

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022

10:00 A.M.



(You are invited to a time of quiet preparation for worship during the Prelude.)

Prelude *A Nativity Trilogy, I. Carol – by George McKay*

Ringling of the Bell

Welcome and Informal Moments

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it! Psalm 118:24

Musical Introit *Prelude on “Greensleeves” – arr. Jeanne Cotter*

Call to Worship

One: We come seeking a sign from you, oh God, our loving Creator.

All: Let your face shine, Holy One, that we may be blessed.

One: We come to praise you, oh God, who fills our voice with song.

All: Let your face shine, Holy One, that we may bless the world.

One: We come to prepare our hearts for Your holy child, who will be born soon.

All: Let your face shine, Holy One, that all may know your abundant blessings.

*Gathering Hymn

People Look East

No. 116

***Unison Prayer of Invocation**

Holy Creator, you are a good of love. Your love is unending and everlasting, strong and compassionate, fierce and tender. We celebrate your love today with beautiful music and sacred word. Your love has called us from despair into hope, from division into peace, from sorrow into joy. How marvelous is your great love for us, and for our world. Breathe into us life renewed, as we worship you in spirit and in truth. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Youth Group

Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer

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

**All who are able may stand.*

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.

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory Music *A Nativity Trilogy, II. The Blessed Infant* – by George McKay

***Doxology**

No. 47

**All praise, eternal Christ, to thee,
Whose advent sets thy people free;
Once more upon thy people shine,
And fill the world with love divine. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication and Blessing**

We have given, knowing we are loved. We have given knowing we are graced. We have given in gratitude and in anticipation of God's abundance. May these love offerings be used for the edification of your earthly realm, that all may experience abundance, peace, and hope. Amen.

Christmas Cantata

The Christmas Story in Music and Scripture
The FCCW Choir and Congregation
Joel Pierce, Music Director
Oscar Wallace, Narrator
(see insert)

***Benediction**

Sung Benediction

*Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.*

Postlude

Nativity Trilogy, III. Glad Tidings – by George McKay



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Those serving you today:

Bell Ringer: *Tom Kovarik*

Reader: *Rev. Amy Lignitz Harken*

Interim Minister: *Rev. Dr. Amy Lignitz Harken*

Organist: *Joel Pierce*

Sexton: *Mary McKinney*

Office Administrator: *Janet Leonard*

THE CHRISTMAS STORY IN MUSIC AND SCRIPTURE

The FFCW Choir and **Congregation**
(**please join in during bolded portions!**)

Joel Pierce – Music Director

Oscar Wallace – Narrator

SCRIPTURE READING (Luke 2:1-5)

Advent Alleluia (arr. Keith Christopher)

Salvation is created. Salvation is created. O Lord, God, Lord God almighty. We offer praise to Thee above; O Lord, holy Lord, God.

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in His hand, Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia!

We offer praise to Thee above; O Lord.

Salvation is created. Alleluia.

SCRIPTURE READING (Luke 2:6-7)

Who Is This Child? (Douglas Wagner)

Who is this child that cries in the darkness?

Who is this child that kings now seek?

With feeble steps, draw near to the cradle,
on a night cold and bleak.

Who is this child on straw now reposing?

Who is this child that shepherds have found?

High from the heavens, sweet, lovely, music,
songs of angels abound.

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,

while shepherds watch are keeping?

**This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the song of Mary.**

Who is this child that princes now worship?
Who is this child that we now praise?
Welcome him still, the dawn of our mornings,
Christ, the hope of our days, the babe the son of Mary.

SCRIPTURE READING (Luke 2:8-14)

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks (HYMN 138)

SCRIPTURE READING (Luke 2:15-16)

Shepherds, Rejoice! (Crawford Thoburn)

Shepherds, rejoice! Lift up your eyes, and cast your fears away;
News from the regions of the skies, Salvation's born today.
Jesus, the Lord whom angels fear, comes down to dwell with you;
Today he makes his entrance here, but not as monarchs do.
Shepherds, rejoice! Lift up your eyes, and cast your fears away.

No gold nor purple swaddling bands, nor royal shining things;
A manger for his cradle stands, and holds the King of Kings.
Go, shepherds, where the infant lies and see his humble throne.
With tears of joy in all your eyes, come worship God's own Son.
Shepherds, rejoice! Lift up your eyes, and cast your fears away.

Thus Gabriel sang, and straight around the heavenly armies throng;
They tuned their harps to lofty sound, and thus conclude the song:
"Glory to God that reigns above! Let peace surround the earth!
Mortals shall know their Master's love at their redeemer's birth."
Shepherds, rejoice! Lift up your eyes, and cast your fears away.

Then, shall the angels have their songs, and we no tunes to raise?
O may we lose our useless tongues when they forget to praise.
Glory to God that reigns above, that pitied us forlorn;

We join to sing our Maker's love, for us a Savior's born!
Shepherds, rejoice! Lift up your eyes, and cast your fears away.

SCRIPTURE READING (Isaiah 9:2,6)

A Christmas Fanfare (arr. Benjamin Harlan)

Gloria, in excelsis deo! Gloria, in excelsis deo!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia! Glory to God in the highest!
Glory to God in the highest! Christ is born on Christmas day!

Christ is born on Christmas Day!
Alleluia, Christ is born on Christmas Day!

Congregation, please join in.

**Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild; God and sinners
reconciled.” Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of
the skies; With angelic hosts proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”**

**Hail the heav’n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of
righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with
healing in His wings. Mild He lays His glory by, Born
that man no more may die, Born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth. “Hark! the herald angels
sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”**

Gloria, in excelsis deo! Gloria, in excelsis deo!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Christ is born on Christmas day!

SCRIPTURE READING (Luke 1:68-70;74-75;78)

Peace, Peace (arr. Fred Bock)

Peace, peace, peace on earth and good will to all.
This is a time for joy, this is a time for love.
Now let us all sing together of peace, peace, peace on earth.

Peace, peace, peace on earth and good will to all.
This is a time for joy, this is a time for love.
Now let us all sing together of peace, peace, peace on earth.

Congregation, please join in.

**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.**

December 18, 2022

Coming Up This Week:

Sunday, December 18:	Worship 10am – Fourth Sunday of Advent Christmas Cantata Blue Christmas Service – 4:30pm
Monday, December 19:	Mah Jongg 6pm-8:30pm (upstairs)
Wednesday, December 21:	No Organ Society meeting
Saturday, December 24:	Christmas Eve Service – 7:00pm
Sunday, December 25:	Worship 10am – Christmas Day Joint service with St. Philip's

Announcements

Christmas Fund Offering Today

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. Thank you!

Blue Christmas Service Today – 4:30pm

As we approach the darkest night of the year, we acknowledge that the Christmas season can be a challenging one for many who have experienced loss in their lives. Join us for this special service as we make a place for our grief and sorrow, light candles, read scripture, sing, pray, and reflect in the light of this holiday season.

Christmas Eve

Starting at 6:15 p.m., Dr. Jeff Grosser will provide lovely seasonal music in anticipation of our Christmas Eve service. At 7 p.m., our Christmas Eve service, featuring the Choir, favorite carols, a message from the minister, and candle-lighting.

Christmas Stories on Christmas Day!

Next Sunday is Christmas Day and we are sharing a very special worship with our friends from St. Philip's Episcopal Church. We'll sing favorite carols and share our own Christmas stories in this service co-led by Revs. Tom Junkert and Amy Lignitz Harken. Invite a friend to join you as we gather at 10 a.m. in our beautiful sanctuary.

Many Thanks from the Organ Society

It was wonderful to have our cookie sale again, last Sunday, after two years off. And we want to thank all the congregation members who were kind enough to donate a wonderful variety of tasty cookies again this year. We sold 43 plates of cookies in record time.

Thank you to everyone who participated in any way to our successful Cookie Sale!

Prayer Slips

We encourage you to write a personal prayer on a slip of the colored paper found in the pew pockets. You can write one or two words or sentences. Do not sign these. They will not be shared. Place your prayer slip in the offering plate when it is passed to you.



Ruth Gilbert & R Scott – In memory of Dorothy Percival, Harry Percival, Tom Mulherin

Tom & Jane Junkert – In memory of our parents and in honor of Katie Junkert & Meghan and Devery Delk

Carol & Gardner Knight – In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Knight & Michael Knight and in honor of Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Potter

Becky & David Lenz – In memory of Robert & Marjorie Minor, John & Grace Lenz an in honor of Sarah, Jack, Lilah, and Brandon

Bob & Libby Mooney – In memory of our parents

Deb & Dave Myers – in memory of Sarah Myers LaGrassa and in honor of friends and family

Nancy & Wally Roby – In memory of loved ones

Ron Sanches & Tom Cramer – In memory of Paul Sanchez & Christine Sanchez, Charles & Ethel Cramer

Margit Stiassni – In memory of Yvonne Davneda, and in honor of Charles, Christine & Feffi Stiassni

Martha Speed – In memory family members

Bill & Judith Sutter – In memory of our parents

Linda & Oscar Wallace – In memory of our son Kelly

Susan Zimmerman – In memory of Myron & Martha Zimmerman and Elizabeth Swift Watson