

Christmas Day

December 25, 2022

10:00am



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

Prelude *Still, Still, Still* – arr. David Cherwien

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome

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

Musical Introit *The First Nowell* – arr. David Cherwien

Responsive Call to Worship

One: Sing a new song to the Holy One! Emmanuel reigns!!

Many: Loving and mighty God, we gather to consider your marvelous works.

One: Sing a new song to the Holy One! Emmanuel embraces all of creation!

Many: Wonderful Counselor, we gather to delight in your revelation.

One: Sing a new song to the Holy One! Emmanuel leads us in light!

Many: Prince of Peace, we gather to become messengers of abundant love.

All: On this Christmas morn, we celebrate the Good News!

*Carol #1 *Angels from the Realms of Glory* No. 136

***Invocation**

God with us, we open our hearts and souls to the beauty of your world. Fill our spirits with all the glory and wonder this day holds. May we be continually renewed, transformed, and awed by your abundant love, everlasting peace, miraculous hope, and quenchless joy. May our praise and prayers be pleasing to you. May our lives reflect the beauty you have birthed in us. Amen.

Scripture Luke 2:1-20 Rev. Oscar Wallace

Christmas Story #1 Rev. Amy Lignitz Harken

*Carol #2 *Go Tell It On the Mountain* No. 160

**All who are able may stand*

Christmas Reading

Rev. Oscar Wallace

A Time to Share Your Christmas Stories & Memories

Christmas Day Prayer & 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.

Offering

Offering Music

The Christmas Rose – arr. Gilbert Martin

***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.**

***Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving**

“The Work of Christmas” by Howard Thurman

**When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.**

Amen.

*Carol Sing (first and last verses)

*Benediction

Postlude

Joy to the World – arr. Pierce/Metzger



*Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from
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Those serving you today:

Bell Ringer: *Tom Kovarik*

Reader: *Rev. Oscar Wallace*

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

Organist: *Joel Pierce*

Sexton: *Mary McKinney*

Office Administrator: *Janet Leonard*

OFFICE CLOSED

At its regular December meeting, the Church Council agreed to close the church office for the week between Christmas and New Year's Day to honor the holiday season. This decision follows the United Church of Christ's practice at both state and national levels to close offices the week after Christmas. Rev. Dr. Amy Lignitz Harken will be available by e-mail, revlignitzharken@gmail.com, or by cell phone (207) 276-5924.

WORSHIP MOVING TO FELLOWSHIP HALL

A friendly reminder: To save on heating costs, we will begin worshipping in Fellowship Hall for the winter months. At its regular December meeting, the Council agreed that Fellowship Hall worship would begin on Jan. 8, so that the Lessons and Carols service of Jan. 1 can be held in a festive atmosphere. While we worship in Fellowship Hall, the choir will continue to offer beautiful music!