

# PEACE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



*Join us on your journey*



**December 23, 2018**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**Love**

PRELUDE

8:30

“Morning Prayer”  
Instrumental Ensemble

Peter Ilyich Tchaikowsky  
arr. Daniel Kelly

WELCOME

OPENING WORDS *(Isaiah 7:14)*

Worship Ways

One: We look for an extraordinary sign of hope for our world,  
but God’s sign is most ordinary of all:

Many: **A young woman is with child.**

One: We look to power for strength in our world,  
but God points to the most vulnerable:

Many: **She gives birth.**

One: We look far and wide for a key to God’s mystery,  
but God points us home:

Many: **She calls this child Emmanuel: God-with-us!**

One: Let us rejoice, and worship our God

Many: **in our ordinary, vulnerable lives: God-with-us!**

\*OPENING HYMN

“Love Has Come”

Tune: Bring a Torch



Love has come: a light in the dark - ness!  
Love is born! Come, share in the won - der.  
Love has come and nev - er will leave us!



Love shines forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all  
Love is God now a - sleep in the hay. See the  
Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is



heav - en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of  
glow in the eyes of his moth - er; what is the name her  
Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our



joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a  
heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she  
hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of



Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.  
Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

CHOIR/SOLOIST SINGS

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

“Love’s Pure Light”

Joel Raney

O come, O come, Em - man - u -  
el, and end this gloom of  
night. Bring hope to the  
world, bring peace to the earth, and  
fill us with love's pure light.

RESPONSIVE LITANY

- One: During Advent we see God’s love for us embodied in our Savior’s birth.
- Many: **Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.**
- One: Advent calls us to love others with patience and kindness.
- Many: **Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.**
- One: Advent calls us to be slow to anger and quick to forgive.
- Many: **Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.**
- One: Advent reminds us that Christ commanded us to love as he loved.
- Many: **Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

“Love’s Pure Light”

Joel Raney

CHOIR

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Worship Ways

**Surprising God,  
you make your presence known in unexpected ways,  
and challenge our comfortable assumptions about how you work.  
Meet us here today  
and open our hearts to recognize you in our midst  
calling us to live into your new thing:  
a world where your love takes shape in justice and peace.  
In the name of the One who is coming, we pray: Amen!**

CHILDREN’S TIME

*Following the story, young children are encouraged to remain in worship or they may go to the nursery (birth-3). Attendance pads will be passed out at this time; please sign in so that we may celebrate that you were here.*

**WORD IN SONG**

8:30

“Oh, How I Love Jesus”  
Instrumental Ensemble

Traditional American Melody  
arr. Stan Pethel

11:00

“An Advent Acclamation”  
Chancel Choir

Roger Thornhill  
arr. Stacey Nordmeyer

**MISSION MOMENT****A READING FROM THE CHRISTIAN TRADITION**

Luke 1:39-55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.’

And Mary said,  
‘My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for God has looked with favor on the lowliness of God’s servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is God’s name.  
God’s mercy is for those who fear God  
from generation to generation.  
God has shown strength with God’s arm;  
God has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
God has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
God has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
God has helped God’s servant Israel,  
in remembrance of God’s mercy,  
according to the promise God made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.’

One: For the marvelous blend of fact, myth, poetry, and story that is in scripture, we give thanks.

Many: **May the Spirit open us to the wisdom we most need to hear.**

**SERMON**

Rev. Wendy Bruner



My\_\_ soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the God of my heart is great,  
Though I am small, my\_ God, my all, you\_ work great things in me,  
From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.



and my spir - it\_\_ sings of the won - drous\_ things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
and your mer - cy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
Let the king be - ware for your jus - tice\_\_ tears ev - ery ty - rant\_ from his throne.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my weak - ness you did not spurn.  
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for your yearn,  
The hun - gry poor shall\_ weep no more for the food they can nev - er earn.



so from east to west shall my name be\_ blest. Could the world be a - bout to\_ turn?  
you will show your might, put the strong to\_ flight, for the world is a - bout to\_ turn.  
There are ta - bles spread, ev - ery mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to\_ turn.

#### Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to\_ turn!

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Believing that each joy and/or concern expressed is indeed a prayer, after each expression, the worship leader will say: *Loving God*. And the people may respond: **Hear our prayer**.

**PRAYER** *This is a time for quiet reflection.*

#### LORD'S PRAYER

**Creator, hallowed be your name.  
Your kin - dom come, your 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 yours is the kin - dom, and the power,  
and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

**CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION 8:30AM**

**INVITATION AND COMMUNION PRAYER** *based on our Theological Assumptions*

Minister: Come, Holy Spirit, and move among these elements assembled at this Table.

Many: **Through this sacrament, transform our hurt into healing, our fear into faith, and death into life.**

Minister: As the grain, sown in hills and valleys, is harvested, and now becomes one in the loaf,

Many: **so we, scattered, diverse, separated and isolated from one another, hear your invitation to become one body around this Table, the center of our life together.**

Liturgist: As this juice, grown in vineyards under the sun, fills the cup, may we be filled and refreshed by this meal,

Many: **and strengthened to respond to your call to reach out in compassion to all living things.**

Minister: In sharing this meal we remember.

Many: **We remember meals Jesus shared with friends and enemies, outcasts and marginalized, fearful and earnest.**

Minister: He took the bread and, giving thanks, blessed it and broke it and shared it.

Many: **As we share the bread today, we eat it as those who seek to follow Jesus.**

Liturgist: After the meal, Jesus took the cup. Giving thanks, he shared it, symbolizing a new relationship with God, a relationship of partnership founded on grace.

Many: **As we share the cup, we seek to experience that grace in which Jesus lived fully.**

All: **Come, Holy Spirit, come.  
Bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine.  
Bless all of us in our eating and drinking  
that our eyes might be opened,  
that we might recognize the risen Christ  
in our midst, indeed, in one another.  
Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

*The Congregation is invited to come forward by the center aisle, partake of the gluten-free bread and juice, and light a candle in prayer. Catch the eye of a table host if you would prefer to be served at your seat.*

**8:30 RESPONSE NCH #756**

**"Gloria"**

Jaques Berthier

1. Dm Gm C F 2. Dm Gm C F  
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

3. Dm Gm C F 4. Dm Gm C F  
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

**8:30 PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

unknown

**Gracious God, you have once again shown us your love  
by bringing us to this meal.  
We go from here renewed in faith,  
renewed in courage,  
and strengthened by your presence.  
Thank you for loving us so tenderly.  
Thank you for challenging us  
to know you better and to receive you more fully. Amen**

## HOW SHALL WE DO GOD'S WORK IN THE WORLD?

We will open our 'How Shall We Do God's Work In The World' time with an opportunity to give. The ushers will pass an offering plate to you as you remain in your seats. We invite you to sing along to "Glory, Glory Hallelujah" NCH#2. 1. Glory Glory Hallelujah, 2. I feel better so much better, 3. Feel like shouting "Hallelujah!", and 4. I am dancing Miriam's dance now.

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Worship Ways

**With these gifts, dear God,  
accept the praise and thanksgiving of our hearts,  
which rejoice in your goodness and love.  
Let our gifts point to your presence in the world,  
and further your dream for the world  
through Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Amen.**

### \*HYMN NCH#136

"Jesus, Jesus"

Tune: Wonderful Child

Je - sus, Je - sus. oh, what a won - der - ful child.  
Je - sus, Je - sus, so ho - ly meek and  
mild; new life, new hope the Child will bring.  
Lis - ten to the an - gels sing, "Glo - ry, glo - ry,  
glo - ry let the heav - ens ring!

### \*BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

8:30

"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"  
Instrumental Ensemble

J.S. Bach

## To families of young children at Peace UCC

When God made children, they were made with a little giggle, a little squirm, and a whole lot of love. When you worship with us your children are invited to sit at the front of the sanctuary. That way they can see what is going on in church and interact better with what Peace UCC has to offer. When your children are here, our building is filled with a joyful noise. This is something for which we rejoice and praise God. If your children start to get restless please don't leave. Stay and continue worship because when you do you show them that worship is something important and that their presence is important to us. At times we know this can be a struggle, but thank you for making the effort.

1. There are activity bags for the young children. They are available near the sanctuary doors.
2. There is a rocking chair at the back of the sanctuary that you can use. We also have a nursery just outside of the sanctuary. Ask someone and they will give you directions.
3. We have changing tables in the nursery and downstairs in the bathroom by the fellowship hall.

We understand the difficulty of worshipping with a little one. We hope that you feel we are a Child-Loving church. Please know that when your child gets fussy that we are honored to have you with us today. Thank you for joining us in worship today and I hope that you will join us again.

Peace to you,  
Pastor Wendy

*The deadline for submissions to our weekly publications, How Will We Do God's Work in the World and News & Notes, is Thursday morning at 10 a.m. If you are not receiving our weekly e-newsletter "News and Notes" and would like to, please contact the church office.*

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