

Merry
CHRISTMAS
FROM MEDINA, UCC
CONGREGATIONAL



DECEMBER 24, 2023
Christmas Eve Services

9:00 pm



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio 44256 330-725-4559 www.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.

We are thankful to have instrumentalists from our congregation accompanying us on selected hymns!

**Those who are able please stand*

PRELUDE Selections from works by G.F. Handel

Instrumentalists: Jen Vilimonovic, violin; Jennifer Cochran, flute; Cathy Fafrak, piano
Soloists: Jennifer Cochran, Tracy Gabrielsen, Kellie Johns, Jen Vilimonovic

WELCOME

***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;
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**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Deb Waldron & Rev. Meghan Malone

The season for watching and waiting is over. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. This is the light of the world, and the darkness cannot extinguish it.

The Christ candle is lit.

“O sing to the Lord a new song;

Sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Tell of his salvation from day to day.

“Declare his glory among the nations,

His marvelous works among all the peoples” (Psalm 96:1-3).

“Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,

Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;

Bring an offering, and come into his courts.

Worship the Lord in holy splendor;

Tremble before him, all the earth” (Psalm 96:7-9).

“Say among the nations, ‘The Lord is King!’

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice.

He will judge the world with righteousness,

And the peoples with his truth” (Psalm 96:10a, 11a, 13b).

RESPONSE

John S. Dwight

“O Holy Night”

CANTIQUE DE NOEL Irr.
Adolphe C. Adam; arr. Jack Schrader © arr. 1989 Hope Publishing Company

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Savior’s birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine! O night when Christ was born!
O night divine! O night, O night divine!

Truly he taught us to love one another;
his law is love and his gospel is peace.
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,
and in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raising,
let all within us praise his holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise his name forever!
His power and glory evermore proclaim!
His power and glory evermore proclaim!

*CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

Rev. Meghan Malone

(*Cloth for the Cradle*, Iona Community 1997, Glasgow G51 3UU Scotland)

They have heard it on the hills
They have heard it in the streets,
The rumor prevails,
and none can contradict it.

Some are looking up the prophets,
Some are studying the skies,
Others speculate or calculate,
But none deny the facts.

Some are dancing back to sheepfolds,
Some are travelling foreign roads,
Some await more information,
Others celebrate the news.

In a foreign place,
A ruler has imposed a new tax,
In a hilly place,
An old woman suckles her new son,
In a royal place,
An old ruler senses a new threat,
In a busy place,
A young couple cope with their new child.

At what seems the wrong time,
In what seems the wrong place,
Among those who seem the wrong people,
God has decided to bless, disturb, and visit us.

ANTHEM "Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day" - arr. John Leavitt

Chancel Choir

THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO MARY Luke 1:26-38

Rev. Pam Branscome

CAROL

"Who Would Think That What Was Needed"



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 BIRTH OF JESUS Luke 2:1-7

Rob Cervenak

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

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!

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

Brad Rice

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

A Blessing for Christmas by Kate C. Bowler

Rev. Meghan Malone

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

*There is an offering plate if you feel led to deposit your envelope or an offering there.
You can also give through our Realm app or get the link to give by texting UCCMEDINA to 73256.
Thank you for your prayerful consideration!*

Offertory Invitation

Deb Waldron

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. The offering goes to the UCC Christmas fund, a collection that supports low-income retired clergy, and gives emergency grants to employees of the United Church of Christ who are in need.

*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

Deb Waldron

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, 14-46; 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 *An Irish Christmas blessing*

The light of the Christmas star to you,
The warmth of a home and hearth to you,
The cheer and good will of friends to you,
The hope of a childlike heart to you,
The joy of a thousand angels to you,
The love of the Son and God's peace to you. Amen!

***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** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” – F. Mendelssohn/arr. Carolyn Hamlin

Cathy Fafrak, Organ

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POINSETTIAS



NAME

*The Bauer Family
Syd & Pete Benson
Mary Bessick
Eleanor Billig
Richard & Dorie Christy
Edward L. Farnham
The Hofstetter Family
Arnold & Cheri Ingraham*

*Faye Jessie
The Johns Family
Karen Leidy*

*Pete & Alice Metzloff
Katherine Murray*

Alan Parkhurst

*Lori Price
Corey, Jaclyn & Jack Raub
Dennis & Allayne Reese
Barb Rosen
Greg & Barb Shaffer
Jennifer Vilimonovic
Mark & Karen Woodling,*

NAME OF DONOR

*John & Judy Gorsek
The Johns Family
Corey, Jaclyn & Jack Raub
Jennifer Vilimonovic*

IN MEMORY OF

*Our Parents
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur R. Dunger
My Beloved Grandmother Emma
Don Canfield
Helen W. Farnham
Our Loved Ones
Carol & Bill Brenneman
Berneta M. Ingraham
Carl Jessie
Jerry Johns
Kitty & Bill Andrews
Thelma & Glenn Leidy
Sherry Fodor
Daughter, Jeannette and Loved Ones
Robert & Gloria Yeager, Brother David and My
Husband, Galen Murray
Sandy & Howard Parkhurst, Paul, John,
Don & Hope Wilder
and the Rev. Jon Fleming
Husband, Mother & Father
Grandparents
Loved Ones
Keith Rosen, Dan Howe & Parents
John Goersmeyer
Danny & Anka Vilimonovic
Our Parents*

IN HONOR OF

*Our Family
Our Family & Friends
Parents
Phil & Claire Nicholson Wedding Anniversary
(Dec 21)*

