

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN-CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 13th, 2020

3rd Sunday of Advent

MUSICAL PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP AND COUNTDOWN

MINI MOVIE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Alyssa & Sunniva Joy Hulstrand

PRELUDE O Come, All Ye Faithful *Arr. Patricia Sanders*

CHORAL INTROIT Christ is Coming! *Joachim Neander*

GREETING L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

God is in our midst; even in these troubled times, do not fear.

God rejoices to renew our lives in steadfast love.

God gathers us for this time of worship.

God claims us and promises us a home.

Trust in God who is our strength and life.

Give thanks to God, the source of our salvation.

We will sing praise and exalt God's name.

With joyous shouts, we will tell of God's glorious deeds.

Rejoice in God, whatever our circumstances.

Remember the good fortune God has shared with you.

We will not worry as we seek God's peace.

We open our hearts and minds to God's leading.

MORNING PRAYER (read by Lay Reader)

Loving God, even as we find a changed Christmas season, we rejoice in the anticipation as we remember your promises and look forward to ways that you reveal yourself to us.

May your presence be real to us in this now. Strengthen us for victories over temptation, for renewal of our love for you and one another, for leadership and service in your church.

We give thanks that you have called us into community and commissioned us to make a difference in the world. Equip us here for the tasks you set before us. Amen.

***HYMN** On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry verses 1, 2, 5 **#136**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

All-knowing God, we confess our worry and anxiety. We admit the fears that make us defensive instead of loving. We acknowledge our resentment over losses we have sustained and oppression we have suffered. We recognize that we have been

far more concerned for our own welfare than for the building up of our community and Christ's body, the church. Sometimes we have focused on survival more than service. We look for what we can gain more than for what we can give.

Re-establish your rule among us, we pray, and save us from ourselves. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God has good news of freedom for oppressed and captive people, of comfort for the brokenhearted and mourning ones, of hope for those who are devastated. God offers salvation and welcomes us into a covenant relationship. Surely our hearts will know joy and our voices will ring with laughter. God is faithful and will grant us peace.

*GLORIA PATRI

#805

CHORAL ANTHEM Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming *German Carol*

CHILDREN'S CHAT Pastor Jim

***HYMN** What Child Is This? **#150**

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (p.678); 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 (p.1077) & John 1:6-8, 9-28 (p.966)

MESSAGE Rev. James Deters

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Nicene Creed **#15**

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

OFFERINGS OF GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY Away In A Manger. *Arr. Patricia Sanders*

***DOXOLOGY** **#809**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** (unison)

In our unworthiness, O God, may we yet bring worthy gifts to honor the Messiah.

May the brokenhearted be led to enriching new celebrations. May the lowly among us come to know their true worth as persons chosen by you to do great things. By your mercy, may the hungry be fed not only with bread but also with opportunities to feed others. We give ourselves as your servants, for no gift is complete without personal commitment. Thank you, God, for expecting great things of us. Our spirits rejoice in the coming of our Savior. Amen.

***HYMN** Hark! The Herald Angels Sing **#171**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Rejoice always and pray without ceasing.

Give thanks to God, whatever your circumstances.

God has done great things for us.

We rejoice that we are part of God's family.

Listen for the word of the prophets.

Be open to the stirring of the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit of God has come to us.

We have a mission to accomplish for God.

God is faithful and will stand by you.

You are valued in God's covenant community.

We are filled with joy as we go out to serve.

We are thankful for the good news we carry. Amen

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE** "Amen"

African American Spiritual

POSTLUDE Medley of Christmas Carols

*All those who are able, please stand.

ORGANIST Nancy Dufek

CHOIR DIRECTOR Diana Mann

SINGERS Becca Nelson, Lynn Adams, Tim Delnay, Bill Handy

CHIMES DIRECTOR Myra Bliss

VMIX Rob Sanders, **SOUND** Chuck Gottschall

PRODUCERS Ernie Bliss and Lynn Adams

Church office hours Monday--Friday from 8:15 a.m. to noon

Rev. James Deters, Pastor upccpastor@gmail.com

Kate Bernardo, Administrative Assistant kate.uppc@gmail.com

Church office phone 715-682-3093

Today's anthem is "Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming" - The tiny babe whose birth we celebrate, our "Rose," came to "dispel...the darkness everywhere, and lighten every load."

Website: <https://upcchurch.org>

Like us on Facebook at United Presbyterian Congregational Church

Join our Facebook group at UPCC Connection



United Presbyterian/Congregational Church

214 Vaughn Ave, Ashland, Wisconsin 54806

PASTOR: Reverend James Deters

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 am

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 am

Illustration by Ben Cogger

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of Heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in the one holy and catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

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Amen.

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

p.678

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;^[a]
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,

my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and prai

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

p.1077

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

John 1:6-8, 9-28

p.966

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who

believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,¹ full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

BIRTHDAYS

- 13 Amanda Krueger
- 16 Hallie Stuart
- 17 Seija Anderson
- 18 Robert Mahnke
- 19 Vernelle Mercer & Karen Kay

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children's Chats We are looking for volunteers to do children's chats via video for our Sunday streaming services. If you would like to volunteer, need help with this, or need to learn how to do this please email ladams1055@gmail.com or text or call Lynn at 715-209-6784.

Communications Committee In an effort to keep the congregation informed of events and activities of interest to the church family, please submit announcements for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin. The submission deadline is noon every Tuesday. Please send your information to the church office via email to info@upcchurch.org.

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136 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan where John was baptizing. Jn. 1:28

1. On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2. Let ev - ery heart be cleansed from sin, make straight the
 3. For you are our sal - va - tion, Lord, our ref - uge
 4. To heal the sick, stretch out your hand, and make the
 5. To you, O Christ, all prais - es be, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh: a - wake and lis - ten
 way for God with - in, and so pre - pare to
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 fall - en sin - ner stand; shine out, and let your
 sets your peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
 be the home where such a might - y guest may come.
 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more!

WORDS: Charles Coffin, 1736; tr. John Chandler, 1837, alt.
 MUSIC: Trier manuscript, 15th C.; adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1609; harm. George R. Woodward, 1910

PUER NOBIS
 L.M.

150 What Child Is This?

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. Lk. 2:16

1. What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Ma-ry's lap is sleep-ing,
 2. Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?
 3. So bring him in-cense, gold, and myrrh, come, peas-ant, king, to own him.

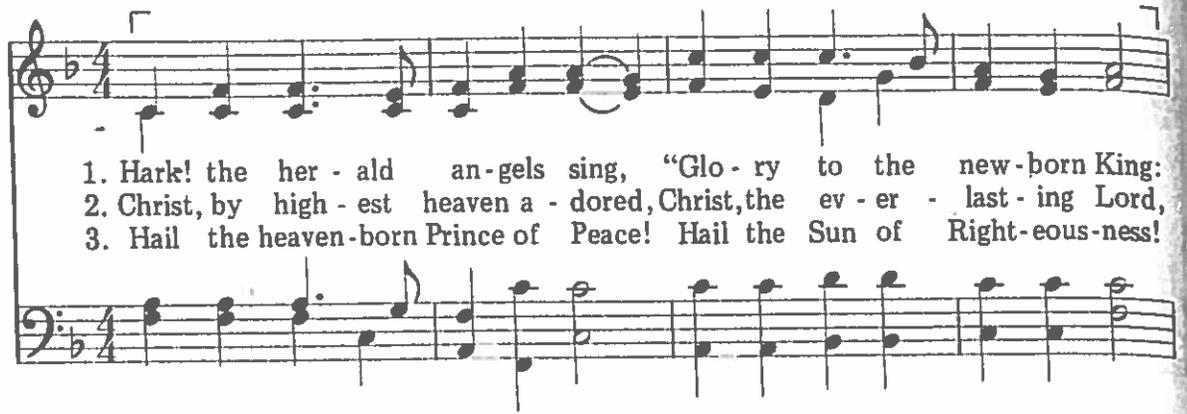
whom an-gels greet with an-thems sweet, while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?
 Good Chris-tians, fear; for sin-ners here the si-lent Word is plead-ing.
 The King of kings sal-va-tion brings; let lov-ing hearts en-throne him.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir-gin sings her lul-la-by;

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma-ry.
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Ma-ry.
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Ma-ry.

171 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

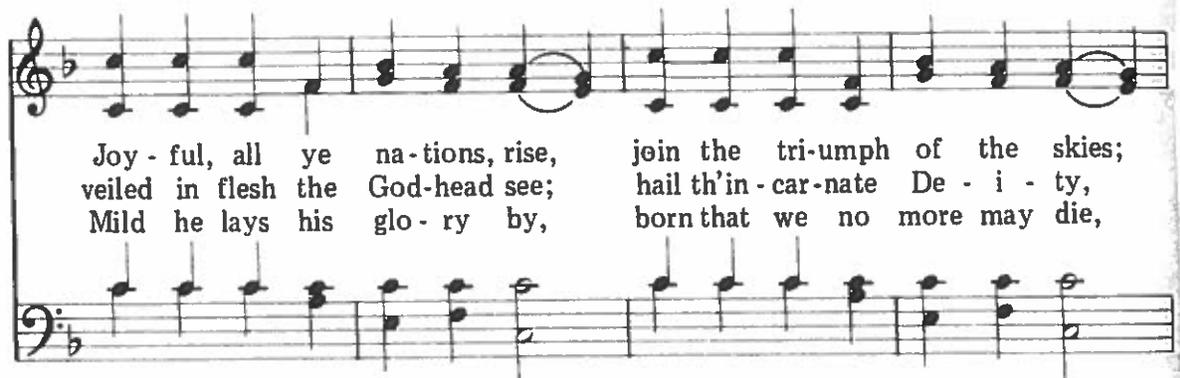
Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared . . . praising God . . . Lk. 2:13



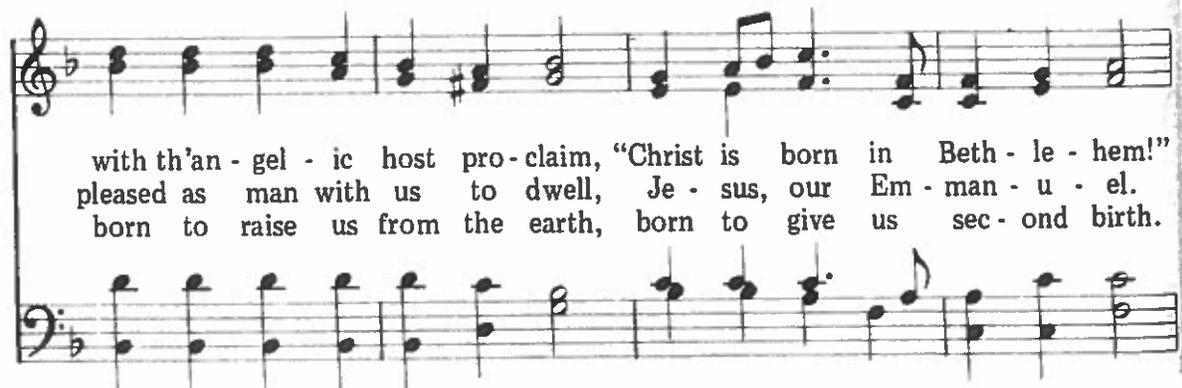
1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King:
2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3. Hail the heaven - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right - eous - ness!



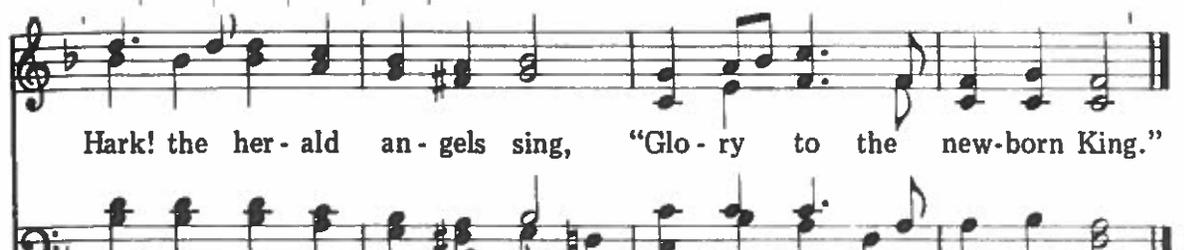
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb:
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King."