

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN-CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
December 29, 2024
First Sunday after Christmas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE UNITY CANDLE

PRELUDE Gesu Bambino

Pietro A. Yon/Arr. Robert Hughes

GREETING L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Men and women, old and young, together:

Praise God and exalt the Author of Life.

Praise God in the highest heavens.

Praise God, all dwellers on the earth.

God commanded, and we were created.

God sustains us and enables us to grow.

Praise God, all who seek to live in faithfulness.

Glorify God's name and join the loving community.

Know that we are chosen by God, holy and beloved.

We are called into one body, the church of Jesus Christ.

Let us draw close to God and to one another.

Let us join with all creation to worship God.

MORNING PRAYER (read by Lay Reader)

Height and breadth, length and depth, the whole universe proclaims your glory, faithful

God. Your wisdom fills the universe with possibilities we have not tapped.

Your Word comes to us filled with riches we have not mined. Within ourselves is the potential for greatness as yet unrealized. Confront us here with your eternal claim on us that we may become the kind, compassionate, and patient people you intend for us to be. Amen.

***HYMN** Go, Tell It on the Mountain #151

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Heavenly Parent, we have wandered away to pursue our own agenda. We have laid aside your expectation that we will forbear one another and forgive. We harbor grudges against people. There are some we neglect and some we disdain. We have viewed them neither as your beloved nor as our sisters and brothers. The peace of

Christ does not rule in our hearts. Your truth is not what flows from our lips or finds expression in our actions. O God, turn us around, that what we do may be a genuine expression of your love, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God has already forgiven us. When we are truly sorry and repent of our neglect and our wrongful thoughts and deeds, we are able to accept that forgiveness. God offers healing for our brokenness. The scars of resentment against others are taken away so we can forgive them. The love of God enables us to love. Praise God from the earth. Draw close to the eternal and exalt the name of the one who rules all time and space.

***GLORIA PATRI** #805

SPECIAL MUSIC In the Bleak Midwinter *Thomas Keesecker*

CHILDREN'S CHAT Rev. Kathy Smith

***HYMN** As He Gathered at His Table #778

SCRIPTURES 1 Samuel 2:18-20 (p.243), Colossians 3:12-17 (p. 1074)

MESSAGE Rev. Kathy Smith

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *On insert*

PERIOD OF GUIDED PRAYER Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

OFFERINGS OF GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY Offertory on A Welsh Tune David Paxton

Please sign the friendship pad at the end of the pew and pass it on.

***DOXOLOGY** #809

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** (unison)

We are thankful for the love that gave us life, for the mission that gives purpose to our days, and for the peace that Christ grants to us. Keep us from needless anxiety that we may give without counting the cost. We give ourselves as well as our money, that your Word may spread where it is not known and take root where it has not been heeded. Amen.

***HYMN** God of Grace and God of Glory #669

***COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly.

Teach and admonish one another in all wisdom.

We will spend time in study and prayer.

We will listen and speak as God inspires us.

Put on—as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved—compassion, kindness, meekness, and patience.

We will forgive as we have been forgiven.

We will put on love that binds us in perfect harmony.

The peace of Christ will rule in your hearts.

You will know God's favor day after day.

We will praise God's name in all we do.

We will join with faithful people to give daily thanks. Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE TO BENEDICTION** Go, Tell It on the Mountain refrain only **#151**

POSTLUDE Good Christian Friends, Rejoice! *David Cherwien*

*All those who are able, please stand.

A WORD ON THE OFFERING

For your convenience, offering plates are placed at each entrance. You are welcome to place your offering in the plate as you enter or during a hymn. The ushers will bring your offering forward later in the service.

Large print bulletins, children's bulletins, and aids for the hearing impaired are available. All people are welcome in the sanctuary; however, a play room is available for kindergarten and younger children needing a place to invest their excitement. There is also a children's room for families who need a quiet space for babies and young children. Please ask an usher for assistance.

ORGANIST Nancy Dufek

VMIX Rob Sanders **STREAMING AUDIO** Susan Sanders

SANCTUARY SOUND OPEN

PRODUCTION Rob Sanders

TECH SUPPORT Ernie Bliss

LAY READER Chuck Gottschall

USHERS Tom and Connie Cogger

COFFEE HOSTS Jim & Anna Fridsma

BAKERS Julia Waggoner and Paula Mainguth

PLAY ROOM Pat Sheils

Church office hours Monday--Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Rev. James Deters, Pastor upccpastor@gmail.com

Laurel Harnisch, Director of Family Ministry upcc.familyministry@gmail.com

Susan Sanders, Administrative Assistant upcc.office214@gmail.com

Church office phone 715-682-3093

UPCC website: <https://upccchurch.org/>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/UnitedPresbyterianCongregationalChurch>

Join our Facebook group at UPCC Connection



United Presbyterian/Congregational Church

214 Vaughn Ave, Ashland, Wisconsin 54806

PASTOR: Reverend James Deters

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 am

Illustration by Ben Cogger



Calendar of Events

ACTIVITIES

- 1/1 Happy New Year (*office closed*)
Noon: AA meeting in lower lounge
NO YOUTH GROUP
- 1/5 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL (Pre-K -High school)
NO ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:30 am Worship service

BIRTHDAYS

- 29 Carol Ortman
- 31 Ella Rose Swanson, Eric Adams, Jim Deters & Jim Miller
- 1 TJ Yankee
- 2 Vivian Brenholt
- 4 Alisa Kolwitz
- 5 Jennifer Walworth

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School for PreK - High School and Adult Sunday school will resume on Sunday, January 12th.



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***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation;
for in him all things in heaven and earth were created,
things visible and invisible,
whether thrones or dominions
or rulers or powers—
all things have been created through him and for him.
He himself is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.
He is the head of the body, the church;
he is the beginning,
the first-born from the dead,
so that he might come to have first place in everything.
For in him all the fullness of God
was pleased to dwell,
and through him God was pleased
to reconcile to himself all things,
by making peace through the blood of his cross.
Col. 1:15-20

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1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 (p. 243)

Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD'; and then they would return to their home. Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the LORD and with the people.

Colossians 3:12-17 (p. 1074)

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.