

**“Whoever you are...wherever you are on life’s journey,
you are welcome here.”
God is Still Speaking**

THE REFORMED CHURCH OF THE

Ascension

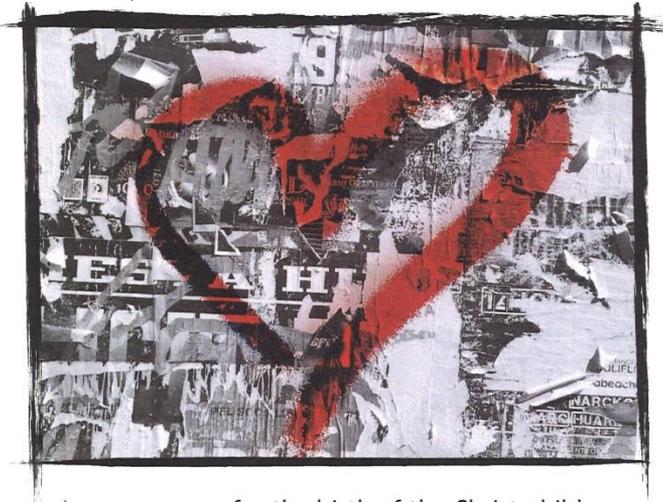
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



An Open and Affirming Congregation

December 22, 2019

11:00 AM



As you prepare for the birth of the Christ-child,
look for signs of LOVE this week.

*“She will bear a son, and you are to name him
Jesus, for he will save his people from their
sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had
been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:
“Look, the young woman shall conceive and
bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,”
which means, “God is with us.” —Matthew 1:21-23*

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Order of Worship

PRELUDE

“Prepare the Joy” (Zimmerman)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS CHIMING OF THE HOUR RECEIVING THE LIGHT

CHORAL INTROIT

“The Whole World Is Waiting For Love” (Mistrich)

GATHERING AND CONFESSION

please remain seated

Leader: Let us worship God and claim the hope that calls us: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not be terrified, though the earth should open up in front of us, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea.

People: The Holy Name is with us. The God of Abraham is our refuge.

Leader: The Holy Name declares: “Do not be afraid. I am with you. I have called you by name. You are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you.”

People: The Holy Name is with us. The God of Sarah is our refuge.

HYMN

Glory to God 146

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

Verses 1&2

V1. Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger,
there he lay, the undefiled,
to the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place,
can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race
who have found his favor.

V2. Angels sang about his birth;
wise men sought and found him;
heaven’s star shone brightly forth,
glory all around him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,
heard the angels singing;
all the plains were lit that night;
all the hills were ringing

Leader: In the days to come the mountain of the Lord’s
house shall be established as the highest of the
mountains, and shall be raised up above the hills;
Peoples shall stream to it, and many nations shall
come and say:

**All: “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the
Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he
may teach us his ways and that we may walk
in his paths.”** *Isaiah 2:2-3a*

please rise

HYMN *Glory to God 146*
“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” **Verses 3**

V3. Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
he is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger.
Son of God, of humble birth, beautiful the story;
praise his name in all the earth;
hail the King of glory!

Leader: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!
Isaiah 2:5

**All: Come to us, Emmanuel, we yearn for you,
O One whose name is God-with-us. Yet we are
an impatient people, wanting to have you, but
unwilling to wait for you. So, meanwhile we
make for ourselves gods to gratify us, gods
that glitter with a tinsel attraction, but
captivate us into a distant exile from you.**

please be seated

silent prayer of confession

MOMENT OF WAITING

(we will wait upon the Lord in silence for one minute)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

PASSING THE PEACE

*Let us greet one another with the words,
“The peace of Christ be with you.”*

THE CHILDREN'S TIME

please be seated

HYMN

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People” *Glory to God 87*

Hebrew Lesson Isaiah 7:10-16 *page 636*

ANTHEM

“Sing, All Ye Nations” (Key/Meyer)

Epistle Lesson Romans 1:1-7 *page 152*

HYMN

please rise

“Creator of the Stars of Night” **Verses 1 & 5** *Glory to God 84*

V1. Creator of the stars of night,
 your people’s everlasting light,
 O Christ, redeemer of us all,
 we pray you hear us when we call.

V5. To God the Father, God the Son,
 and God the Spirit, Three in One,
 praise, honor, might, and glory be
 from age to age eternally. Amen.

Gospel Lesson Matthew 1:18-25 *page 1*

THE SERMON

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
THE 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.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom,
and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

THE OFFERING OF OUR TITHES & OURSELVES
OFFERTORY

“Eyes Toward the Creche” (Bogart/Byers/Dubbs)

DOXOLOGY

Glory to God 144

**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 can I give him - give my heart.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

in unison

The stage is set for the presentation of your gift of life, O Christ, and we are part of the company of players. As the curtain is about to rise, we prepare ourselves for our roles. We commit what we have to the drama that changes lives. Help us to step onto the stage with anticipation and boldness. May we know the script so well that we shall not falter as we share your gift, and ours. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Go Tell It On the Mountain”

Glory to God 136

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

“While We Are Waiting, Come” **Verse 1** *Glory to God 92*

V1. While we are waiting, come;
while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
while we are waiting, come.

TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

“Soon Will We Be Saved” (Muguvero)

Here are ways you can embody LOVE during the fourth week of the Season of Advent:



Monday: ADVOCATE | Donate food to a local food pantry, but also advocate for food justice in the community. Speak to local government representatives about the need for inner city access to nutritious foods. *#LoveOfCreation*

Tuesday: CONSERVE | Whether there's snow or sunshine outside your windows this time of year, it's always a good time to save on home energy use. Schedule an energy audit for your church or home in the New Year. *#LoveOfNeighbor*

Wednesday: WATCH | Choose a socially conscious family movie like Brave Girl or The Lorax to watch together as a family or with the children at church. Discuss ways to be caring and conscious with others. *#LoveOfChildren*

Thursday: CALL | Reduce your carbon footprint by personally calling some of your close friends and family instead of mailing them a Christmas card. Tell them about your intentional change and encourage them to do the same. *#LoveOfCreation*

Friday: GIVE | For every gift you buy for a family member, give a gift of your time to a local charity group. Encourage your family to buy fewer gifts for each other and give more time to others in need. *#LoveOfNeighbor*

Saturday: ARRANGE | Plan a get together of different congregations or community groups and build new relationships on common ground. Maybe these groups can all participate in a recurring mission project together. *#LoveOfChildren*

What image depicts the promise of God's LOVE,
awaiting fulfillment in your life?

Share it on Social Media with **#3greatloves**





FAITH
PROMISE
TRUST
HOPE
PEACE
KING
GOD
CHRIST
LIGHT
MESSIAH

NEW LIFE
ANOINTED
FAITH
PEACE
KING
FATHER
BIRTH
PRAY
LIVING
JESUS
JEHOVAH

LIGHT
TEACHER
BORN
LIFE
HOPE
GRACE
JOY

BIRTH
LIVING
FAITH
MESSIAH
JEHOVAH
EMMANUEL
TRUST
COMING
GRACE
PROMISES
JOY

CROSS
GIVER
JESUS
COMING
SON
GRACE
LIGHT
HOPE

FREEDOM
LIGHT
JOY
JESUS
GOD
SON
FATHER
PEACE
HOPE
TRUST
PRAY
COME
SAVIOUR



We welcome you to our Community of Faith. We pray that God will speak to your during this worship experience. If you have need of pastoral assistance, we encourage you to contact Pastor Dwayne at the church office number listed below or make an appointment with him today.

We welcome children in worship at all times. If you would prefer, childcare is available. Please see one of our ushers. Children's bulletins and crayons are available from the ushers.

- | | |
|---|--|
| Ministers | All the people of the Congregation |
| Pastor | The Rev. Dwayne A. Mosier |
| Minister of Music | Dan Weckerly |
| President of the Consistory | Liz Brunton |
| Vice President of the Consistory | Michele Luke |
| Secretary of the Consistory | Molly Lorenz |
| Moderator of Spiritual Council | |
| Elders: | Liz Brunton, Joan Hagerman, Mary Lambon
Molly Lorenz, Barbara Montague Graham |
| Chair of the Diaconate | Michele Luke |
| Deacons: | Liam D'Aquila, Sandy Dounce
Michele Luke, Lynda Waltman |
| Church Secretary | Judy Parker |
| Sexton | Emeric Suto |
| Treasurer | Sandy Maben |

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