

# Columbia United Church Of Christ

December 28, 2025  
"Christmas Sunday"



# 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 28, 2025

10:30 a.m.

*"Nativity"*

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

*"Peace on Earth, Goodwill to All" -Luke 2:14*

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Gina Pierson

Arr. Cindy Barry

Carrying in the Light of Christ

\*Proclamation

*(Based on Luke 2)*

Pastor Rick

*Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea to the city of David called Bethlehem. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger because there was no place for them in the inn.*

\*Gathering Hymn

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"  
*(Verses 1,3,4)*

*(insert)*

\*Call to Worship

*(based on Psalm 148)*

Mahree Skala

*Mahree:* Sing praise to God from the heavens, from all Creation.  
All the angels praise God; all the heavenly host.

*Cherubim:* **The Sun and Moon and shining stars  
all proclaim God's glory!**

*Seraphim:* **The highest heavens and deepest oceans  
roar with God's praise!**

*Mahree:* Sing songs of God's wondrous Creation;  
The beauty of the earth and the majesty of the heavens.

*Cherubim:* **Mountains and trees, animals and cattle;**

*Seraphim:* **Creeping things and flying birds all sing of God's glory.**

*Mahree:* Youth and those advanced in years; the powerful and meek;  
People of all races, ethnicity, gender expression and  
gender identity; all praise God's holy name!

*Cherubim:* **God's name is exalted in all Creation!**

*Seraphim:* **Let all the people praise God!**

*ALL:* **Come, let us worship God!**

*(insert)*

Mahree Skala

**God of incarnation and manifestation, Your presence in our world is even more evident this Christmas Season as we celebrate the birth of our Savior once more. As we do, we remember that the birth of the Christ child is not a one time event, relegated to the mists of history, but a continuing event happening in our world, in our lives. Forgive us for the times we neglect to see Your presence in our lives. Open our eyes to Your glory around us, and teach us to respond as faithful disciples. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.**

Pastor Rick

Anna and Simeon saw God's presence through the Christ child, presented in the Temple. We are called to have that same sort of vision. But even when we fail to see, God loves us and forgives us. Through our repentance and God's grace we are forgiven, beloved, and blessed. Praise be to God!

*(insert)*

### \*Sharing God's Gift of Peace

May God's Peace be with you!

**And also with you!**

Pastor Rick

## “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!*

Mahree Skala

*The prophet speaks of the restoration of the Kingdom of Israel and envisions a new Kingdom of peace, celebrating God's glory.* Page # 604

Mahree Skala

*Lowly shepherds are visited by Angelic Messengers and are told of the birth of Jesus. They come to the nativity and tell the Holy Family about all that had been revealed to them. They bow down and worship this infant in a cattle trough. Mary, hearing the prophetic testimony of these ruffians, treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.* Page # 833

Anthem

“The Shepherd’s Spiritual” *Arr. Donald Moore*  
Andy Flanigan & Mike Pierson

Homily

“Unimaginable Love”

Pastor Rick

\*Hymn

“Silent Night”

(insert)

\*Litany of Love for Advent IV

Pastor Rick

*Written by Brad Offut*

God of unimaginable love,  
on the first Christmas, You became one of us.

**We celebrate Your love for every person  
in every place and time.**

God of humanity,  
You offered Your Peace to everyone who would listen.

**We celebrate Your Peace in Your Church  
and accept Your commission to share it in all the world.**

God of the shepherds,  
You announced Your arrival among us  
to the poorest, the most humble of all.

**We celebrate Your good news for each of us and for everyone,  
no matter who we are.**

God of the manger,  
You came to us through Your Son in a small and simple place.

**We celebrate Your presence with us this day  
in this small place made glorious by Your presence.**

God of deliverance,  
You came to be one of us in order to deliver all of us.

**We celebrate Your protection and mercy  
toward all who are sick or in trouble.**

God of birth, when You became as we are,  
You opened Yourself to each of us, no matter who or what we are.

**We celebrate this day Your Kingdom  
and that we are welcome in it; right now and always.  
Keep us close, now and forever.**

God of Christmas,  
bless us as we once again celebrate Your coming into Your creation.

**Help us keep the joy of Christmas in our hearts  
And reflect on Your presence in our lives all year long. Amen.**

Community Prayer & Silent Prayer

## The LORD's Prayer

*In an effort to encourage inclusion, we suggest using “Creator God” in our recitation of The Lord’s Prayer. You are welcome to say “Our Father” or “Our Mother” 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.**

\*Hymn                      “O Little Town of Bethlehem”                      *(insert)*

Sharing our Announcements of Community Life Pastor Rick

## 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](http://www.columbiaucc.com)

Offertory	“In the Bleak Midwinter”	Gina Pierson <i>Gustav Holst</i>
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\*Prayer of Dedication Mahree Skala

**God of devotion, today we gather here in this place shouting “Joy to the World” on the occasion of Christs birth. As we shout our joy and sing our praises, we give our gifts to Your continued re-Creation in this world. Take these gifts, and let them be used to bring a Christmas miracle to all those in need. In the name of the Christ child, we dedicate our lives to You. Amen.**

\*Benediction Pastor Rick

*Response	“Joy to the World”	(insert)
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Postlude                      “O, How Joyfully!” with                      Gina Pierson  
  “Joy to the World”                      *Arr. Cindy Barry*

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# Columbia United Church of Christ

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**Pastor Emeritus:** Rev. Fred Brandenburg

## TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Mahree Skala

Song Leader: Mike Pierson

Ushers: Corinne & Joe Remeika

Greeters: Judi Privitt

Technology: Doug & Judi Privitt

Council Stewards: Kristin Veteto



Online Giving

## NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Ashley Ramirez

Song Leader: Mike Pierson

Ushers: Phillip Neale & Charlie Marcks

Greeters: Jolene Kirchhoff

Technology: Brent Marcks & Ted Dachroeden

Council Stewards: Ted Dachroeden & Kristin Veteto

## COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

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**Pastor:** Rev. Rick Oberle

[rick@columbiaucc.com](mailto:rick@columbiaucc.com)

**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!

**EAT WITH EIGHT - FUN AND FELLOWSHIP IN 2026!**

Sign ups have begun for “Eat with Eight,” our ongoing fellowship event in the New Year! All you have to do is sign up; you will be put into groups of 7-9 people for dinner/lunch parties once a month January-April. You will meet a different group of people each month! Sign up today in the rear of the Sanctuary or email Alexandra in the church office.

**EPIPHANY - STAR SUNDAY 1/4/2026**

As we remember the gifts the Magi brought on Epiphany, bring your own gifts to Jesus. We will be collecting hygiene items to leave at the foot of the manger. Please bring soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and other hygiene items as your gifts; we will distribute them to the agencies we support.

**TEAM EARTH LUNCH & LEARN - 1/11/2026**

Plan now to stay for our Team Earth Lunch & Learn! Rev. Mike Williams will continue the study he began in November focusing on our scriptural mandate towards Creation Care, and we will have the latest Solar updates to discuss. For more information, talk to Mahree Skala or Rev. Mike Williams.

**CHILI COOKOFF - 1/18/2026**

Dust off your Chili pot and get ready to enter our annual Chili cookoff! There will be a sign up sheet in the rear of the Sanctuary for contestants, and we will be looking for judges! Everyone is invited to bring a dessert as well. For more information, talk to Doug Privitt or Brent Marcks.

**SAVE THE DATES 2026**

Fastnacht– 2/17/26

Ash Wednesday Worship/Lent begins– 2/18/26

Habitat for Humanity Pancake Breakfast 2/28/26

**THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR**

Sun	12/28	<b><i>Christmas Carol Hymn Sing</i></b>	
		Bible Study	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
Mon	12/29	Membership & Care Ministry Team	5:00 p.m.
Tue	12/30	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
Thu	1/1	<b><i>Church Office Closed</i></b>	
Sun	1/4	<b><i>Epiphany Sunday</i></b>	
		Bible Study & Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Inclusion & Affirmation Ministry Team	12:00 p.m.

# Columbia UCC Prayer List

*Please keep in your prayers this week . . .*

The family of Ann Wilke... on their loss (Alethea's Mother)

The family of Rev. Jim Elliott... on their loss

Cliff Beckman... recovering well at Columbia Post Acute

Karleen Martindale... health issues (Kasper's Mother)

Phillip Neale's Niece... awaiting liver transplant

Students and staff at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary . . . our Partner in Education

Recipients of our VAC Christmas donations

Owen Ramsingh and family

Our Search for an organist/accompanist here at CUCC

## *Health Issues:*

Harold Hackman, Barry Kirchhoff,

Julie Roper (Alexandra's Mother), Ronald Remika (Joe Remika's Brother),

Mark & Connie Fairley, Cody Kile, Dr. Ryan Link; Peri Ann Gulerson;

Jim Posz (Allen's Father), Claudia Hutcherson (Ron Tennill's Sister),

Fred Wilke (Alethea's Father), Julia Marsh (Donna Marsh's Daughter),

Martha (friend of the Veteto family), Ken (Adam Veteto's Cousin);

Linda Hancik and Beverly Wilcox (Corinne Remeika's friends)

## *Challenges in Life:*

Sheila, The Koerkenmeier & Malicoat Families, Kieran Armstrong

## *Living in Care Facilities:*

Gary Ehrhardt, Vernie Blank, Harold Hackman

## *Living in Independent Living Facilities:*

Don Privitt, Cliff & Sue Beckman, Linda Evans, Walter & Patty Schroeder

## *Serving us in the military:*

Christopher Tennill, Dane Wilson, Aaron Dachroeden

*If you are interested in joining our Prayer Team or have a prayer request  
for our team to lift up please contact*

*Melba Shaffer (573) 474-2997 [melbamaes@gmail.com](mailto:melbamaes@gmail.com)*

*Or Tricia Soncasie (314) 374-7477 [tsoncasie@aol.com](mailto:tsoncasie@aol.com)*

# O Come, All Ye Faithful

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1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come  
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,  
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!  
glo - ry in the high - est! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let  
now in flesh ap - pear - ing!



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



## Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

*Descant*

3. All hail the Sun of

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the  
 2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er -  
 3. Hail the heaven - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of

Righ - teous - ness! He is risen with heal - ing

new-born King; peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners  
 last - ing Lord! Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the  
 Righ-teous-ness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing

in his wings. His glo - ry by,

rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise,  
 Vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the God - head see;  
 in his wings, mild he lays his glo - ry by,

no more may die;

join the tri-umph of the skies; with the an- gel - ic  
hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty, pleased in flesh with  
born that we no more may die, born to raise us

born to raise us from the earth to sec - ond birth.

host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.  
from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing to the new-born King.

Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

## Descant

4. See with - in a man - ger laid, Christ, whom choirs of

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing  
 2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous  
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Christ, who comes in  
 4. See with - in a man - ger laid, Christ, whom choirs of

an - gels praise; Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid,  
 o'er the plains, and the moun - tains in re - ply  
 strains pro - long? What the glad - some tid - ings be  
 low - ly birth. Come a - dore on bend - ed knee  
 an - gels praise; Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid,

## Refrain

while our hearts in love we raise. Ah!  
 ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
 Je - sus, joy of heav'n and earth.  
 while our hearts in love we raise.

First system of a musical score in B-flat major, 4/4 time. It consists of three staves: a vocal line, a piano accompaniment in the right hand, and a piano accompaniment in the left hand. The vocal line begins with a whole rest, followed by the lyrics "Glo-ri - a, in ex-cel-sis De - o! Ah!". The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a harmonic line in the left hand, both using eighth and quarter notes. The system concludes with a whole rest for the vocal line and a sustained chord for the piano.

- - - Glo-ri - a, in ex-cel-sis De - o! Ah! -

Second system of the musical score. It continues the vocal and piano parts from the first system. The vocal line has a whole rest followed by the lyrics "Glo-ri - a in ex - cel-sis De - o!". The piano accompaniment continues with similar rhythmic patterns. The system ends with a double bar line. The piano accompaniment in the left hand features a series of eighth notes in the final measure.

- - - - - Glo-ri - a in ex - cel-sis De - o!

- - - - - ri-a, in ex - cel-sis De - o!

# 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;



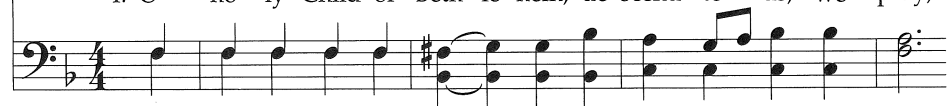
sleep in heav - en-ly peace,	sleep in heav - en-ly peace.
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!	Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth,	Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born,	Christ, the Sav - ior, is born.



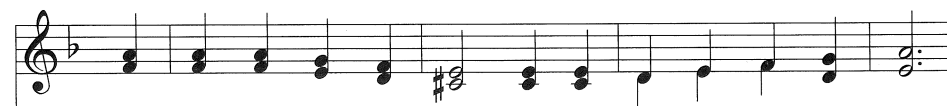
## O Little Town of Bethlehem



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.



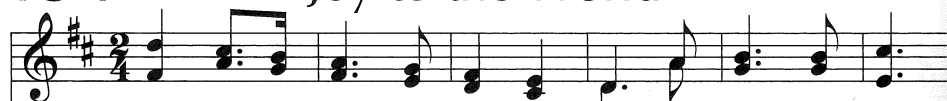
Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth.  
 No ear may hear Christ com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



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.



## Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs  
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -



her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow  
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness



and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
 and heaven and na - ture sing,



and



sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.



heaven and na - ture sing,