

Columbia United Church Of Christ

December 4, 2022

“Advent II”



CUCC

Columbia United Church of Christ

CUCC Open and Affirming/Inclusion Covenant:

Columbia United Church of Christ celebrates God's boundless and unconditional love by intentionally welcoming and affirming all God's children.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey;

No matter where you are on your faith journey;

No matter your sexual orientation, gender expression, or identity;

No matter your race, culture, ethnicity, nationality, or politics;

No matter your age, ability, health, relationship status, or family structure;

No matter your social, economic, educational, legal, or life circumstances;

You are welcome here!

Called by Jesus to be an Open and Affirming, inclusive faith community, Columbia United Church of Christ commits to welcoming everyone into the full life of our congregation. Our paths and voices may differ, but we journey in faith together.

**Columbia
United Church
Of Christ**



December 4, 2022

10:30 a.m.

"Advent II- PEACE"

**indicates that all are invited to stand, if comfortably able*

Today we celebrate the First Communion as members of Columbia United Church of Christ for our 2022 Confirmation Class. Everyone present is also invited to share in this sacred meal. This is also the Second Sunday of Advent, when we focus on Christ's gift of PEACE.

Welcome and Greetings Pastor Rick

Prelude "My Lord, What a Morning" Amy Crousore
African American spiritual /arr. Anne Kreuntz Organ

Carrying in the Light of Christ Aidan Pierson

*Call to Worship *(based on Psalm 122)* Lena Muench

I was glad when they said to me,
Let us go to the house of the LORD!

**We pray for PEACE in God's house'
We pray for PEACE in God's Creation.**

For the sake of my relatives and friends, I will say:
"PEACE be within you."

For the sake of the house of the LORD, I will seek PEACE.

**God is our source of wholeness;
our inspiration to strive for PEACE.
Come, let us worship God!**

*Gathering Hymn "Come Thou, Almighty King" *(insert)*

*Opening Prayer Lena Muench

God of PEACE, you spoke to us through prophets, encouraging us to defy the arrogance of our world and work for PEACE. We did not listen. You came to us as one of us, the infant in the manger, proclaiming a message of PEACE for all to hear. We did not listen. You speak to us daily, encouraging us to put aside the ways the world encourages us to hate, and simply work for PEACE. Often, we do not listen. Forgive us for those times when we neglect to follow your path of PEACE. Open our hearts to your way, and in this Advent time, prepare our lives for the birth of the Prince of PEACE in our midst once more. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

The Advent Season prepares us for the coming of the Lord once more in our lives! But even when we are distracted by the commercialism of the season, God loves us and forgives us and points us toward the manger. Through our repentance and God's grace we are forgiven, beloved and blessed. Praise be to God!

*Prayer Response "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"

***Turn your eyes upon Jesus;
Look full in his wonderful face!
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of his glory and grace!***

*Sharing God's Gift of Peace

Lena Muench

May God's Peace be with you!

And also with you!

Children's Time & Lighting the Advent Candle

Pastor Rick

Response:

"Like a Child"

(Sung as children return to their seats)

***Like a Child, love would send to reveal and to mend,
Like a child and a friend, Jesus comes!***

***Like a child we may find claiming heart, soul, and mind,
Like a child, strong and kind, Jesus comes!***

Reception of New Members

Invitation & Questions of the Candidates

Pastor Rick

*Welcoming Our Newest Members

Kristy Hayward

By God's grace, you have always been one with us in the body of Christ, the church universal. Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith that has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith that has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence in this family of faith. Let us, the members of Columbia United Church of Christ, stand and express our welcome:

We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church. We give thanks to every church that has been your home on your spiritual journey, for the formation they have given you. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we all continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love.

Welcome and Presentation

Pastor Rick

Epistle Lesson: Romans 15:7-13 Lena Muench

In Paul's letter to the Christian Church in Rome, he tells his followers that God became one of us through Jesus Christ, so that we could become more united by serving one another. This, he tells us, is accomplished by welcoming each other in Christ's name. (page #924)

Gospel Reading: John 1:19-28 Lena Muench

John the Baptizer begins his ministry, preparing the way of the Lord. As he testifies to the light, he prepares his disciples to receive the Good News that Jesus will bring them. (page #862)

Anthem "O Come, Lord Jesus, Come" Celebration Singers
David Angerman

Homily: "Crying out for PEACE" Pastor Rick

Hymn: "There's a Voice in the Wilderness" #120

The Rite of Confirmation: First Communion

Invitation to Communion

After communion is served to our 2022 Confirmands, you will be invited forward; and no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome to celebrate this joyful meal. This is God's meal, not ours; nobody is turned away when God is the host!

Communion Prayer

Pastoral Prayer & Silent Prayer

Invocation

Blessing the Children "When God is a Child" (insert)

Institution; Fraction; Distribution

Communion Music "Veni, Creator Spiritus" Amy Crousore
Sarum plainsong/arr. Folkemer

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of Incarnation, we thank you for breaking loose into our world, in the mists of time as a baby in a manger, in the ministry of Christ Jesus, who shared wisdom with our ancestors, in this meal, and here in this Sanctuary this morning. We pray that your presence and this meal may energize us for the mission you have set before us: loving your world. We give thanks for people of faith in every generation who have given themselves to your will, and for these Confirmation students who will carry on that faith tradition. And now we gather together, one family of passionate disciples, singing the prayer that Jesus taught us:

The LORD's Prayer *(sung by the congregation, led by Brandon Brown)*
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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Mission Moment Voluntary Action Center Mark Duncan

Stewardship Moment "Giving Tuesday" Keith Birkes

Sharing our Announcements of Community Life Pastor Rick

Dedication of the Prayer Shawls/Prayer Squares

Blessing

Knitter of the Universe, as we dedicate these prayer shawls, we pray that their reach extend to enfold all who are going through times of discomfort and disease in our community. Be with each and every person who receives these prayer shawls, that they might feel the comfort of your strong arms and the strong arms of the community that loves them.

Invitation to the Offering

*To give online text "GIVE" to 573.240.4041
You can also give online by visiting our website:
www.columbiaucc.com*

Offertory "Canticle of the Turning" Amy Crousore
Irish traditional/arr. Anne Krentz Organ

*Prayer of Dedication Pastor Rick

*Benediction Pastor Rick

*Response: "Let There be Peace on Earth"

**Let there be Peace on Earth and Let it Begin with me!
Let there be Peace on Earth; the Peace that was meant to be!
With God our Creator, Children all are we!
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony!
Let Peace begin with me; let this be the moment now!
With every step I take let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be Peace on Earth; and let it begin with me!**

*Postlude "Sussex Carol" Amy Crousore
English traditional /arr. Christiansen

Columbia United Church of Christ

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Custodian: Caleb Berry calebprenticeberry@gmail.com
Financial Secretary: Raj Tolani finance.cucc@gmail.com
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Fred Brandenburg

TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Lena Muench
Acolyte: Aidan Pierson
Ushers: Phillip & Linda Neale
Greeters: Susan Dunham
Technology Booth: Lorry Dreier & Ted Dachroeden
Hospitality: Sue Ann Schaefer
Council Stewards: Sue Ann Schaefer & Kurt Heine

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Llona Weiss
Acolyte: Trevor Pierson
Ushers: John & Brenda Muench
Greeters:
Technology Booth: Josh Muench
Hospitality: Mark Duncan
Council Stewards: Mark Duncan & Tricia Price

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

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NURSERY CARE... is available for children in kindergarten and younger in room #201 in the educational wing. If you need help finding it, ask an usher!

SMALL GROUP GATHERINGS WITH PASTOR RICK

Join Pastor Rick in small group gatherings to reconnect, hear details of his Sabbatical experience, and talk about where we have been as a church and where we are going. Gatherings will be held 12/8 at 7:00pm and 12/15 at 2:00pm. Want to sign up? Email the church office or talk to Jessica Lucas or sign up after worship in the Gathering Space.

TURNING POINT

One of the many services Turning Point offers is a place for guests to shower. Turning Point is in need of hotel size toiletries- particularly soap and shampoo. Please place donations in the container in the coat room.

SABBATICAL FEEDBACK FORM

The Sabbatical Team is so appreciative for all of the extra help that many members contributed over the last three months, and are interested in getting feedback from the entire congregation. See the Friday update for a clickable link to the form or there are paper copies of the form inside the main entrance.

COOKIES BY THE POUND

COOKIES BY THE POUND will be next Sunday, 12/11 in the Gathering Space. WE NEED YOU to bring your favorite homemade cookies to church by **9:00 a.m.** that Sunday! We will be selling cookies that morning for \$8/pound. Proceeds will go to the Nurture & Education Designated Fund

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun	12/4	<i>First Communion for Confirmation Students</i>	
		Sunday School Christmas Program rehearsal	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship Time	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Heritage/Centennial Team	12:00 p.m.
Mon	12/5	Staff Meeting	10:30 a.m.
Tue	12/6	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
Wed	12/7	Chapel Ringers Rehearsal	5:30 p.m.
		Celebration Singers Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.
Thu	12/8	Women's Fellowship	9:30 a.m.
		Small Group with Pastor Rick	7:00 p.m.
Sat	12/10	Advent Cantata Rehearsal	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship Hall Booked	9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
		Sing a Long Messiah at First Baptist Church	5:00 p.m.
Sun	12/11	<i>Advent Cantata/Advent Banquet</i>	
		Sunday School Christmas Program rehearsal	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship Time	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week...

The family of John Bernhardt... on their loss
Ed Rollins (& family)... recovering from brain surgery
The family of Andrea Waner . . . especially baby Millie; home from ICU!
Troy Bentlage... recovering from a broken hip and COVID
Joan Bentlage... recovering from COVID
The students and staff of Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary... our partnership friend
Sheila... challenges in life and faith
The Koerkenmeier & Malicoat Families
The Williams, Piersee, Marsh Families

Health Issues:

Tiffany Brookshire; Glenn Duermeyer; David Martin;
Levi Markway; Christine Mseke;
Gene Kelly... living with cancer (Jim & Connie Loveless's friend)

Living in Care Facilities:

Bea Gordon, Neal Sprick, Gary Ehrhardt,
Mark Brumbach, Vernie Blank

Living in Independent Living Facilities:

Helen Graves

Serving us in the military:

Alexander & Christopher Tennill, Jeffrey Sanderson,
Dane Wilson, Aaron Dachroeden, Tim Isom (Oberles' friend)
James Walker (Don Helmreich's nephew)

2022 Confirmation Class:

Danielle Dreier, Aidan Pierson, Trevor Pierson; Lawson Flood-Lorber

*CUCC celebrates God's boundless love by:
Welcoming all God's Children;
Nurturing Faith and Spiritual Growth;
Challenging and inspiring everyone with vibrant worship;
Building a supportive church family;
Transforming both the congregation and community
through service and outreach*

Come, Thou Almighty King

Descant

4. To thee, One in Three, e - ter - nal

1. Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy
 2. Come, thou in - car - nate Word, gird on thy
 3. Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred
 4. To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal

prais - es be, hence ev - er - more! Thy

name to sing; help us to praise: one God, all
 might - y sword; our prayer at - tend: come, and thy
 wit - ness bear in this glad hour! Thou who al -
 prais - es be hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - erign

maj - es - ty may we in glo - ry see,

glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic - to - ri - ous,
 peo - ple bless, and give thy word suc - cess;
 might - y art, now rule in ev - ery heart,
 maj - es - ty may we in glo - ry see,

and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.
 come, and reign o - ver us, an - cient of days.
 Spir - it of ho - li - ness, on us de - scend.
 and ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of power.
 and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

In the Name of the Lord

There is strength in the name of the Lord; there is pow'r in the

name of the Lord; there is hope in the name of the Lord!

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

There's a Voice in the Wilderness

J. Lewis Milligan, 1925; alt.

Isa. 40:3-11; Ps. 103:15-17



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
 2 O Zi - on, who of - fers good tid - ings, to the
 3 But the word of our God is for - ev - er, our De -



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
 height of the moun - tains dare! Lift your voice to the cit - ies of
 fend - er's will is strong; God stands in the midst of



high - way, a high - way for our God! The
 Ju - dah: "Be - hold your God!" de - clare. Like the
 na - tions, to ren - der right the wrong. Then





val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the loft - y hills brought
 flowers of the field we per - ish, our hu - man works de -
 God shall be as a shep-herd, the lambs gath-ered to God's



low: make straight all the crook - ed pla - ces
 cay, the power and pomp of na - tions
 breast; and pas - tures of peace shall greet them,



where Em - man - u - el may go!
 shall pass like a dream a - way.
 to give to the wea - ry rest.



S
alt.

he
1

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When God Is a Child

Unison

1. Hope is a star that shines in the night,
 2. Peace is a ribbon that cir - cles the earth,
 3. Joy is a song that wel - comes the dawn,
 4. Love is a flame that burns in our heart.

lead - ing us on till the morn - ing is bright.
 giv - ing a prom - ise of safe - ty and worth.
 tell - ing the world that the Sav - ior is born.
 Je - sus has come and will nev - er de - part.

Refrain

When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be

first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be a - fraid.

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1985
 MUSIC: Joan Collier Fogg, 1987

MOON BEAMS
 Irr. w. refrain