

Service of Divine Worship

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Liturgist: Tom Danze

We Gather To Serve God In Worship

Prelude

"In the Bleak Midwinter"
"Carol of the Bells"

Bell Choir
arr. Freeman
McChesney

*Chimes Sounding the Hour

*Time of Greeting

Announcements

Choral Call to Worship

Solemn Declaration - - Amen Sung

*Responsive Call to Worship

Liturgist: Though the days are short and filled with uncertainties,

People: God hears our cries and surrounds us with the light of new life.

Liturgist: We wait with renewed anticipation for our savior. Our yearning is almost over.

People: We gather, praising and thanking our God, who keeps all promises.

Liturgist: People of God, with hope in our hearts and upon our lips, come and worship!

People: The time of joy draws near. Christ our Lord is coming!

*Hymn

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

No. 112

Confession of Sin

*Call to Confession

*Unison Prayer for the Confession of Sin

God of infinite possibilities, we proclaim the good news that "nothing will be impossible with you", but then we allow cynicism, negativity and selfishness to rule our lives. We know that you call us to serve the One whose kingdom will have no end, but we find excuses to ignore our call as Christ's servants. Forgive us our faithless, short-sighted ways and guide us to center our lives upon your will. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

*Gloria Patri

We Proclaim The Word of God

The Old Testament Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 (Page #278 of Pew Bible)

The Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer *{we pray debts}*

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

The McNeill Family

Hymn

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (v.1)

No. 88

All: **Our journey and pilgrimage leads us through Advent and beyond in the company of God. As we look forward to Christ's return, we realize that his realm has no end. The mystery has been revealed. As with Mary, when the Divine breaks through to us, we are often perplexed by God's actions and ponder its' meaning for our lives. And we say as Mary did, "Here are we, the servants of our Lord; let it be with us according to your word."**

Let the Children Come

Anthem

"A Tiny Child Will Come"

Besig

The Gospel Reading

Luke 1:26-38, 46b-55 (Page #931 of Pew Bible)

Sermon

"First Gifts"

We Respond To The Word of God

Blessing of Prayer Shawls

Invitation to Give

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory

*The Doxology and Offertory Prayer

Are you ready to give and receive your gifts on Christmas? I'm sure most of us are. Yet, a gift is never completely a gift until it is received. Our God gave us the gift of a savior, Jesus Christ, for us to receive. It is now time for us to give our gifts in the tithes and offerings to be received by God. Let us give freely and lovingly as God has given to us. Amen.

We Go Forth to Serve God

*Hymn

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

No. 107

*Responsive Call to Dedication

Liturgist: And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"

People: Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

*The Benediction (*Romans 16:24-27*)

*Postlude

"Thou Didst Leave Thy Royal Throne"

Matthews

***THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE STAND**

Need a Christmas Gift Idea?

The First Reformed UCC Board of Community Outreach can help! They are offering “Alternative Gift” ideas. Make a donation to one of our benevolences in honor of teachers, family members, friends, co-workers, etc. We will provide an acknowledgement card and envelope for you to mail. If interested, please contact the church office.



Veterans of the Cross Offering

The envelope in the bulletin is for donations to “**Veterans of the Cross**”. This offering is an expression of love and thanks to those who have served and continue to serve the United Church of Christ. The offering helps provide pension and health premium supplementation to low-income retirees, emergency assistance to clergy families in need, and Christmas gift checks to hundreds of annuitants.



The tree of “angels” is in the breezeway of the education building again this year. Make a donation (your discretion) to place an angel on the tree in honor or memory of someone. **ALL donations** will be given to the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund for assistance to needy individuals/families. Please fill out the form and drop it in the offering plate or contact the church office at 248-2617.

IN MEMORY OF...

BY...

IN HONOR OF...

BY...

Church Christmas Party

Tonight, December 18th



The annual Christmas Party for the congregation will begin at 6 p.m. this evening, December 18th with a covered dish dinner. Bring your favorite dish to share with friends. Drinks are provided.

Christmas Party

After dinner the children will present, “Santa’s Christmas Tree”. This evening is a great tradition of fellowship with family and friends that is enjoyed by children of ALL ages. Remember to bring your cameras. Santa will be on hand to check his Christmas list!



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



The church will be aglow with candlelight at our annual Christmas Eve Service **Saturday, December 24th at 11:00 pm** in the sanctuary. Come worship with family and friends as we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

Christmas Day

There will be one service at **10:30 a.m. in the Chapel** on Christmas Day. We will not have Sunday school.

