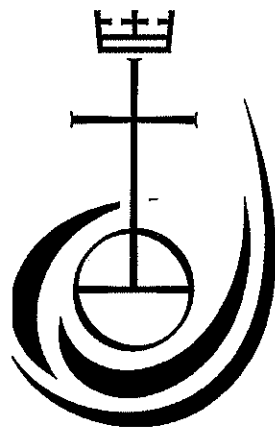


Columbia United Church Of Christ

December 20, 2020
Advent IV- "LOVE"



CUCC
Columbia United Church of Christ

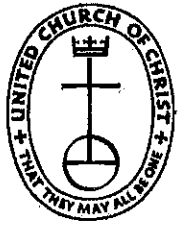
CUCC Open and Affirming/Inclusion Covenant:

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 20, 2020

10:30 Worship

"LOVE"

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

*"...I will sing of your Steadfast LOVE, O LORD, forever;
With my mouth, I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations"
-Psalm 89:1*

Gathering Music

Amy Crousore

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude "Away in a Manger"

Kennedy Lucas
Traditional

Carrying in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship *(adapted from Psalm 89)*

Darren Lasley

*I will sing of your Steadfast LOVE, O God, forever;
With my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness.
Your Steadfast LOVE is established forever;
Your Faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.*

**Let all the earth sing of God's glory!
God has made a covenant with us, established forever.**

**God is our Creator; the Rock of our Salvation!
We will sing of God's Steadfast LOVE forever!
Come, let us worship God!**

*Opening Hymn "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" *NCH #43*

*Opening Prayer

Darren Lasley

God of LOVE; we know that your LOVE for us is never faltering, never waning. Today we hear the proclamation of John the Baptizer, proclaiming the coming of the light, your light, into the world; the light that was your LOVE personified, Jesus Christ. In Jesus, we see your LOVE light shining in the world. In his ministry, John was able to prepare us for your gift of LOVE; help us to prepare our lives for the same. Forgive us when we neglect you, or neglect to do your will in the world. Forgive us for the times we forget to LOVE. Remind us of Jesus' great commandment; to LOVE the world even as he first loved us. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing Pastor Rick
God challenges us to LOVE one another, even as Jesus first loved us; and God forgives us when we fall short of this expectation. As we prepare for Christ's birth again, we rejoice in the message of Salvation Jesus brings. We are forgiven! We are blessed! We are God's beloved! Praise be to God!

*Response "Christians All, Your Lord is Coming" *Chalice #136*
**Christians all, your Lord is coming,
Hope for Peace is now at hand.
Let there be no hesitation,
Walk in faith where life demands.
Bear the word that God has given,
Share the birth that stirs your soul.
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
Christ will come and make you whole!**

Children's Time/Lighting the Advent Candle

"Like a Child Jesus Comes" *Chalice #133*
**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!
Like a child we will meet, ragged clothes, dirty feet,
Like a child on the street, Jesus comes!
Like a child we once knew, coming back into view,
Like a child born a-new, Jesus comes!
Like child born to pray and to show us the way,
Like a child here to stay, Jesus comes!
Like a child we receive all that love can conceive,
Like a child we believe Jesus comes!**

Living our Mission "Emmaus Homes— Christmas Eve Offering"
Pastor Rick

Anthem "Carols of Joy" Harry Beckett

Conference Greetings "LOVE" Rev. Damien Lake
Rev. Lake began his shared ministry with us as our Missouri Mid-South Conference Minister this past summer; he brings us greetings from the Conference. Damien lives in Columbia; you may see him frequently!

Gospel Lesson John 1:6-8,19-28 Rev. Andrea Asselmeier
Rev. Andrea Asselmeier, the Director of Spiritual Care at Emmaus Homes, shares this Gospel message with us about John the Baptizer preaching a message of repentance, preparing the way for Jesus.

A Pandemic 2020 Christmas Program

Kristin Veteto	“Joy to the World”
Preschool/Kindergarten Class	“A Special Christmas Journey”
First-Fourth Grade Class	“The Christmas Story”
Middle School Class	“The Christmas Gospel”
High School Class	“We Three Pandemic Kings 2020”

Feel free to sing along at home with the CUCC High Schoolers:

*We Three Kings are six feet apart;
We'll Purell before we depart.
We've been tested, as suggested,
Careful are we, and smart!*

*O-o! Do our masks go with our gowns?
Do these face shields hide our crowns?
We've had plenty twenty-twenty!
Still we head toward David's town!*

*Melchior is now quarantined!
Stuck in Persia, so it seems.
No more travel on a camel,
Till there's a good vaccine!*

*Balthazar has lost his taste.
Eating food is such a waste.
How disquieting, now he's dieting,
Life now is slower paced!*

*Caspar left the caravan.
He postponed his star gazing plans.
No more roaming, Caspar's homing,
Scrubbing his reddened hands*

*O-o! Do our masks go with our gowns?
Do these face shields hide our crowns?
We've had plenty twenty-twenty!
Still we had toward David's town!*

Confirmation Class “We Wish You a Merry Christmas”

The CUCC Nurture & Education Ministry Team wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2021!

*Meditation Hymn “When God is a Child”

Chalice #132

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; and 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

Presenting our Gifts

"Ukrainian Bell Carol"

Lucy Smith
Cindy Berry

*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

"Doxology"

Chalice #46

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God, all creatures here below!

Praise God above, you heavenly host!

Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost!

*Prayer of Dedication

Darren Lasley

Take these gifts, O God; for through them, we share your LOVE with all the world. Through these gifts, we LOVE you back. Use them to spread your LOVE to everyone around the world; especially those who are hurting and in need. 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

"Good King Wenceslas"

Amy Crousore
Steven Otis

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Mal. 3:1; 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17; Eph. 5:27

Charles Wesley, 1747; alt.



1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,
 2 Breathe, O breathe your lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-ery trou-bled breast;
 3 Come, al-might-y to de-liv-er, let us all your life re-ceive;
 4 Fin-ish, then, your new cre-a-tion; pure and spot-less may we prove;



Fix in us a hum-ble dwell-ing, all your faith-ful mer-cies crown;
 Let us all in you in-her-it, let us find your prom-ised rest;
 Sud-den-ly re-turn, and ne-ver, ne-ver-more your tem-ples leave.
 Let us see your great sal-va-tion per-fect-ly re-stored in you;



Je-sus, you are all com-pas-sion; pure, un-bound-ed love im-part.
 Take a-way our love of sin-ning; Al-pha and O-me-ga be;
 You we would be al-ways bless-ing, love you as your an-gels love,
 Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry, till in heaven we take our place,



Vis-it us with your sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-ery trem-bling heart.
 End of faith, as its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.
 Pray and praise for your un-fail-ing, wound-ed arms out-stretched a-bove.
 Crowned as saints, we ev-er shall be lost in won-der, love, and praise.



This hymn is said to have been suggested by a "Song of Venus" from Dryden's King Arthur. It is one of 6,500 written by Charles Wesley, the "sweet singer of Methodism," who was skilled at interweaving literary and scriptural images.

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.
 John Zundel, 1855

Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL
 For another harmonization, see 368, 495

136 Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming

1. Chris-tians all, your Lord is com-ing, draw-ing near in
 2. Chris-tians all, your Lord is com-ing, call-ing you to
 3. Chris-tians all, your Lord is com-ing, he will rise up
 4. Chris-tians all, your Lord is com-ing, hope for peace is

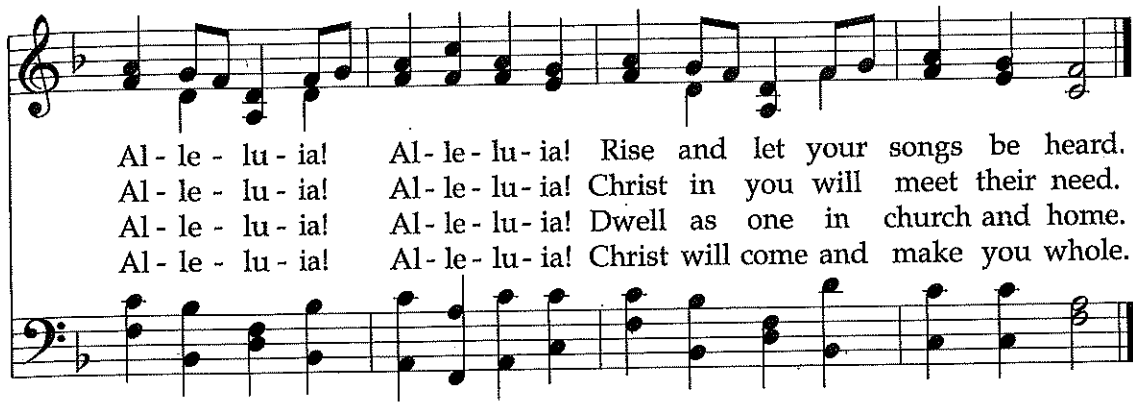
ho - ly birth. Ring the bells and sound the trum-pets,
 serve in deed. See the ones who hurt and suf - fer,
 from the dead. Lift the cup, of sin for - giv - en;
 now at hand. Let there be no hes - i - ta - tion,

let your mu - sic fill the earth. Dance and move to
 hear their cry and act with speed. Set all self - ish
 bless the host and eat his bread. Mend the ways where
 walk in faith where life de-mands. Bear the word that

show God's glo - ry; kneel and pause to hear God's word.
 ways be - hind you. Purge your hearts of sin - ful greed.
 peace is bro - ken, give your - selves to true Sha - lom.
 God has giv - en; share the birth that stirs your soul.

WORDS: Jim Miller, 1993
 MUSIC: Joshua Leavitt's *Christian Lyre*, 1830

PLEADING SAVIOR
 87.87D

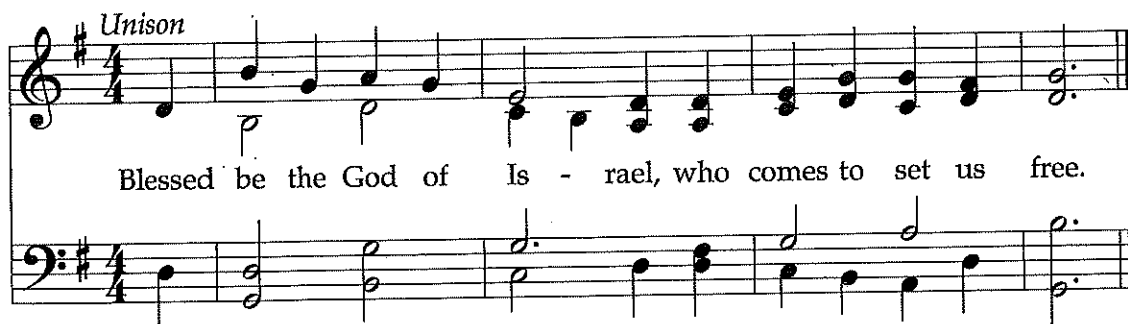


Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and let your songs be heard.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ in you will meet their need.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Dwell as one in church and home.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ will come and make you whole.

Song of Zechariah

137

RESPONSE



Unison
 Blessed be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free.

R

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
 who has come to set the chosen people free.

**God has raised up for us
 a mighty savior from the house of David.**

Through the holy prophets, God promised of old
 to save us from our enemies,
 from the hands of all who hate us;

**to show mercy to our forebears,
 and to remember the holy covenant.**

This was the oath God swore to our ancestor Abraham,
**to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
 free to worship without fear,**

**holy and righteous in God's sight,
 all the days of our life. R**

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
**to give God's people knowledge of salvation
 by the forgiveness of their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God,
 the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
 and to guide our feet into the way of peace. R**

WORDS: Luke 1:68-79 (ICET, rev. ELLC, alt.); Response, Michael Perry, 1973
 MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1983

Response © 1973, music © 1983, Hope Publishing Co.

like a child

133

Unison Gm C Am Dm

1. like a child love would send to re - veal and to mend, like a
 2. like a child we will meet, rag - ged clothes, dirt - y feet, like a
 3. like a child born to pray and to show us the way, like a

Gm C F D7

child and a friend, Je - sus comes like a
 child on the street, Je - sus comes like a
 child here to stay, Je - sus comes like a

Gm7 C Am Dm7

child we may find claim - ing heart soul and mind, like a
 child we once knew com - ing back in - to view, like a
 child we re - ceive all that love can con - ceive, like a

Gm7 C11 F

child strong and kind, Je - sus comes
 child born a - new, Je - sus comes
 child we be - lieve Je - sus comes

WORDS and MUSIC: Dan Damon, 1992

LIKE A CHILD
3333.333D

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♩=88-96

When God Is a Child

Unison

1. Hope is a star that shines in the night,
 2. Peace is a ribbon that cir - cles the earth,
 3. Joy is a song that wel - comes the dawn,
 4. Love is a flame that burns in our heart.

lead - ing us on till the morn - ing is bright.
 giv - ing a prom - ise of safe - ty and worth.
 tell - ing the world that the Sav - ior is born.
 Je - sus has come and will nev - er de - part.

Refrain

When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be

first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be a - fraid.

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1985
 MUSIC: Joan Collier Fogg, 1987

MOON BEAMS
 Irr. w. refrain

Columbia United Church of Christ

3201 1-70 Drive NW; Columbia, MO 65202

Phone: 573.445.7931

Pastor's cell: 573.241.2027

Website: www.columbiaucc.com

Pastor: Rev. Richard Oberle **email:** rick@columbiaucc.com
Admin. Assistant: April Rothweiler office@columbiaucc.com
Moderator: James Melton jwmelton@gmail.com
Music Director: Ed Rollins trispECIALed@gmail.com
Organist/Accompanist: Amy Crousore amycrousore@gmail.com
LODO Director: Erika Maltsbarger littleonesdayout@yahoo.com
Financial Secretary: Raj Tolani finance.cucc@gmail.com
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Fred Brandenburg

TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Darren Lasley
Acolyte:
Sound Booth: Mike Pierson/James Melton
Council Stewards: Mahree Skala

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Jim Loveless
Acolyte: Lil Smith
Sound Booth: Mike Pierson/James Melton
Council Steward:

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator: James Melton jwmelton@gmail.com
Vice Moderator: Kristy Odneal kristyodneal@gmail.com
Secretary: Jane Duncan markduncan2@mchsi.com
Treasurer: Sue Ann Schaefer ssas3307@aol.com
Recording Treasurer: Brent Marcks brentmarcks@hotmail.com
Building & Grounds: John Bullerd jbullerd51@gmail.com
Fellowship & Hospitality: Stefanie Zimny stefanie.zimny@gmail.com
Finance & Stewardship: George Zimny gzimny@pbfirm.com
Inclusion & Affirmation: Alisa Lau-Sieckman alisa65010@msn.com
Little One's Day Out: Lorry Dreier llhd01@gmail.com
Membership & Care: Jessica Lucas jlucas@cpsk12.org
Nurture & Education: Pat Forward pdfoward@msn.com
Outreach & Advocacy: Mahree Skala skalamahree@yahoo.com
Worship & Music: Pete Jaberg petejaberg@gmail.com

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CHRISTMAS DRIVE-THRU

On December 23, between 3:00-7:00pm, you are invited to line up and drive thru at church to receive a special Christmas Blessing from Pastor Rick, and a Christmas gift bag from the Church Council and Ministry Teams! Inside the gift bag you will find elements necessary for Christmas Eve Worship including a bulletin, a cookie for cookie communion, a candle to light during "Silent Night" and other special Christmas gifts. Members of the Church Council and the Ministry Teams will be at church as well, waving & singing as you drive by. Please stay in your cars. If you need to pick up your bag earlier that day, email Pastor Rick to coordinate an earlier time. The Membership and Care Ministry Team will be coordinating delivering these to our homebound members.

CHRISTMAS EVE ZOOM

As we will not be opening the facility for in person worship until the Epiphany Season, Christmas Eve worship will not be in-person. *We will have one service only at 4:00pm that utilizing a Zoom/YouTube format.* This service will be participatory, with 20+ members of CUCC sharing scripture readings, prayers, and musical praise. This service will be recorded and uploaded to our CUCC website and Facebook immediately after; it will be accessible to anyone who wishes to watch it at 7:00 or 11:00pm, or on Christmas Morning, or any other time. We will have cookie communion at this service, as is our Christmas Eve tradition; but we will do it in our own homes.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP 12/27 (next Sunday)

As the only actual Sunday in the Christmas Season, we traditionally sing several carols during this worship service. Pete Jaberg and Ed Rollins are coordinating videos of congregation members leading these carols, which will be utilized on 12/27 to lead our congregational singing. (We are focusing on the shepherd's Prophetic visit to the manger on this Sunday.) Join us and sing along!

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun	12/20	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Worship (online only)	10:30am
Mon	12/21	Staff Meeting Loaves and Fishes Confirmation (2021 Class)	10:15am 4:30pm 6:00pm
Wed	12/23	Christmas Drive-thru	3:00-7:00pm
Thu	12/24	Christmas Eve Worship on Zoom <i>(recording available on website after the service)</i>	4:00pm
Fri	12/25	MERRY CHRISTMAS! Pastor Rick's day off	
Sun	12/27	CHRISTMAS SUNDAY Worship (online only)	10:30am

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week...

On hospice: Sharon Tiemann (April Rothwieler's Aunt)
Silas... health issues, hospitalized (Mahree Skala's great-nephew)
Mariann Bullerd... COVID positive, health issues

Parents, students, teachers, administrators... navigating the back to school issues,
making tough decisions and enduring criticism

The leadership of CUCC... wisely navigating the many streams of conflicting
information in regard to church leadership during COVID-19

All who are suffering from COVID-19 virus and other viruses

All who are on the front lines, serving those with COVID-19

Sheila... challenges in life and faith
The Zimny, Lasley, Koerkenmeier, Malicoat,
Williams, Piersee & Marsh Families

Health Issues:

Deborah Heather (Edie Diehl's niece); Christie O'Very; Nathan Schnell
Finn Price (Tricia's nephew); Jason Wilhoit (Vena Long's friend);
Riley Gregg (Alisa Lau-Sieckmann's neighbor); Christine Mseke,
Jo Ellen Grace's brother... living with cancer
Gary Johnson... recovering from non-Hodgkins lymphoma (Kelly Smith's father)
Dennis Froeschner... anticipating knee replacement surgery
Irene Hurst... living with cancer (Sue & Cliff Beckman's friend)
Karen Wittich... anticipating knee replacement surgery (Kim Oberle's mother)

Living in Care Facilities:

Bea Gordon, Neal Sprick, Gary Ehrhardt
Mark Brumbach, Vernie Blank

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); Cole Long (Vena's grandson)

UCC/DOC Global Ministries Missionary of the Week:

Jefferey Mensendiek... serving in Japan

Pregnancies in our Church Family:

Ed Rollins & Jess Wolfe

2020 Confirmation Class (Confirmation on delay until January):

Lilly Jaberg, Hazel Keithahn, Brandon Lavelly

2021 Confirmation Class:

Zabibu Kibaro, Kennedy Lucas, Addison Melton, Kieran Piersee,
Abby Dennis, Brandon Schoeneberg, Sadie Tummons