

Columbia United Church Of Christ



December 17, 2023

"Broadcasting Christmas"



C U C C

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 17, 2023

10:30 Worship

"Advent III"

*"... Make a joyful noise to God, all the Earth!
Serve God with gladness; come into God's presence with singing!"
-Psalm 100:1-2*

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"Prelude in B Minor"

Steve Jannetti
Frederic Chopin

Bringing in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship

Lydia Whitacre

Rejoice, give thanks; call on God's name;
The Holy One is in our midst!

**How good it is to come home to God's house!
How good it is to gather in Christ's presence!**

Sing aloud! Shout for joy with all your heart.
God is with us and has done glorious things!

**We offer up our anxieties, seeking God's Love.
We face our fears; we shed them and embrace God's Joy!**

Shout your praise! Express your JOY!
The God of our Salvation welcomes us!

**God's love is renewing us, even in these moments;
God's strength is becoming our song!
Come, let us worship God!**

*Gathering Hymn "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

#43

*Opening Prayer

Lydia Whitacre

God of Love, sometimes we think this world has forgotten how to love. Self-serving drama and fearful power plays have replaced the call to love one another in many parts of our world. But you call us to reject these ways of the world and embrace your love. You give us an example in the ministry of Jesus Christ, whose birth we will celebrate anew in our midst in just a few short days.

Forgive us for the times we fail to take the example of Jesus into our lives and forget to love as Jesus did. Remind us again that the love that Jesus teaches us to have will bring far greater joy than we can imagine. Help us to live this love in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

Often in our world, we forget to love others and worry too much about our own selfish interests. But even when we do, God loves us and forgives us. Through our repentance and God's grace, we are forgiven, beloved, and blessed. Praise be to God!

*Response

“Christians All, Your Lord is Coming”

*Christians all, your Lord is coming,
Drawing near in holy birth.
Ring the bells and sound the trumpets,
Let your music fill the earth.
Dance and move to show God's glory;
Kneel and pause to hear God's Word.
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
Rise, and let your songs be heard!*

*Sharing God's Gift of Peace

Pastor Rick

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

Children's Time & Lighting the Advent Candle

Pastor Rick

Response:

“Like a Child Jesus Comes”
(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!**

Community Psalter

Psalm 100

Pastor Rick
(insert)

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:39-56

Lydia Whitacre
pg. #831

Reflection

“God's Love brings JOY!”

Pastor Rick

“Broadcasting Christmas”

Written by Marti Kramer Suddarth
(A 1940’s Radio Broadcast for Children)
Presented by CUCC Sunday School

Cast of Characters:

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Announcer - | Sofia Marienfeld-Crenshaw |
| Gil Gumshoe - | Trevor Pierson |
| Miss Placed - | Danielle Dreier |
| Santa - | Landon Muench |
| Baker - | Finn Schneider |
| Mrs. Worthington - | Katelin Odneal |
| Sound Technicians - | Aidan Pierson, Caleb Muench, Emily Malicoat |
| Mary - | Lola Lee |
| Joseph - | Gus Heine |
| Angel - | Norah Schultz |
| Shepherd - | Abe Heine |
| Animals - | Russell Eveler, Teddy Eveler |
| Children’s Choir - | Marcia Crousore, Teddy Eveler, Russell Eveler, Abe Heine, Chantal Kibaro, Esther Kibaro, Emily Malicoat, Norah Schultz, Wesley Wells, Zander Wells |
| Soloist - | Maia Marienfeld-Crenshaw |
| Director - | Linda Neale |
| Accompanist - | Steve Jannetti |
| Costumes - | Paula Wilson |
| Production - | Pat Forward, Lena Muench, Tricia Price |
| Tech Booth - | Mike Pierson |

*Hymn “My Soul Gives Glory to My God” *(insert)*

Community Prayer & Silent Prayer

The LORD’s Prayer

In an effort to encourage inclusion, we suggest using the address “Creator God” in our unison recitation of The Lord’s Prayer. You are certainly welcome to say “Our Father” instead of “Creator,” “Trespases” instead of “debts,” or “Thy” instead of “Your” if you prefer.

Creator God in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom 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 kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

*As we have been blessed, we give to be blessings in God's World.
To give online text "GIVE" to 573.240.4041*

Offertory

"Largo"

Steve Jannetti
Frederic Chopin

*Prayer of Dedication

Lydia Whitacre

Creator God, as we give these gifts, we give back to you by loving your world. Through them, we pray that all may know your love and that love may bring us all eternal joy. May these gifts bring your change, your Kingdom, your Joy to the World. Amen.

*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

"Adagio"

Steve Jannetti
K. Lowe

"World peace must develop from inner peace. Peace is not just mere absence of violence. Peace is, I think, the manifestation of human compassion."

- Dalai Lama XIV

"Peace is not something you wish for, it is something you make, something you are, something you do and something you give away. "

- Robert Fulghum

Columbia United Church of Christ

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caseyseanwood@gmail.com

Organist/Accompanist: Steve Jannetti

steve.jannetti@yahoo.com

LODO Director: Erika Maltsbarger

littleonesdayout@yahoo.com

Custodian: Caleb Berry

calebprenticeberry@gmail.com

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Fred Brandenburg

TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Lydia Whitacre
Ushers: Mary Lorber & Christine Staelens
Greeters: Mary Lorber
Technology: Mike Pierson & Lorry Dreier
Hospitality: Christine Staelens
Council Stewards: Christine Staelens

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Pat Forward
Ushers: John & Brenda Muench
Greeters: Anne Heine
Technology: Josh Muench & Lorry Dreier
Hospitality: Mary Lorber
Council Stewards: Mary Lorber



Online giving

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Moderator: | Kurt Heine | heinekurt@gmail.com |
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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!

ROOM AT THE INN

Room at the Inn is open and looking for volunteers! If you would like to sign up, or for more information, talk to Shelly Adams. Thank you for volunteering!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING - TODAY

You are invited to participate in our CUCC Christmas Caroling adventure this afternoon. You don't have to sing well to sing Christmas Carols! Just come and sing! We will meet at Lenoir Woods at 4:00 p.m. and journey to a few other care facilities before winding up at the Loveless' house for a holiday party and carols around the piano. Bring goodies to share at the holiday party!

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

There will be two Christmas Eve worship services this year at 7:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m. Both services will feature special music led by Casey Wood and Steve Jannetti, communion, and "Silent Night" sung by candlelight. Bring your family and friends to celebrate the reason for the season!

CHILI COOKOFF

It's not too early to dust off your chili pot! The Men's Fellowship will host our annual Chili Cookoff January 21, right after worship! Bring your entries in, and vie for that golden ladle! Everyone, plan on sticking around after worship that day to sample all the entries and find out who wins! To sign up, talk to Doug Privitt or Brent Marcks.

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2024

Fastnacht is Tuesday, February 13, 2024 and the Men's Fellowship Pancake Breakfast to benefit Habitat for Humanity is Saturday, February 24, 2024. Mark your 2024 calendars!

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

| | | | |
|-----|-------|---|-------------------|
| Sun | 12/17 | <i>Sunday School Christmas Program</i> | |
| | | Sunday School | 9:00 a.m. |
| | | Fellowship Time | 10:00 a.m. |
| | | Worship (in person and livestream) | 10:30 a.m. |
| | | Christmas Caroling | 4:00 p.m. |
| Tue | 12/19 | Quilters | 10:00 a.m. |
| | | Staff Meeting | 10:30 a.m. |
| | | Council Meeting | 6:30 p.m. |
| Wed | 12/20 | Pastor Rick leads worship at The Bluffs | 10:00 a.m. |
| | | Chapel Ringers/Celebration Singers Rehearsal | 6:00/7:00 p.m. |
| Thu | 12/21 | LODO/CPS Holiday Break begins thru 1/3 | |
| Sun | 12/24 | <i>Christmas Eve</i> | |
| | | Sunday School | 9:00 a.m. |
| | | Fellowship Time | 10:00 a.m. |
| | | Worship (in person and livestream) | 10:30 a.m. |
| | | Christmas Eve Worship | 7:00 & 11:00 p.m. |

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week . . .

Jeff & Janet Kies . . . on the loss of their mother

Jim Elliott . . . health issues this week

Sharon Elliott . . . chemo treatments this week

Students and staff at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary . . . our partnership friend

The People of Israel/Palestine . . . targeted by violent attacks

Recovering from surgeries/procedures:

Jolene Hackman

Health Issues:

Cliff Beckman, John Adams, Patty Schroeder

Neal Stumbo (Jean Strothmann's nephew)

Terry & Mike Freeman (friends of the Remeikas)

Stephanie Porter (Phillip Neale's niece)

Sheila . . . challenges in life and faith

The Koerkenmeier & Malicoat Families

Living in Care Facilities:

Bea Gordon, Neal Sprick, Gary Ehrhardt, Vernie Blank

Living in Independent Living Facilities:

Helen Graves, Don Privitt

Serving us in the military:

Christopher Tennill, Dane Wilson, Aaron Dachroeden, Jeffrey Sanderson

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



If you try to fit God into your life, You will never have time for God.

If you try to fit your life into God, You will always have time for what matters.

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Mal. 3:1; 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17; Eph. 5:27

Charles Wesley, 1747; alt.

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,
 2 Breathe, O breathe your lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;
 3 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all your life re - ceive;
 4 Fin - ish, then, your new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less may we prove;

Fix in us a hum - ble dwell - ing, all your faith - ful mer - cies crown;
 Let us all in you in - her - it, let us find your prom - ised rest;
 Sud - den - ly re - turn, and ne - ver, ne - ver - more your tem - ples leave.
 Let us see your great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in you;

Je - sus, you are all com - pas - sion; pure, un - bound - ed love im - part.
 Take a - way our love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
 You we would be al - ways bless - ing, love you as your an - gels love,
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,

Vis - it us with your sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 End of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 Pray and praise for your un - fail - ing, wound - ed arms out - stretched a - bove.
 Crowned as saints, we ev - er shall be lost in won - der, love, and praise.

This hymn is said to have been suggested by a "Song of Venus" from Dryden's King Arthur. It is one of 6,500 written by Charles Wesley.

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.
 John Zundel, 1855

Psalm 100

Pastor Rick: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

South: Worship the LORD with gladness; come into God's presence with joyful song.

North: Know that the LORD is God. God made us, and we belong to God.

South: We are God's people, the sheep of God's pasture.

North: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving; enter God's courts with joyful praise.

Pastor Rick: Give thanks to God; bless God's Holy name.

All: For the LORD is good. God's steadfast love endures forever! God's faithfulness lasts to all generations.

130

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

Cm Fm Eb Ab Db Eb Fm Cm Fm

1. My soul gives glo - ry to my God. My
 2. My God has done great things for me: yes,
 3. From age to age, to all who fear, such
 4. Love casts the might - y from their thrones, pro -
 5. Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant sup -

Db Eb7 Ab Bbm Ab Ab Db Eb Ab

1. heart pours out its praise. God lift - ed up my
 2. ho - ly is her name. All peo - ple will de -
 3. mer - cy love im - parts, dis - pens - ing jus - tice
 4. motes the in - se - cure, leaves hun - gry spir - its
 5. ports those in dis - tress, re - mem - ber - ing past

Eb7 Bbm Ab Db Eb Bbm Eb Fm

1. low - li - ness in man - y mar - ve - lous ways.
 2. clare me blessed, and bless - ings they shall claim.
 3. far and near, dis - miss - ing self - ish hearts.
 4. sat - is - fied, the rich seem sud - den - ly poor.
 5. prom - is - es with pres - ent faith - ful - ness.

Guitar and keyboard should not sound together.

WORDS: Miriam Therese Winter, 1978, 1987
 MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813;
 harm. Charles H. Webb, 1988

MORNING SONG
 CM