



Heaven
and nature
sing

December 24, 2021

6:00 p.m.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio 44256 330-725-4559
www.uccmedina.org Email: office@uccmedina.org



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LIVE STREAMING OF THE SANCTUARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT UCCMEDINA.ORG

“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS”

Welcome and Merry Christmas! We are so glad that you have joined us for worship this night. Please take a moment to sign the attendance pads, (located at the end of each pew) so that you know who is worshipping near you and you may greet them by name.

PRELUDE “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” – Polish carol/arr. Sondra K. Tucker Cathy Fafrak, Organist
“Pastorale on ‘Gesù, Bambino’” – Pietro A. Yon

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7 Wendy, Alex & Josh Swantek

RESPONSE “Light the Christmas Candles”

Mary Lu Walker, 1975

ADVENT CANDLE SONG 77.77 with refrain

5. Light the Christ-mas can - dles, now: Sing of don - key, sheep, and
cow; birth - day can - dles for the King, let the al - le - lu - ias ring.
Can - dle, can - dle, burn - ing bright, shin - ing in the cold win - ter night;
can - dle, can - dle, burn - ing bright, fill our hearts with Christ - mas light.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We are walking toward joy!

People: Drawn by the cords of love.

Leader: We are moving to the sound of an angelic chorus,

People: Lured by a deep and holy melody.

Leader: We are growing in the likeness of Christ.

People: Supported by the nudges of the Spirit.

Leader: We are living in awareness of a divine love that fills the universe,

People: Pulling us to love and serve, to pray and worship.

*CAROL

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

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;

Refrain:

**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, glory in the highest;

Refrain

Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
We would embrace thee, with love and awe;
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?

Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rob Cervenak

Leader: Blessed are you, O Christ, Son of God, you were before time began and came into the world to save us.

People: Blessed are you, sun of righteousness, you shine with the love of God and illumine the whole universe.

Leader: Blessed are you, Son of Mary; born a child, you share our humanity.

People: Let Heaven and earth ring out their praise.

Leader: O Mystery of the Word made flesh, with all the voices of heaven, we celebrate your coming as our Savior.

People: Let men and women, children and angels sing of your glory.

Leader: O Splendor of God's Eternal Light, with all the creatures on earth we sing and dance at your birth.

People: Praise and honor and glory to you, O Incarnate Word. Amen.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PROPHET Isaiah 11:1-9

Ellen Nolan

CAROL

“Who Would Think That What Was Needed”

John Bell & Graham Maule, 1990; alt.

SCARLET RIBBONS 8.7.8.7.D
Trad. English melody; arr. John Bell and others, 1990



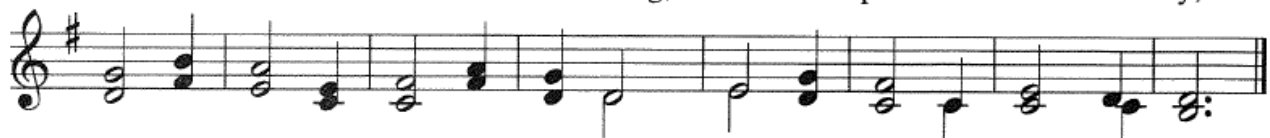
1 Who would think that what was need-ed to trans-form and save the earth
 2 Shep-herds watch and sag - es won-der, mon-archs scorn and an - gels sing;
 3 Cen - tu - ries of skill and sci-ence span the past from which we move,



might not be a plan or ar - my proud in pur-pose, proved in worth?
 such a place as none would reck - on hosts a ho - ly, help - less thing;
 yet ex - per-ience ques-tions wheth-er with such prog-ress we im - prove.



Who would think, de - spite de - ri - sion, that a child should lead the way?
 Sta - bled beasts and pass - ing strang-ers watch a ba - by laid in hay:
 In our search for sense and mean-ing, lest our hopes and hu-mor fray,



God sur - pris - es earth with heav-en, com-ing here on Christ-mas Day.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO MARY Luke 1:26-38

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE "The Gift"

The Rev. Luke Lindon

THE BIRTH OF JESUS Luke 2:1-7

Julie Gilliland

CAROL "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

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 in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
 while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
 and praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

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 with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE SHEPHERDS Luke 2:8-14

Melissa Miller

CAROL

“Angels We Have Heard On High”

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

SHEPHERDS VISIT THE MANGER Luke 2:15-20

Jim Kiser

CAROL

“Away in a Manger”

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

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.

OFFERTORY

Offertory Invitation

And so, with joy we offer ourselves in service, in union with Christ's offering for us.
In faith, hope, and love, we now collect tonight's offering.

Offertory Music "It Came upon a Midnight Clear" – setting, Wilbur Held

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

***Doxology for Christmas** (*Christina G. Rossetti, 1872 & Gustav Holst, 1906*)

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Prayer of Dedication

Accept these gifts and bring your kingdom here. We ask this through your Son
Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours,
almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

LESSONS OF LIGHT

Rev. Harry Buch

John 1:1-10

John 1:14-16

John 8:12

PASSING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST (*Only unlit candles should be tipped*)

CAROL

"Silent Night"

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, shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

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.

(Congregation may extinguish candles)

BENEDICTION

***CAROL**

“Joy to the World”

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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**

“Good Christian Men, Rejoice” – trad. German carol; arr. Carolyn Hamlin

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

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IN MEMORY OF

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Our grandparents
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Post
and Mr. & Mrs. C.F. Coleman
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Bill Daubner
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My father, Kenneth C. Dean
My father, Robert A. Lareau - China
Marine - WWII POW
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Ronald & Jill Linek
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The Nolan Family
Corey, Jaclyn & Jack Raub

The Yates Family*

IN HONOR OF

*Our son, Eddie, Heather, Maddy
& Lyle Evans
Family and friends
Jill's brother, Jon Fleming
The Bell Choir & Chancel Choir
New members Joe & Barb Tereshko
All nurses and doctors throughout
Covid-19
Our families*





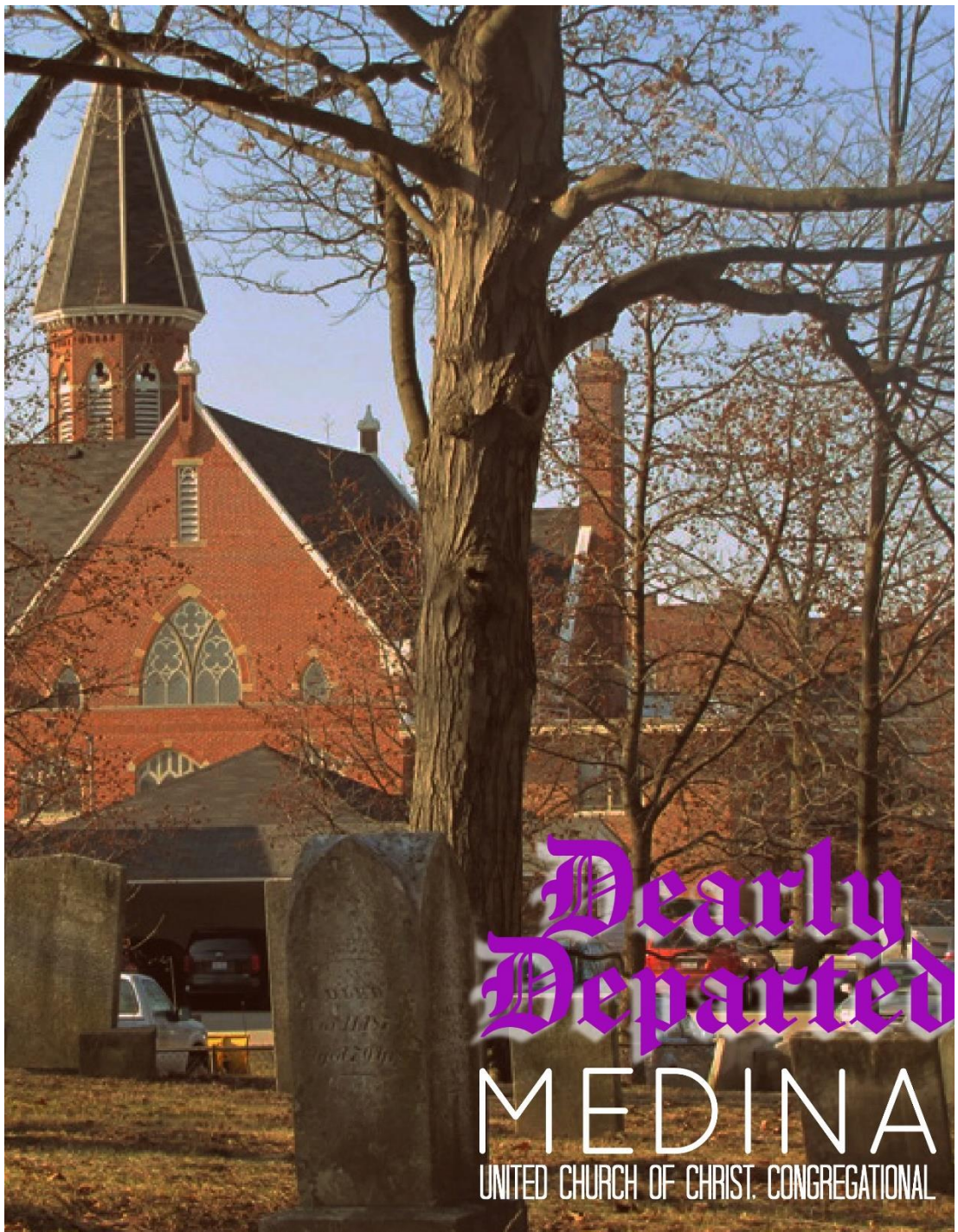
ENCOUNTER

how reading  sacred stories

opens up our sacred stories

Mondays at 1 + 7 p.m.
Starting 1/10/22





Please join us for our All-Saints Day / Service of Remembrance
One Service of Worship - Sunday, January 2, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.