

**Columbia
United Church
Of Christ**

**December 24, 2022
"Christmas Eve 11pm"**



CUCC
Columbia United Church of Christ

share with us today is not just for today. The gifts Jesus brings us are eternal, if we allow them to transform our hearts. Forgive us for the times we do not allow this transformation to happen. Teach us to plant your wisdom in our hearts, that it may bloom and multiply, and we can share it with the world, all year long. In the name of the Christ Child we pray. Amen.

*Praise 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 the Peace of Christ

May God’s Peace be with you
And also with you!

God is revealed to us through the Gift of Christ

Waiting for Christ

Gospel Reading Matthew 1:18-21 Judi Privitt

Hymn: “O Little Town of Bethlehem” vs. 1-3 (insert)

Receiving Christ

Children’s Time and Lighting the Christ Candle

Gospel Reading Luke 2:1-7 Pastor Rick

Hymn: “Away in a Manger” (insert)

Celebrating Christ

Gospel Reading Luke 2:8-14 Judi Privitt

*Hymn: “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” (insert)

Proclaiming Christ

Gospel Reading Luke 2:15-20 Judi Privitt

Christmas Anthem “Ave Maria” Brandon Brown
Bach/arr. Gounod

Homily “Mary, Did You Know?” Pastor Rick

Responding to Christ

Offering our Gifts

Our offering this evening will be donated to Camp MoVal, the Outdoor Ministry program of the Missouri Mid-South Conference. Camp MoVal provides outdoor education for hundreds of children every year, teaching them to experience God's presence in the world.

Offertory

"Sing We Now of Christmas"

Amy Crouso
Traditional/arr. Berry

*Prayer of Dedication

Pastor Rick

God of Blessing and Service, as we give our gifts to you this evening we contemplate the incredible nature of your presence in our world. As you came into this world doing a new thing in the life of Jesus, you inspired us to new adventures, as well. So take these offerings this evening and use them to inspire new and exciting adventures in your ministry at Camp MoVal. Multiply these gifts that all may be able to experience your presence through their outdoor ministry programs. Amen.

The Sacrament of Communion

All who are present are invited to share in this joyous meal, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey!

Invitation & Communion Prayer

Institution & Blessing

Fraction

Sharing the Meal

You will be invited to come forward in groups of 10 or so and gather in a half-circle around the chancel steps. Pastor Rick will offer the communion elements and a special Christmas Blessing.

Communion Music

"Silent Night"

Amy & Sharon Crouso
Grüber/arr. Virgil Fox

*Communion Prayer

Pastor Rick

The lights will slowly dim as Pastor Rick offers the following Communion Prayer. You are invited to pray along in silence. By the time we join together in saying the unison Lord's Prayer, the Sanctuary lights will be out, and we will be reciting the Lord's Prayer together amid the lights of Christmas. They will remain out until after we sing "Silent Night."

We give you thanks, O God, that you have come to us through Jesus Christ; both in the mists of time and history in the city of Bethlehem, and in the timeless reality of Christ's loving ministry, remembered here this very early Christmas Morning in the bread and the cup. This morning, we accept as our own your gifts of HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE. Send us into the world rejoicing, ready to share your gifts, renewed through your presence this night. We celebrate our Savior's birth this morning, Gracious God; and in Jesus' name we pray the prayer he taught us:

*The Lord's Prayer *(spoken in unison by the congregation)*
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.

*Lighting of the Candles "Silent Night"

*Meditation Hymn: "Silent Night" *(insert)*

As Amy begins playing "Silent Night," Pastor Rick will share the light of Christ with the folks sitting in the center aisle. You are invited to share that light with those sitting next to you, and those in the next section as well. Once everyone's candle is lit and the lights are fully extinguished, the choir will lead us in singing "Silent Night." You may extinguish your candle after the prayer of dedication.

*Prayer of Dedication Pastor Rick

It is now Christmas morning. Thank you, God, for the miracle of this morning. Help us to realize your love working inside each one of us as well, and share that love with all the world. We are renewed today, this Christmas Day, by your prophetic words of justice. Hear our joyful responses as we share the miracle of this evening in words and deeds all year long. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Responding to Christ "Joy to the World" *(insert)*

*Postlude "Joy to the World"

Sharon and Amy Crousore
G.F. Handel/arr. Virgil Fox

Columbia United Church of Christ

3201 1-70 Drive NW; Columbia, MO 65202

Phone: 573-445-7931

Pastor's cell: 573.241.2027

Website: www.columbiaucc.com

Pastor: Rev. Richard Oberle	rick@columbiaucc.com
Student Pastor: Shelly Adams	shellyraeadams@gmail.com
Admin. Assistant: Mike Pierson	office@columbiaucc.com
Moderator: Kristy Hayward	kristyodneal@gmail.com
Music Coordinator: Brandon Brown	brandon.michael.brown@gmail.com
Organist/Accompanist: Amy Crousore	amycrousore@gmail.com
LODO Director: Erika Maltsbarger	littleonesdayout@yahoo.com
Custodian: Caleb Berry	calebprenticeberry@gmail.com
Financial Secretary: Raj Tolani	finance.cucc@gmail.com
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Fred Brandenburg	



Poinsettias in the Sanctuary this evening were given by:

Ed & Judy Kaiser

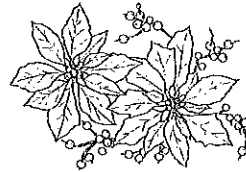
in memory of Karenda Kaiser

Donnie & Lauren Helmreich

in memory of Carla Helmreich, Bill Graves, and Andrew Helmreich

Glenn & Carol Duermeyer

in memory of Family & Friends



Jeffrey Kies

in memory of Seth Brandenburg

in honor of Eric and Sara Schweain and Mia, Isaac, & Riley

John Graves

in memory of Bill & Helen Graves and Virgil & Neva Schupp

Helen Graves

in memory of Bill Graves, Carla & Andrew Helmreich

Hayward/Odneal/Neale Family

In memory of Gertrude & George Altemose and Robert S Hayward

Melba Shaffer

In memory of Hal Shaffer

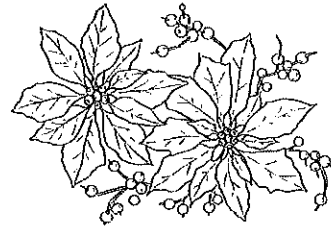
Chuck & Audrey Lasley

In honor of Darren Lasley

In memory of Parents & Grandparents

Jim & Connie Loveless

In memory of Parents & Grandparents



Fred & Carolyn Malicoat

In memory of Our Parents

In honor of Our Children & Grandchildren

Susan Dunham

In memory of Alex Dunham & Jean Dunham

Kitty Rogers

In memory of J.R. Schmitt (brother)

Rev. Rick and Kim Oberle –

in memory of Christine Oberle, Lester and Melba Mosberger,

Richard and Melba Oberle, Al and Til Knobbe,

Michael and Margaret Wittich

Barry & Jolene Kirchoff

In loving memory of our son, Wes, and our daughter, Rachel

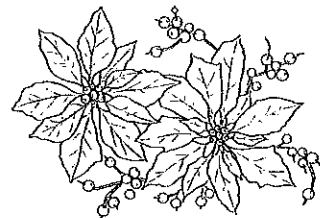
Mike & Sharon Rapp

In memory Alfred & Marianna Wilmsmeyer and Kenneth & Marian

Rapp

Anne Heine

In memory of Paul Heine



Sue Ann Schaefer

In memory of Jim & Dorothy Schaefer

Muench Family

In memory of Grandparents, Great Grandparents, and Bhisham Tolani

Cliff & Sue Beckman

In honor of Our Daughters: Jen Siebert & Nancy Miller and in honor of Heather Miller on graduating from college

Helen Schultz

In memory of Family & Friends and Shirley Lawler & Dorothy Kyger

Eric & Lorry Dreier

In honor of Danielle's Confirmation

Eric, Lorry, & Danielle Dreier

In memory of Family that has gone before us

Shelly Adams

In memory of David Barber

Doug & Judi Privitt

In memory of Delores Privitt, Rev. Robert Dohm, Aileen Dohm, Carla Helmreich, Andrew Helmreich, and Heather Frisone

Doug & Judi Privitt

In memory of Chuck Boots— a devoted business partner and friend
In honor of Rev. Josh Privitt & Nicole Warrington (soon to be daughter-in-law) and Drew & Anna Privitt

Pastor Rick

In honor of this year's Confirmation Class

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

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.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

133



1 O come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri-um-phants; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e-ter-nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an-gels; sing in ex-ul-ta-tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap-py morn-ing; Je-



ye; O come ye to Beth-le-hem! Come, and be-hold him,
 of a vir-gin, a mor-tal he comes; ver-y God, be-
 all ye cit-i-zens of heaven a-bove! Glo-ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo-ry given; Word of the Fa-ther,



Refrain



born the King of an-gels!
 got-ten; not cre-at-ed! O come, let us a-dore him; O come, let
 glo-ry in the high-est!
 now in flesh ap-pear-ing!



us, a-dore him; O come, let us a-dore him, Christ, the Lord!



From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

144 O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath - ered all a - bove
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is given!
 4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the joys of high - est heaven.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

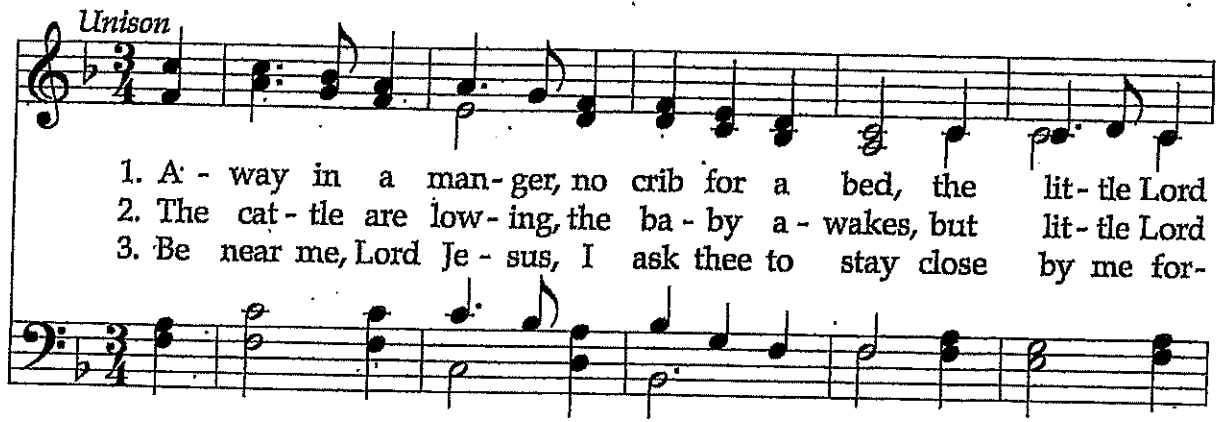
Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth.
 No ear may hear Christ com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 Your voic - es raise to God in praise; and peace to all on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him still, the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our God, Em - man - u - el.

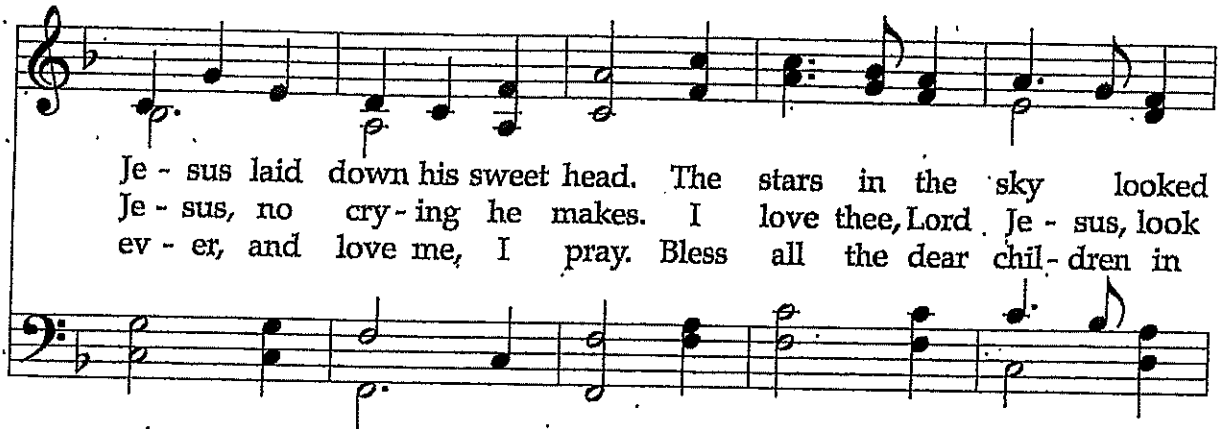
Away in a Manger

147

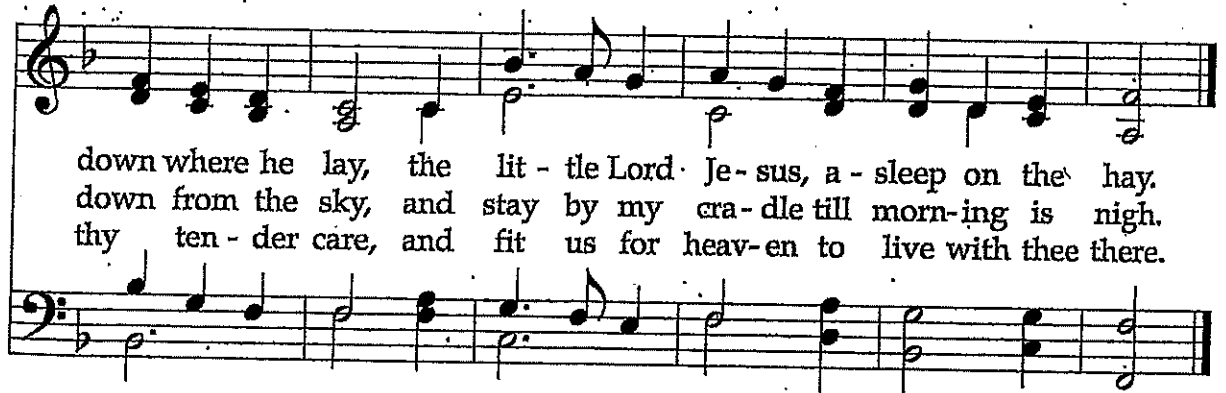
Unison



1. A - way in a man-ger, no crib for a bed, the lit-tle Lord
2. The cat-tle are low-ing, the ba-by a-wakes, but lit-tle Lord
3. Be near me, Lord Je-sus, I ask thee to stay close by me for-



Je - sus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked
Je - sus, no cry-ing he makes. I love thee, Lord Je - sus, look
ev - er, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil-dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky, and stay by my cra-dle till morn-ing is nigh.
thy ten - der care, and fit us for heav-en to live with thee there.

WORDS: Anonymous (19th century)
MUSIC: Attr. James R. Murray, 1887; harm. LBW, 1978

AWAY IN A MANGER
11 11.11 11

Harm. © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, used by permission
of Augsburg Fortress

Alt. tune: CRADLE SONG

It Came upon the Midnight Clear



1. It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,
 2. Still through the clo-ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un-furled,
 3. And you be-neath life's crush-ing load whose forms are bend-ing low,
 4. For lo, the days are has-tening on, by proph-et seen of old,



from an-gels bend-ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
 and still their heaven-ly mu-sic floats o'er all the wea-ry world;
 who toil a-long the climb-ing way, with pain-ful steps and slow,
 when with the ev-er-cir-cle years shall come the time fore-told;



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all gra-cious King."
 a-bove its sad and low-ly plains they bend on hover-ing wing,
 look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift-ly on the wing;
 when peace shall o-ver all the earth its an-cient splen-dors fling,



The world in sol-lemn still-ness lay to hear the an-gels sing.
 and ev-er o'er its Ba-bel soundsthe bless-ed an-gels sing.
 O rest be-side the wea-ry road, and hear the an-gels sing!
 and the whole world send back the song which now the an-gels sing.



What Child Is This

162



1. What Child is this who, laid to rest, on Ma-ry's lap is sleep-ing?
2. Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?
3. So bring him in-cense, gold, and myrrh, come, rich and poor, to own him,



Whom an-gels greet with an-thems sweet, while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?
 Good Christ-ian, fear: for sin-ners here the si-lent Word is plead-ing.
 the King of kings sal-va-tion brings, let lov-ing hearts en-throne him.

*Refrain*

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing:



haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Ma-ry.



Silent Night, Holy Night

145



1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright
2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep-herds quake at the sight,
3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light
4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, won-drous star, lend thy light;



round yon vir - gin moth-er and child, ho - ly in-fant so ten-der and mild,
 glo - ries stream from heav-en a - far, heav-en-ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,
 with the an - gels let us sing, al - le - lu - ia to our King;



sleep in heav - en - ly peace,	sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!	Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth,	Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born,	Christ, the Sav - ior, is born.



WORDS: Joseph Mohr, 1818; tr. John F. Young, 1863
 MUSIC: Franz Gruber, 1818

STILLE NACHT
 Irr.

Joy to the World



1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2. Joy to the world, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the



ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 songs em - ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness,



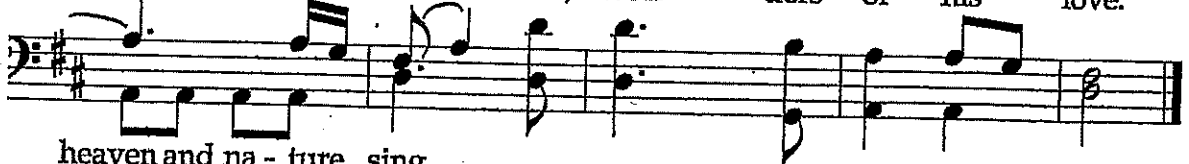
and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



And heaven and na - ture sing, and
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 And won - ders of his love, and



sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.



heaven and na - ture sing,
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 won - ders of his love,

167 Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain F B \flat F Dm C Dm C F Am C7

Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev-ery-where;

F B \flat F Dm F7 Gm F C7 F Fine

go, tell it on the moun-tain, that Je-sus' Christ is born.

F B \flat F Dm C7 Dm C7 F

1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si-lent flocks by night,
2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled, when lo! a-bove the earth,
3. Down in a low-ly man-ger the hum-ble Christ was born,

F B \flat F G G7 C7 D.C.

be-hold through-out the heav-ens there shown a ho-ly light.
rang out the an-gel cho-rus that hailed the Sav-ior's birth.
and God sent us sal-va-tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.