

Columbia
United Church
Of Christ



December 8, 2019

10:30 Worship

"HOPE"

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

*"...give the King your justice, O God;
And your righteousness to a King's son..."
-Psalm 72:1*

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

Chapel Ringers & Lena Muench (flute)

"Sing We Now of Christmas"

by Kris Anthony

Bringing in the Light of Christ

Riley Hayward

*Call to Worship (based on Psalm 72)

Isaiah Jackson-Post

Blessed be the LORD, who alone does wonderful things.

Blessed be God's glorious name forever.

**We pray for HOPE in God's Creation;
For God's glory to fill the whole earth.**

Grant us your wisdom, O God;

Bring righteousness your people and justice to the poor.

Help us bring deliverance to those in need;

The poor and those who have no helper.

From oppression and violence God redeems us;

God brings HOPE to all God's precious children.

In this Advent Season we gather, proclaiming HOPE.

We embody God's lesson of HOPE in our lives!

Come, let us worship God!

*Opening Hymn

"Come, O Long Expected Jesus"

(insert)

*Opening Prayer

Isaiah Jackson-Post

God of HOPE; at times in our lives it seems that all is hopeless. The selfish greed of our society, the cries of those hurting and oppressed, the many layers of disparity in the lives of those who are hungry and homeless. At times, we feel like giving up. But in this atmosphere of cultural despair, we see signs of your promise. You bring us HOPE for restoration, renewal, salvation. We hear the Good News brought to us and anticipate your birth once more in our lives. The light of your HOPE shines in the darkness of our lives, and we realize your promises are true. Forgive us for the times we lose sight of you; and remind us to always have HOPE. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

Come, O long expected Jesus; from our fears and sins release us. In the promise of the Christ Child, God reminds us that we are never without HOPE; God's presence is always with us. God loves us, forgives us, redeems us. Praise God, from whom all Blessings flow!

*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

*At this time, you are invited to greet one another
with a hug or a handshake and the words,
"May God's Peace be with you!"*

Children's Time

"HOPE"

"Like a Child Jesus Comes"

(Sung as children return to their seats— see insert)

**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!**

Gospel Lesson:

Matthew 11:2-6

Isaiah Jackson-Post

When Jesus begins his ministry in Galilee, John the Baptizer inquires if he is the prophet for whom they have been waiting. Jesus responds with a message of HOPE fulfilled.

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Reflection:

"Proclaiming HOPE"

Pastor Rick

Advent Cantata

Arranged by Kristin Veteto

Imagine for a minute the Christmas Story. The one we have heard for many years, of the nativity and birth of Jesus Christ. With the shepherds watching over their flocks by night, angels announcing the birth of a baby in a manger, the Magi travelling from afar as they followed the star, and the Holy Family all gathered around a perfect and beautiful Savior in a lowly and humble manger.

We know this story, but what does it mean for us today? What does it mean for us as a country, as people of faith, and as a church community? How will this Advent Season be different?

This week we celebrate HOPE. HOPE for a new year of change... of progress... and of abundant love. HOPE begins as everything does... with one single voice.

“A Simple Christmas Processional” *by Shayla L. Blake*
Celebration Singers, Young Adult Choir
Bells: Carol Duermeyer & Matthew Baker
Percussion: Ed Kaiser, Mason Jaberg, Peter Jaberg

“When God Is a Child” *by Brian Wren and Tim Osiek*
Celebration Singers

“African Alleluia” *by Benjamin Harlan*
Celebration Singers
Percussion: Ed Kaiser, Peter Jaberg, Mason Jaberg

“The Inn at the End of the World”
by Gilbert Keith Chesterton/Heather Sorenson
Celebration Singers
Cello: Hope Keithahn
Violin: Hazel Keithahn

“Music Can Change the World” *by Jim Papoulis*
Celebration Singers
Young Adult Choir
Percussion: Ed Kaiser, Peter Jaberg
Dancers: Megan Schoeneberg & Kennedy Lucas

Community Prayer

Silent Prayer

The LORD’S Prayer

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.

Prayer Response “Grant Us Peace”
Hear our Prayer, O Lord!
Hear our prayer, O Lord!
Hear our Prayer, O Lord!
And Grant us Thy Peace! A-men!

Sharing our Announcements of Community Life

Pastor Rick

Presenting our Gifts

Amy Crousoire

“Prelude on a French Christmas Carol”

by Rick Parks

*To give online text “GIVE” to 573.240.4041 and follow the prompts
You can also give online by visiting our website: www.columbiaucc.com*

*Response “For the Fruit of All Creation” #425

**For the Fruit of all Creation, thanks be to God.
For God’s gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God!**

*Prayer of Dedication Isaiah Jackson-Post
God, we give thanks for the gift of HOPE that Christ brings. During this Advent Season we prepare our hearts to receive it. Now take these gifts we offer. May they be used to convey the HOPE that you offer to all 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 Amy Crousore
“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” *Gottfried Walther*

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

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TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Greeters: Brenda & John Muench
Ushers: Llona Weiss & Ryan Schoeneberg
Sound Booth: Carissa Graves
Worship Leader: Isaiah Jackson-Post
Hospitality: Val Schoeneberg
Acolyte: Riley Hayward
Council Steward: Doug Privitt



NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Greeters: Carol Duermeyer & Helen Schultz
Ushers: Charlie Marcks & Brent Marcks
Sound Booth: Doug Privitt
Worship Leader: Llona Weiss
Hospitality: Lena Muench
Acolyte: Abby Dennis
Council Steward: Doug Privitt

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WELCOME GUESTS! If you are a guest visiting with us this morning, please fill out a green card found in your chair pocket; and leave it in the offering plate when it is passed. Be sure to introduce yourself to Pastor Rick! We would love to get to know you better!

NAMETAGS We strive to be a friendly and welcoming church! Members and frequent guests, please wear your nametag each Sunday so we can greet each other most effectively and become an even friendlier church!

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CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM– “CHRISTMAS SYMBOLS”

CUCC Children's Christmas Program – December 15, 2019 during Worship

Jessica Lucas will be directing this year's Christmas Program for our Children and Youth. Linda Neale, Kristin Veteto, Lisa Jaberg and Paula Wilson will be assisting her. Practices will be held during the Sunday School hour each Sunday leading up to Sunday, December 15, 2019. Please contact Jessica if you have any questions.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING NEXT SUNDAY

We will gather at Lenoir Woods next Sunday (12/15) at 4:00pm for Christmas Caroling! After Lenoir we will visit The Bluffs, Columbia Manor Care Center, and Mill Creek Manor at 6:00; then go to Doug and Judi Privitt's house for a Christmas Party. All are welcome to come and carol with us, bringing the joy of the season to the residents of these care facilities!

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

You are invited to a Christmas Open House at the Oberle Home on Friday, December 20 from 5:00-8:00pm. Come and go as you wish! 3905 Snow Leopard 65202. All are welcome! Appetizers, cookies and snacky foods will be served.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun	12/8	<i>Christmas Cantata/Christmas Banquet/Cookies by the Pound</i>	
		Fellowship Time/Sunday School	9:00am
		Cookies by the Pound available for purchase	9:00am
		Worship/Cantata	10:30am
		Christmas Banquet	11:30am
		High School Second Sunday at Pastor Rick's	5:00-8:00pm
Mon	12/9	LODO Advisory Board	5:45pm
		Music & Worship Ministry Team	6:30pm
Tue	12/10	Quilters	9:00am-2:00pm
		Staff Meeting	10:00am
		Delivering Christmas gifts to VAC	2:00pm
		Food Bank	6:00pm
Wed	12/11	Chapel Ringers/Celebration Singers	6:30pm/7:30pm
		Confirmation	6:30pm
Thu	12/12	Women's Fellowship	9:30am
Sun	12/15	<i>Children's Christmas Program</i>	
		Men's Breakfast	7:30am
		Fellowship Time	9:00am
		Sunday School	9:00am
		Worship/Children's Christmas Program	10:30am
		Christmas Caroling– meet at Lenoir	4:00pm

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week...

Zander Dewayne Wells... born to Amanda (Forward) and Tez Wells 11/27!

Congratulations to Amanda, Tez, Wesley, and the Forward Family!

The Family of Randall Siddens... on their loss

Shirley Lawler... recovering from broken hip at Lenoir Rehab

Wayne Gartner... diagnosed with cancer (Laura's brother)

Norma Klemme... recovering from broken leg

Rev. Dr. David Beebe... living with cancer (Oberle's friend)

Tracy Bach... recovering from leg fracture & sprained ankle

Keith Birkes... recovering from broken ankle

Jo Ellen Grace's brother... living with cancer

A brother in law with health issues (11/17)

A neighbor's family who lost a loved one on Thanksgiving morning (12/1)

Our church... as we live into our call as an ONA congregation

Dale Gregory; Christine Mseke, Bea Gordon;

Gary Ehrhardt; Lasley Family; Remeika/Johnson family

Sheila... challenges in life and faith

Amy Koerkenmeyer & the Malicoat Family;

Health Issues:

Deborah Heather (Edie Diehl's niece); Kathy Kindrick; Christie O'Very;

Nathan Schnell (Isaiah's friend); Sharon Elliott, Rev. Jim Elliott,

Finn Price (Tricia's nephew); Harold Hackman;

Sue Beckman; Dennis Froeschner; Donald Long (Vena's husband)

Pregnancies in our church family:

Makayla Smith and Joey Oberle

Serving us in the military:

Alexander & Christopher Tennill, Jeffrey Sanderson

James Walker (Don Helmreich's nephew)

Tim Isom, Tyler Gibson (Oberles' friends); Daisia Baker (Isaiah's cousin);

Thomas Zumalt (Shirley Lawler's grandson)

UCC/DOC Global Ministries Missionary of the Week:

Elena Huegel, serving in Chiapas, Mexico

2020 Confirmation Class:

Lilly Jaberg, Hazel Keithahn, Brandon Lavelly