



*Columbia  
United Church  
Of Christ*



*December 24, 2019      4:00pm Worship      Christmas Eve*

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

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

Amy Crousore

*"Silent Night, Holy Night"*

*Gruber/Perkins*

Lighting of the Candles

Abby Dennis

Christmas Praise Expression

*"Silent Night"*

Interpretive Dance Team

*Preparing for Christ- Children's Time*

*"Happy Birthday, Jesus"*

CUCC Children

Lighting the Christ Candle

CUCC Children

\*Gathering Song

*"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!**

\*Call to Worship

Andie Rapp

Don't be afraid! For see, I am bringing you Great News!

News of Joy for all people!

**Let all the world rejoice! The Prince of PEACE is born!**

To you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior.

This is the Messiah; Christ, the Lord!

**God's gift of HOPE is ours once more!**

**God's LOVE revealed in the Christ Child!**

Let's go now with great haste to see what has taken place!

Our hearts and our lives are filled with Joy!

**We come here tonight to celebrate Jesus!**

**Come, let us worship God!**

\*Opening Hymn

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" (verses 1,3,4) (insert)

\*Opening Prayer

Abby Dennis

God of all Creation, today we gather here in this church to celebrate your gift of Jesus. Even though he was born a long time ago, we realize that this evening he is born in our hearts again. You taught us so much through the ministry of Jesus. We are so grateful. Help us to remember the gift of your Son in our lives all year long; and keep Christmas in our hearts always. In Jesus name we pray; Amen.

\*Praise Response

"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" (insert)

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

At this time you are invited to greet one another  
with a handshake or a hug and the words,  
"Merry Christmas!"

*God is revealed to us through the Gift of Christ*

*Waiting for Christ*

Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:18-21

Grace Evans

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" (insert)

*Receiving Christ- Children's Time*

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:1-7

Pastor Rick

"Away in a Manger" Raelyn Zimny

*The Holy Family this evening is*

*Erin and Levi Markway and their daughter, Chelsey*

*Celebrating Christ*

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:8-14

Abby Dennis

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" (verses 1-3) (insert)

Gospel Reading	Luke 2:15-20	Andie Rapp
Homily	"Don't Be Scared"	Pastor Rick
Anthem	"Children, Go Where I Send Thee"	Marcella Dolezal

### Cookie Communion

*All who are present, children and adults alike, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, are invited to share in this joyous meal, remembering Christ's ministry and presence among us. We will be celebrating communion this evening using cookies and milk, remembering the lessons of humility and service that Jesus taught us in his life.*

### Communion Prayer

Institution; Fraction; Distribution

Communion Music	Amy Crousore
"Bring A Torch, Jeanette Isabella"	Heather Sorenson

### Sharing the Meal & Bringing forth our Gifts

*Understanding and affirming the diverse ways 'family' is defined, families are invited to come forward and celebrate this meal together, everyone gathering around the table and all sharing the cookies and milk as a symbol of God's love for us.*

### Communion Prayer

Grace Evans

Thank you Jesus, for coming into our lives and showing us how to live. We hear about how you were born in a stable, grew up and lived your life teaching us to serve others. While you taught us, you also learned more about what it means to be one of us. Thank you for coming to us, thank you for leading us, and thank you for your ministry in the world.

Thank you also for this meal. Sharing your meal with you, the cookies and milk tonight, brings us closer to you. As you have shared with us, help us share with others. And now we join together, saying the prayer you taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

*(spoken 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.

Offertory

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Amy Crousore

Ross J. Root

\*Response

"Doxology"

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!  
Praise God all creatures here below!  
Praise God above, you heavenly host!  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost! Amen!

Prayer of Dedication

Pastor Rick

Lighting of the Candles

*Pastor Rick will share the light of Christ with those sitting in the center aisle; you are invited to share that light with those sitting next to you. We will begin singing once everyone's candle is lit. You may extinguish your candle after the Christmas prayer.*

Christmas Hymn: "Silent Night" verses 1-3

*(insert)*

Christmas Prayer

Thank you, God for the promise of this night.  
We are grateful for the gifts you give us as we once more realize Christ's birth in our world.  
As you have gifted us, may we be gifts to those who know us.  
May lives be renewed this evening, embracing a new spirit of joyous sharing among us, for the sake of all your children everywhere. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

\*Responding to Christ "Go, Tell it on the Mountain"

*(insert)*

\*Postlude

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

Amy Crousore

Smart/Rogers

# Columbia United Church of Christ

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## **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.

## **Poinsettias in the Sanctuary this evening were given by:**

**Dale Gregory-**

in memory of Ann Gregory, Bill Boes & Les Nordyke

**Darla, Diane & Don Privitt-**

in memory of Delores Privitt,

Emma Hackmann & Phoebia Cariker



**Diane Oerly**–

in memory of Jan & Fred Oerly

**Barry & Jolene Kirchhoff** –

in memory of son, Wesley and daughter, Rachel

**Cliff & Sue Beckman** –

in honor of daughters Nancy Miller & Jen Siebert and their families

**Sue Ann Schaefer**–

in memory of Jim Schaefer & Dorothy Schaefer

**Keith, Lara & Clayton Birkes** –

in memory of Carolyn Birkes

**The Neal, Odneal, Hayward Families** –

in memory of Gertrude & George Altemose & Robert S. Hayward

**Dean & Jan Barry** –

in memory of Harold & Marguerite Barry,

Clayton & Ruth Wambsgans

**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

**Anne Heine & Family** –

in memory of Paul R. Heine

**Anne Heine** –

in honor of the Heine Family

**Don Helmreich, Linda Simmons & Lauren Helmreich** –

in memory of Andrew Helmreich, Carla Helmreich,

Herb & Wilma Lou Helmreich & James Graves

**Judy & Ed Kaiser** –

in memory of Karenda Jeanette Kaiser

**Doug & Judi Privitt** –

in honor of our wonderful children

**Doug, Judi, Josh & Drew Privitt** –

in memory of Rev. Robert & Aileen Dohm, Delores Privitt,

Carla Helmreich & Andrew Helmreich

**Mike & Sharon Rapp, Scott, Kelly & Marcy**–

in memory of Kenneth & Marian Rapp

and Alfred & Marianna Wilmsmeyer



**Glenn and Carol Duermeyer –**  
in memory of family and friends

**Helen Schultz –**  
in memory of family and friends

**Roberta Settergren, Amy Settergren & Family, Susan Harmon & Family –**  
in memory of Carl D. Settergren

**John, Linda & Carissa Graves –**  
in memory of Carla Helmreich & Andrew Helmreich,  
Bill Graves and Virgil Schupp

**Chuck & Audrey Lasley, George & Stefanie Zimny, and family,  
Kyle & Brie Lasley & family, and Darren Lasley –**  
in memory of Martin & Esther Wilmsmeyer,  
Henry Lasley, Don & Virginia Pyle

**The Lasley Family –**  
in memory of Andrew Helmreich

**Jeff Kies–**  
in honor of Sarah & Eric Schweain family

**Jeff Kies –**  
in memory of Seth Brandenburg

**The Marienfeld Family –**  
in memory of our loved ones

**Hugo & Donna Wilmsmeyer–**  
in memory of Ralph & Johnne Zeller  
and Emil & Johanna Wilmsmeyer

**Jim & Connie Loveless–**  
in memory of Lee Loveless, Joseph & Mimi Schmidt

**Fred & Carolyn Malicoat –**  
in memory of our parents;  
Raymond & Gladys Kessler, Guy & Alice Malicoat

**Fred & Carolyn Malicoat –**  
in honor of our children & grandchildren

**Melba Shaffer –**  
in memory of Hal Shaffer

**Helen Graves–**  
in memory of Bill Graves, Carla Helmreich, Andrew Helmreich

**Josh, Lena, Landon & Caleb Muench–**  
in memory of our grandparents, great-grandparents, & Bhisham Tolani

