

# *Third Sunday of Advent*

## *December 11, 2022*

10:00 A.M.



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

Prelude

*Advent Suite – by Roger Wilson*  
*Venite Adoremus (The Snow Lay on the Ground)*

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

*Advent Suite – by Roger Wilson*  
*Veni, Veni, Immanuel (O Come, O Come, Emmanuel)*

**Call to Worship** *(Inspired by Luke 1:46b-55, The Magnificat)*

One: Our souls magnify the Lord. Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

**All: We come today eager and joyfully awaiting God's new revelation.**

One: The mighty One has done great things! God's mercy covers generations.

**All: We come today with ready peace and hope, trusting with anticipation.**

One: The One who lifted up the lowly and filled the hungry dwells with us.

**All: We come today with fervent joy, we worship with great expectation.**

\*Gathering Hymn

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

No. 7

**\*Unison Prayer of Invocation**

**Oh God of us all, your children here and your children afar, we enter this moment of worship with our hearts full of the gifts of the season. You have been leading your people throughout the generations, and you lead us now. From the valleys of the shadows of death to the tables in the presence of enemies, you have never left or forsaken us. May we feel your guidance now. Open our hearts to receive and know your presence as we worship you in spirit and in truth. Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Tom Beane and Ruth Gilbert

Choral Anthem

*He Will Be the Love – by Ruth Elaine Schram*

*\*All who are able may stand.*

Scripture

*Luke 1:46b-55*

Becky Lenz, Reader

Sermon

*Magnificat*

\*Hymn

*My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise*

No. 124

**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 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

*Advent Suite – by Roger Wilson*  
*Lullaby (Appalachian Cradle Song)*

\*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**

**For the wondrous ways this offering will bless this community, we dedicate these gifts. For the ways these gifts will help us live out God's mission, we dedicate these gifts. Let these gifts strengthen our call to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly.**

\*Closing Hymn

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

No. 121

\*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

*Advent Suite – by Roger Wilson  
Joy (Utilizing a French Carol)*



*Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from  
One License with license # A-7314.*

**Those serving you today:**

**Bell Ringer:** *Tom Kovarik*

**Reader:** *Becky Lenz*

**Ushers:** *Judith Sutter & Ginny Withee*

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

**Organist:** *Joel Pierce*

**Sexton:** *Mary McKinney*

**Office Administrator:** *Janet Leonard*

## **December 11, 2022**

### **Coming Up This Week:**

Sunday, December 11:	Worship 10am – Third Sunday of Advent Organ Society Cookie and Craft Sale
Monday, December 12:	Mah Jongg 6:00pm - 8:30pm
Wednesday, December 14:	No Organ Society meeting
Thursday, December 15:	Organ Society Lunch 12:00pm Chimes Rehearsal 3:00pm Choir Rehearsal 4:00pm
Sunday, December 18:	Worship 10am – Fourth Sunday of Advent Christmas Fund Offering Cantata Service Blue Christmas Service 4:30pm
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 – December 18**

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!

In 2021, gifts to the Christmas Fund enabled:

- Monthly pension supplementation for 231 retired clergy and lay employees
- Health benefits supplementation for 87 retired clergy and lay employees
- Emergency grants for 53 individuals and families
- Christmas “Thank You” gift checks to 509 retired clergy and lay employees

## **Blue Christmas Service -- December 18, 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.

### **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.

*Luke 1:46b-55*

My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup> for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden.  
For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed;  
<sup>49</sup> for he who is mighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup> And his mercy is on those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm,  
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts,  
<sup>52</sup> he has put down the mighty from their thrones,  
and exalted those of low degree;  
<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent empty away.  
<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup> as he spoke to our fathers,  
to Abraham and to his posterity for ever.”