

## The First Sunday after Christmas December 26, 2021

United Church of Christ, Neillsville

Pastor Jacoba Koppert

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**PRELUDE "IL EST NE" (He is Born)** Diane Bish  
Karen Mohr

### WELCOME

### CALL TO WORSHIP

The child born in Bethlehem, the true light that  
shines on all people  
has come into the world.

**The light was in the world, and the world  
came into being through the light,  
but the world didn't recognize the light.**

The light came to his own people  
and his own people didn't welcome him.  
But those who did welcome him,  
those who believed in his name,  
he authorized to become God's children.

**Glory to God in the highest heaven. God has  
become flesh and lives among us!**

### ADVENT SONG<sup>1</sup> "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.**

**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**

**Rejoice, rejoice!  
Emmanuel has come to us  
And all things shall be well**

### LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

The presents are unwrapped,  
and the wrapping paper recycled;  
The cookie tins are nearly empty  
The Christmas Dinner leftovers eaten;  
Family and friends  
have returned to their homes,  
Yet, the light of Christ, the glory of God remains  
among us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Where in the world do we experience Christ  
among us? (*Invite Congregation to reflect aloud*)

### OPENING PRAYER<sup>2</sup>

God of love, we come today grateful that amid  
this divided and troubled world, your child was  
born, lived, and died, full of grace and truth.  
Surprise us with your presence renew our sense  
of wonder; and give us peace and courage to  
live as your people in the world. May you be  
glorified in us and in Jesus Christ in whose name  
we pray. Amen.

### SILENCE FOR PERSONAL PRAYER

### OUR RESPONSE "The First Nowell"

**Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord;  
Who with the Father we adore  
And Spirit blest forever more.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.**

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Zoey Raelyn Marie Hediger,

daughter of

Lacie Marie (Strobush) and Justin Paul Hediger  
Godparents: Whitney Evans & Katrina Strobush

**CHRISTMAS CAROL** MacKenzie Keller  
*"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

**THE SCRIPTURE READING** John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

<sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

**MEDITATION** Pastor Jacoba Koppert

**CHRISTMAS CAROL** *"What Child Is This?"*

**What Child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?**

**Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?**

*Refrain* **This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and  
angels sing,  
Haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the Babe, the son of Mary.**

**Why lays he in such mean estate**

where ox and ass are feeding  
Good Christians, fear for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading

*Refrain*

**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**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**HYMN** *"Go Tell It on The Mountain"*

*Refrain* **Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills, and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born.**

**While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Beheld throughout the heavens  
There shown a holy light.**

*Refrain*

**Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn.**

*Refrain*

**THE BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

Karen Mohr

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

<sup>1</sup>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. (Candlelighting adapted by Rev. Koppert) <sup>2</sup>Book of Worship United Church of Christ @ 1986 used by permission.

### 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.  
Christ is Born! God is among us in the flesh! Rejoice  
with joy, hope, peace, and love.



A special welcome to the family and friends of  
Zoey Hediger.  
May she always know the love of Jesus.

### **RADIO BROADCAST**

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

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

- Wednesday, December 29<sup>th</sup> –  
8:30 am Constitution  
10:30 -noon - Confirmation
- Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> –  
After worship – Budget meeting
- Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> –  
9 am - Circle of Friends making cards

**PLEASE pick up your 2022 Offering Envelopes  
in the Narthex**

We are **looking for help** in hosting coffee  
fellowship following Sunday worship. Duties  
include picking up donut holes (which are paid for  
by the church) making coffee, set up and clean up.  
Please sign up as we would love to continue this to  
encourage fellowship.

\*\*

Please have any articles into the office for the  
January newsletter by Tuesday, December 28<sup>th</sup>.

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*The Gift that  
Changed the World*