

Columbia
United Church
Of Christ



December 22, 2019

10:30 Worship

"LOVE"

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

"...restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved..."
-Psalm 80:19

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"Deck the Halls"

Amy Crousore
Carol Tornquist

Bringing in the Light of Christ

Aiden Pierson

*Call to Worship (based on Psalm 80)

Judi Privitt

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
Stir up your might and come to save us!

Restore us, O God;

Let your face shine, that we may be saved!

You brought a vine out of Egypt;

You drove out the nations and planted it.

Turn again, O God of hosts; look and see your people;

Have regard for this vine that your hand planted.

We will never turn back from you;

Give us life, and we will call upon your name!

Restore us, O God;

Let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Come, let us worship God!

*Opening Hymn "LOVE Divine, All Loves Excelling"

#43

*Opening Prayer

Judi Privitt

God of LOVE; we admit that often times we do not know what LOVE is. We place conditions on LOVE, rationing it out only to those deserving, repentant, or who fit into our interpretation of worth. Forgive us when we fall into this trap, loving God. Remind us that your LOVE is unconditional, supportive and steadfast, the LOVE of a mother for her child in the womb. Help us to be inspired by the story of Mary and the LOVE she had for the infant she carried; conceived by your Holy Spirit and her willingness to serve you. In this Advent Season of preparation, assure us once more that your LOVE is eternally blessing our lives and inspire us to sing songs of your praise. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

Mary sang a song of praise, reflecting on God's presence and provision in her life. Through song, she testified to God's presence in her life, enveloping her with Steadfast LOVE. That LOVE is a gift for each of us, too; God's Steadfast LOVE, no matter what. God loves us unconditionally and forgives us always. 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

"LOVE"

"Like a Child Jesus Comes"

(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!**

Anthem

Special Ensemble

*featuring James Melton, the Keithahn family String Ensemble, and
Harry Beckett on keyboard*

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

Holst/Burndrett

Lesson:

Luke 1:39-56

Judi Privitt

*When Mary visits Elizabeth, the baby in Elizabeth's womb leaps for joy.
Mary sings a song of praise, lifting up the blessed role she has been
called to play in God's re-Creation.*

Page #832

*Meditation Hymn

"My Soul Gives Glory to My God"

(insert)

Sermon

"Jesus' Birthday Party"

Pastor Rick

*Children will be invited to come forward for the sermon
to help Pastor Rick prepare for Jesus' Birthday Party*

*Meditation Hymn

"Christians All, Your Lord is Coming"

(insert)

Ushers will collect prayer cards during the hymn

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

Harry Beckett

"Improvisation on Advent Hymns"

*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

Judi Privitt

God, we give thanks for the gift of LOVE 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 LOVE that you offer everyone, no matter who they are. 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

"The Birthday of a King"

Amy Crousore
Phil Perkins

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.

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

Sometimes, I want to ask God a few questions...

With all of God's power...

Why does God allow poverty to exist in the world?

Famine? Hunger? Injustice?

Cruelty and torture?

I want to ask, why does God to allow these things to exist in the world when God could do something about it?

But I am afraid to ask God...

...because I am afraid God might ask me the same Question...

Columbia United Church of Christ

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

TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Greeters: Audrey Lasley & Stefanie Zimny
Ushers: Doug Privitt & Mahree Skala
Sound Booth: John Graves
Worship Leader: Judi Privitt
Hospitality: Sue Ann Schaefer
Acolyte: Aiden Pierson
Council Steward: Doug Privitt



NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Greeters: Paula Wilson & the Malicoats
Ushers:
Sound Booth: Dennis Froeschner
Worship Leader: Audrey Lasley
Hospitality: Brent Marcks
Acolyte:
Council Steward: Doug Privitt

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

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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!

ALL MUSIC ...photocopied in the bulletin and reproduced on the video screen is done so using onelicense.net: License #A-727757

END OF YEAR REPORTS If you are in a leadership position at CUCC, please turn in your Year End Report to April ASAP! (They were due Friday.) The Church Office will be working on curating and collating these reports over the next two weeks. The 2019 Annual Report will be distributed on January 12, 2020.

JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Join us for Christmas Eve services! We will have three services again this year.

4:00: Children themed, with music by our CUCC children and cookie communion

7:00: Worship with communion, string quartet and “Silent Night” sung by candlelight

11:00: Meditative “Midnight” worship ends on Christmas morning just after midnight to welcome Christmas; Celebration Singers and Chapel Ringers; communion and “Silent Night” sung by candlelight

BAKED POTATO/SALAD BAR JANUARY 12

Mark your calendars for the first Youth Group fundraiser of the year! The High School Youth are raising money to go to the National Youth Event/Mission Trip next summer. Join us after worship for potatoes, salad, and all the toppings you would like!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND CHILI COOKOFF

Our Annual Congregational Meeting and Chili Cookoff will be Sunday, January 26 right after worship! Have your chili here by 10:30 for entry into the contest. The Annual Congregational Meeting will start right after we eat, around 12:30 or so.

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR

Sun	12/22	<i>Jesus’ Birthday Party</i> Fellowship Time/Sunday School Jesus’ Birthday Party Begins Worship	9:00am 9:00am 10:30am
Mon	12/23	LODO closed thru January 6	
Tue	12/24	<i>Christmas Eve</i> Quilters Christmas Eve Worship Children-themed with Cookie Communion Family Worship with String Quartet Midnight Service with Choir, Bells <i>All services feature “Silent Night” sung by candlelight</i>	9:00am-2:00pm 4:00pm 7:00pm 11:00pm
Wed	12/25	<i>Merry Christmas!</i> Church Office Closed	
Sun	12/29	<i>Special Christmas Carols Hymn Sing</i> Fellowship Time Sunday School	9:00am 9:00am

YOGA WITH STEFANIE JANUARY 5 AFTER WORSHIP!

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week...

The Family of Jim Davenport... on their loss; funeral today (12/6)

The family of Mary Lou Veteto... on their loss (Adam's grandmother)

The family of Bill Helvey...on their loss

Harold Hackman... recovering from knee surgery 12/6

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)

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

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); Sue Beckman; Dennis Froeschner;

Donald Long (Vena's husband)

Pregnancies in our church family:

Makayla Smith and Joey Oberle

Coleen & Tim Williams (Bullerd's daughter)

Serving us in the military:

Alexander & Christopher Tennill, Jeffrey Sanderson

James Walker (Don Helmreich's nephew)

Thomas Zumalt (Shirley Lawler's grandson)

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

UCC/DOC Global Ministries Missionary of the Week:

Michael Joseph, serving in Colombia

2020 Confirmation Class:

Lilly Jaberg, Hazel Keithahn, Brandon Lavelly