

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN-CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 20th, 2020

4th Sunday in Advent

MUSICAL PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP AND COUNTDOWN

MINI MOVIE

PRELUDE People Look East

arr. Jason W. Krug

CHORAL INTROIT Christ is Coming!

Joachim Neander

GREETING L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come away to this place of rest and renewal;

Let your spirits rejoice in the presence of God.

We will sing of God's unending love for all people.

We will proclaim God's faithfulness to all generations.

God looks with favor on the humble and lowly.

God's covenant does not focus on rank or position.

God strengthens those who are weak.

The proud are scattered in the thoughts of their hearts.

Blessed are those who walk in God's light.

Blessed are all who say 'yes' to God's call.

Let the heavens proclaim the wonders of God.

Let all the earth rejoice in Christ's coming.

MORNING PRAYER (read by Lay Reader)

We bring our spiritual hungers to this place, O God, hoping to be fed. We bring our weariness, expecting to find rest for our souls. We bring our dullness asking that we might be alerted to those things that you consider important. We come because we want the scattered fragments of our lives to come together in a meaningful wholeness. You have promised to be with us. Reveal yourself to us here, we pray in the name of One who came to share our common lot. Amen.

*HYMN HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

#171

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious God, in whom all things are possible, we confess that we have doubted what we cannot explain. We have sought strength and enjoyment apart from you. We have taken pride in ownership more than giving praise through stewardship.

We have, at times, neglected to thank you, either in good times or when you have supported us during days of uncertainty. We have resisted the newness you offer. Forgive us we pray, for installing ourselves as reigning deities. Lead us, rather, in paths of trust and obedience. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God does not turn away from giving unending love, even when we are unfaithful. The rock of our salvation keeps covenant with us despite our iniquity. God's mercy is for all who humbly seek it. God fills the hungry with good things, but the rich are sent away empty. If we have chosen to receive forgiveness and to move away for self-absorption, we will understand God's pardon and live joyously within it.

*GLORIA PATRI

#805

SPECIAL MUSIC

Joseph Deters

O Come O Come Emmanuel

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM- (PRE RECORDED)

*HYMN O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

#155

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

OFFERTINGS OF GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY Hannah Deters & Rebecca Deters

Friendly Beasts

*DOXOLOGY

#809

*OFFERTORY PRAYER (unison)

Our best we give to you, loving, God for you have given your best to us in the mystery of the incarnation. May our offering proclaim Jesus in ways that will be received with joy. Send your Word to the world in this season through our caring service. May we share it with one another in ways that help us all to grow. We are your servants. The gifts we dedicate are already yours. Thank you for all the ways you have provided for us. Amen.

*HYMN O COME O COME EMMANUEL vs. 1, 3, 5

#133

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Inspired by God's presence, spread the good news.

Strengthened by the gospel, go out to serve.

Our spirits rejoice in the Savior's nearness.

Our lives are blessed by a merciful God.

God has granted a beautiful earth for our home.

God appoints us as caregivers of the land and its people.

We are a covenant people, shaped by love.

Wherever God sends us, we will go.

God's steadfast love will go with you every day.

You will know the strength of God's mighty hand.

We will work with God to lift up the lowly.

We will share good things with those who are hungry. Amen

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE** "Amen"

POSTLUDE The First Noel

*African American Spiritual
English Carol*

*All those who are able, please stand.

ORGANIST Diana Mann

CHOIR DIRECTOR Diana Mann

SINGERS Becca Nelson, Julie Radke, Tim Delnay, Bill Handy

VMIX Lynn Adams, **SOUND** Rob Sanders

PRODUCTION Lynn Adams and Ernie Bliss

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM Cheryl Drevlow 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

Thank you to all the families who worked with their children to produce the wonderful videos used in today's Children's Christmas Program - Cheryl & Lynn

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

BIRTHDAYS

- 23 Mike Yankee
- 25 Tim Walworth
- 26 Kristen Mathisen & Judi Holevatz

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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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!

O Little Town of Bethlehem 155

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small . . . out of you will come . . . one who will be ruler over Israel. Mic. 5:2

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is given;
 4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love,
 so God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven!
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel 133

The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Emmanuel. Is. 7:14

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2. O come, thou Rod of Jes - se, free thine own from Sa - tan's
 3. O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine
 4. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our
 5. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here un -
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple save and
 ad - vent here; and drive a - way the shades of night, and
 heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and
 heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease; fill

Refrain

til the Son of God ap - pear.
 give them vic - tory o'er the grave.
 pierce the clouds and bring us light! Re - joice! re - joice! Em -
 close the path to mis - er - y.
 all the world with heav - en's peace.

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!