of Christ – Pastor James Mohr

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PRELUDE “Cradle Hymn” Gordon Young
“O Come, Little Children” Diane Bish
Karen Mohr

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP¹ Colton Williams

In the season of Advent, we remember
“God so loved the world.”

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

The Mighty One has done great things for
us.

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

God lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry
with good things.

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

God shows mercy to everyone from one
generation to the next; to all who honor
God.

**Come, Lord Jesus, come! Be born anew in
our world and in our lives.**

HYMN “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Felix Mendelssohn, arr. Wm. H. Cummings

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King!**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

O Holy One, in this season of your coming, the
darkness in us deepens awaiting your Light, the
evil in us trembles expecting your Mercy, the
knowledge in us falters hearing your Truth.

**O God, we have sinned against innocence,
forgotten human sorrow, denied pity, excused
ourselves from love, and shunned
holiness. Assail us by the bright blows of your
grace and make us teachable, that we may
learn again the peace that comes on earth to
people of goodwill; through Jesus Christ our
Savior. Amen.**

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

OUR RESPONSE “Gloria, Gloria” #756

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria alleluia, alleluia!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING³

Colton Williams

ADVENT SONG “O Come, Advent” video

**O come and be the hope in all our lives
Though chaos and confusion still survive
We know the path of hate all too well
We need our God with us, Emmanuel!
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us
And all things shall be well**

**O come and bring your peace upon the earth
That even now still longs for its rebirth
We seek to live and move in your ways
Guide us to peace and justice all our days
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us
And all things shall be well**

**O come to us like joy of heaven’s dawn,
From Mary’s womb a faithful paragon*
Brought forth into this world by love’s power
Your Spirit through her labors in that hour
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to us
And all things shall be well.**

**(paragon is a person or thing viewed as a
model of excellence)*

O come you source of Love unto us all
Enlighten us and help us hear your call
To bear your Love out into the wild
And celebrate God's wondrous holy Child!
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us
And all things shall be well

CANDLE-LIGHTING RITUAL (Luke 1:46-55)

When we feel invisible, ineffective,
Too small to make a difference
The Holy invites us to be God-Bearers
And we shall find Love
(*Light candle of Love*)
Where in the world do we find Love these days?

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

"No Stress, No Fuss Christmas Program"

"Mary and Joseph" – Calvin Heck

"The Animals" – Sophie Heck

"Angels" – Lexi Bergemann

"Shepherds" – Lexi Woods

"Wise Persons and Star" – Madison Barth

"Conclusion" – Calvin Heck

All kids participating: Claire Ziegler, Morgan Erickson, Sophie & Calvin Heck, Lexi Bergemann, Lexi, Layne & Lars Woods, Jocelyn & Theamore Vine, Wyatt, Sawyer & Lilli Stalsberg, Madison Barth, and Benjamin & Haddie Mathis.

Carols –

"Away in a Manger" William J. Kirkpatrick

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed.

The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.

The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,

the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus. I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and take us to heaven to live with thee there.**

"Joy to the World" G. Handel L. Mason
Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

**Let earth receive her king;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing
And heav'n, and heav'n, and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love
And wonders, wonders, of his love.**

THE SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:39-55 (Mary, Elizabeth, Magnificat)

³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." ⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices

in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

**courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.
Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto
you. Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Millie Kay Mathis, daughter of Ben and Kelly
Godparents: Pat & Heidi Krupicka,
Benjamin & Shelly Froehling

Haakon Bruce Sigurdson, son of Jenna and Erik
Godparents: Heather Hilke, Eric Hilke

***THE STATEMENT OF FAITH**

**We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify:
You call the worlds into being,
create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways
of life and death.
You seek in holy love to save all people from
aimlessness and sin.
You judge people and nations by your righteous
will declared through prophets and apostles.
In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth,
our crucified and risen Savior,
you have come to us
and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death
and reconciling the world to yourself.
You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing
the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages,
tongues, and races.
You call us into your church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ’s baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.
You promise to all who trust you
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

**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.**

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

CHRISTMAS FUND

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN “Angels We Have Heard on High”

**Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria In excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo,
Gloria In excelsis Deo.**

THE BENEDICTION

We highly recommend everyone attending services to wear a mask and practice social distancing.

¹Written by Thom M Shuman with adaptation by Rev. Jacoba Koppert from Lectionary liturgies. blogspot 2017

²Prayer of Confession from "Sabbaths, Sacraments, and Seasons" by Arnold Kenseth adapted by Pastor Jim Mohr

³**Advent in The United Church of Canada and The United Church of Christ: Candle-lighting Ritual for Advent 2021**, ©2021 United Church of Canada and United Church of Christ. **O Come, Advent**, lyrics and arrangement by Adrian Marchuk. © 2021 United Church of Canada; tune **VENI EMMANUEL**, Public Domain. Permission given churches to reproduce and stream for worship or education purposes. All publishing rights reserved.

Announcements

We welcome you to our service of worship!

We are glad that you have joined us in-person, through the internet or on the radio.

We pray that you will experience the love of Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We invite you to celebrate Jesus' Birthday with the Sunday School after worship in the narthex.

Thank you Stephanie Heck for directing the Sunday School Christmas Program, Linda Stalsberg for assisting, and parents and grandparents for working with your children.

RADIO BROADCAST

11 AM Sunday radio broadcast on WCCN 98.5FM and 1370AM

This week's radio broadcast is sponsored by a faithful listener.

- Monday, December 20th
Noon – Circle of Friends Christmas Party
- Friday, December 24th
4:30 pm – Family Christmas Eve Service
7:30 pm – Traditional Christmas Eve Service
- Sunday, January 2nd –
After worship – Budget meeting

CHOIR – will practice Wed., December 22nd at 6 pm.

PLEASE pick up your 2022 Offering Envelopes in the Narthex