

*Columbia
United Church
Of Christ*



December 24, 2019 7:00pm Worship Christmas Eve

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

Welcome and Greetings		Pastor Rick
Prelude	“The First Noel”	Keithahn String Trio
Bringing in the Light of Christ		Kennedy Lucas
*Call to Worship		Mark Duncan

We gather together as one family of faith this evening;
Singing songs of praise and embracing the gifts of Jesus!
**The gifts of HOPE, PEACE, JOY And LOVE are ours.
May they remain with us throughout the year!**
We gather together to celebrate the birth of Jesus in our midst;
Not in the mists of time and space, but right here, right now!
**In our presence, the Christ child is born again!
We gather in worship this evening, celebrating Christ!
Come, let us worship God together!**

*Opening Hymn
“O Come, All Ye Faithful” verses 1,3,4 *(insert)*

*Opening Prayer Mark Duncan
Glorious God, as we gather together here from many places, we celebrate the diversity of your Creation and rejoice in the expanse of your love for all people. We gather here this evening to celebrate your presence in our world in the life of the Christ child, born in the mists of time and born today in our hearts. Help us, as we gather here this evening, to remember that the message of this child was one of extravagant welcome and steadfast love for all. Help us, as we gather here this evening, to remember that this child will preach a message of repentance, of reconciliation, of peace; even as he spoke prophetically and politically against the orthodoxy of the world. Help us, as we gather here this evening, to remember that the beauty of the Christmas manger is not without the shadow of the cross; and that the prophetic message of Jesus is our inheritance and mission. Help us to take your message of Inclusive Love into our hearts as we gather here this evening, and celebrate it at all times in our lives. In Jesus’ name we pray; Amen.

*Praise 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 the Peace of Christ
*You are invited to greet those around you
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 Mark Duncan
Hymn: “O Little Town of Bethlehem” vs. 1-3 *(insert)*

Receiving Christ

Children’s Time and Lighting the Christ Candle
Gospel Reading Luke 2:1-7 Pastor Rick
Hymn: “Away in a Manger” *(insert)*
*The Holy Family this evening is
Amanda Forward and Tez Wells and their son, Zander
“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!**

(one verse sung after the prayer as children return to their seats)

Celebrating Christ

Gospel Reading Luke 2:8-14 Mark Duncan
Hymn: “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” *(insert)*

Proclaiming Christ

Gospel Reading Luke 2:15-20 Mark Duncan
Christmas Anthem “Gesù Bambino” Hope Keithahn

Homily "What Love is This?" Pastor Rick

Offering our Gifts
"Bring A Torch, Jeanette Isabella" Keithahn String Trio

*Response "Doxology" Amy Crousore
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!

*Offertory Prayer Pastor Rick

The Sacrament of Communion

*All who are present are invited to share in this joyous meal,
no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey!*

*Invitation

Communion Prayer

Blessing the Children "What Child is This" (insert)
*As we celebrate the Sacrament of Communion, we invite our children
to come forward via the center aisle to receive a special Christmas
Blessing from Pastor Rick.*

Institution/Blessing

Fraction

Sharing the Meal

*We will celebrate Altar Communion this evening, remembering the
Wisdom of the ministry this Christ Child will share with us. You are
invited to come forward via the center aisle and receive the bread
celebrating Christ's ministry from the communion steward; pause and
partake of the bread; then move to the steward holding the cup of New
Life and Resurrection. Pause a moment and partake of the cup; then
dispose of it in the baskets provided and return to your seat. The
center ring of cups contain grape juice; the outer rings contain wine.*

Communion Music

Amy Crousore

*The lights will slowly dim as Mark offers the following Prayer of
Thanksgiving. **You are invited to pray along silently.** By the time we
join together in saying the Unison Lord's Prayer, the Sanctuary lights
will be extinguished and we will be reciting the Lord's Prayer together
among only the lights of Christmas. The Sanctuary lights will remain
off until after we sing "Silent Night."*

Communion Prayer

Mark Duncan

We give you thanks, Loving God, that you have come to us through Jesus Christ; both in the mists of time and history in the city of Bethlehem, and in the timeless reality of Christ's loving ministry, remembered here this Christmas Eve in the bread and the cup. Send us into the world rejoicing, ready to share your gifts, renewed through your presence here. We celebrate our Savior's birth this evening as one family, praying the prayer he taught us:

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; And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Lighting of the Candles "Silent Night"

*Meditation Hymn: "Silent Night" (insert)

As Amy begins playing "Silent Night," Pastor Rick will share the light of Christ with the folks sitting in the center aisle; you are invited to share that light with those sitting next to you, and those in the next section as well. Once everyone's candle is lit and the lights are extinguished, the Keithahns will lead us in singing "Silent Night." You may extinguish your candle after the prayer of dedication.

*Prayer of Dedication

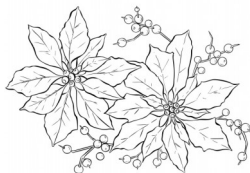
Pastor Rick

Thank you, God for the miracle of this evening. Help us to realize your love working inside each one of us as well; and share that love with all the world. We are renewed this Christmas Eve by your passion and presence; hear our joyful responses as we praise your name in words and deeds all year long. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Responding to Christ "Joy to the World" (insert)

*Benediction

*Postlude "Joy to the World" Keithahn String Trio



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Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Fred Brandenburg

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 Wambsganss

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

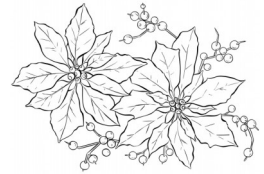
The Lasley Family –
in memory of Andrew Helmreich

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