

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2021 – 7:30 pm

United Church of Christ – Pastor Jacoba Koppert

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PRELUDE *“The Night of Christmas”* John M. Rasley
Choral Prelude on *‘In dulci jubilo’* J. S. Bach
Karen Mohr

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP

The goodness and loving kindness of God
our Savior has appeared.

**To you this day is born in the city of David
a Savior.**

We are saved not because of our good
works, but because of God’s mercy. By
God’s grace we can inherit the hope for
eternal life.

**“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on
earth peace among those whom God favors!”**

“Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing
that has taken place, which the Lord has made
known to us.”

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

CHRISTMAS CAROL

**“O Come All Ye Faithful”* #89 vs 1

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Tonight, we relight the four candles of the Advent
Wreath—the candles of HOPE, PEACE, JOY AND
LOVE.

We relight the candle of Hope.

We need our God with us, Emmanuel! O come
and be the hope in all our lives.

We relight the candle of Peace.

O come and bring your peace upon the earth.
Guide us to peace and justice all our days

We relight the candle of joy.

O come to us like the joy of heaven’s dawn.

Brought forth into this world by love’s power.
We relight the candle of Love. When the shepherds
saw baby Jesus lying in a manger, they knew God
loves the world.

Now we light the Christ candle. An angel told Mary
her child would be great and would be called the
Son of the Most High. An angel told Joseph,
Mary’s son would be called “Emmanuel, God with
us.”

Let us consider carefully what the angels said to
Mary, Joseph, and us.

THE CHOIR SINGS *“Do you Hear What I Hear?”*

Noel Regney Gloria Shayne

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor
Augustus that all the world should be
registered. This was the first registration and was
taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All
went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph
also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to
Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem,
because he was descended from the house and
family of David. He went to be registered with
Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was
expecting a child. While they were there, the time
came for her to deliver her child. And she gave
birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in
bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because
there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the
fields, keeping watch over their flock by
night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before
them, and the glory of the Lord shone around
them, and they were terrified. But the angel said
to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing
you good news of great joy for all the people: to
you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,
who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for
you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of
cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there
was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly

host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Titus 3:4-7

⁴But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION Pastor Jacoba Koppert
"Love Set Free"

CHRISTMAS CAROL *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*
#99 vs 1 and 4

**O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met it thee tonight.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem!
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in;
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;**

**O come to us, abide in us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!**

OUR CHRISTMAS PRAYERS

**WE OFFER OUR GIFTS
THE GIVING MANGER
PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The United Church of Christ practices open communion. Anyone who confesses Jesus Christ as Savior is welcome.

THE INVITATION

May the Child of Bethlehem be born in you.

And in your heart as well.

Children of God, lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the One who was revealed
by the angels.**

People of God, give thanks to the One
the shepherds hurried to see.

**We ponder in our hearts the meaning of "God
with us" as we participate in this holy meal.**

THE COMMUNION PRAYER

We thank you, Loving God, for baby Jesus born in Bethlehem. We thank you for his life on earth and for all the ways he loved your people. We thank you for his faithfulness to you, even as he died on the cross. After his death, You raised him to new life and now he reigns with you in heaven.

**Forgive us, Gracious God, when we do not
honor you. When we do not love you with all
our heart, soul and strength and when we do
not love our neighbors as Jesus showed us; help
us to do better.**

Loving God, you offer us your grace and mercy; you forgive us. Because we know your love for Jesus and for us never ends, with the angels, shepherds and faithful of every nation and time, we glorify your holy name singing,

OUR RESPONSE

Glo- - - - -ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o

Glo- - - - -ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o

("Angels We Have Heard on High" chorus #90)

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE CONSECRATION

Holy God, make known your presence among us through the power of the Holy Spirit. We ask you to send your Spirit on this bread and the fruit of the vine and on each of us. Help us to be faithful, living in love and hope until the perfect feast with our Savior, Jesus Christ, at the end of the age.

We offer ourselves to you, giving thanks for the perfect offering of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, in whose name we pray...

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.

BREAKING AND THE POURING

EATING AND DRINKING

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of glory, we thank you for this meal where we have again experienced the love of Jesus. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we commit ourselves to serving you in the world. Send your Spirit with us so that we might continue to rejoice in the good news of great joy: Christ is born and you are indeed among us. Thank you, Lord! Amen.

CELEBRATING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

***HYMN** *"Silent Night"* vs. 1 and 3 #95

**Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child,
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,**

**With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

*THE BENEDICTION

*CAROL RESPONSE

"Joy to the World" vs. 1 & 3 #313

**Joy to the world; the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her king;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.**

**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.**

POSTLUDE

Karen Mohr

We welcome you on this Holy Night of Christ's birth! We pray you will experience God's love for you and the world. If you do not have a church home, we hope you will worship with us again on Sunday mornings at 10am in person; on Youtube; or on the radio, at 98.5 FM at 11am. We are glad you came to worship this evening! A joyous Christmas to all!

The Church Officers highly recommends everyone attending services to wear a mask and practice social distancing.

We thank all who decorated our sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas season. We thank those who donated Poinsettias – you may take your flower home after the 7:30 pm service. We thank all who participated in our Christmas Eve Worship services! Thank you.



Dedications

- JoAnn Wren In honor of all Veterans past and present
- JoAnn Wren In memory of Olivia Reigel (Wren), granddaughter
- Gayle Schermitzler In memory of husband, John Schermitzler
- Doris Bakker
- Edie Petersen Honoring the friendship of Howie & Kathy Mathis
- Kevin & Jenny Erickson In honor of our children
- Kevin & Jenny Erickson In honor of our parents
- Howard & Kathy Mathis In honor of our family present and past
- Gramma Kathy & Grampa Howie In honor of Millie Kay Mathis' baptism
- Rev. Jacoba Koppert In honor of her mother, Johanna Koppert
- Pastor Jim & Karen Mohr In honor of our parents
- Mike & Debbie Perkl In honor of Max, Brooklyn, & Jordie Boon
and Kendall Nett
- Mike & Debbie Perkl In honor of Marge Goetsch
- Byrl & Sharon Buddenhagen In memory of Bob Carpentier
- Byrl & Sharon Buddenhagen In memory of Mary White