

# Columbia United Church Of Christ

November 30, 2025  
"Advent I- Hope"



# 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**



**November 30, 2025**

**10:30 a.m.**

**"Hope"**

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

*"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"  
-Psalm 27:1*

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"For Unto Us a Child is Born" Connie Loveless

*Arr. Carol Tornquist*

Carrying in the Light of Christ

\*Call to Worship

*(based on Psalm 27)*

Pat Forward

*Pat:* God is our light; God is our Salvation.  
God is the Stronghold of our lives; our refuge and strength.

*Cherubim:* **With God as our light and Salvation,  
Whom shall we fear?**

*Seraphim:* **With God as our refuge and strength,  
Of whom should we be afraid?**

*Pat:* We gather to seek God's goodness and grace;  
That we may envelop ourselves with God's presence.

*Cherubim:* **May we hear God graciously answering us  
When we cry out to God in desperation.**

*Seraphim:* **We will sing and make melodies to God  
With strong and courageous hearts.**

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

\*Hymn

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

*(insert)*

\*Opening Prayer

Pat Forward

**Creator of light; when the world offers hopelessness, help us speak Your word of hope. When others are overwhelmed by despair, help us to delight in You. When others are caught up in fear, help us to speak up about the fearlessness You offer. During this Advent Season, as we prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus in our midst, help us to love one another and embrace Your peaceful presence so that Your hope may be in us and our joy may be complete. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.**

\*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

God sent God's son to share Wisdom with us, offering us Hope, Peace, Love and Joy. But even when we forget these gifts, God still loves us and forgives us. Through our repentance and God's grace we are forgiven, beloved and blessed. Praise be to God!

\*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

May God's Peace be with you!

**And also with you!**

Children's Time & Lighting the Advent Candle

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!*

Mission Moment

"Solar Power"

Keith Birkes

New Testament Lesson

Romans 13:11-14

Pat Forward

*In Paul's letter to the church in Rome, he talks about putting aside the empty things of the world and embracing the Good News of Jesus Christ. He invites us to "put on" Jesus Christ; what does this mean?*

*Page # 923*

Gospel Lesson

John 1:1-18

Pat Forward

*The author of the Gospel attributed to John opens his discourse by bringing us back to the dawn of time, claiming that Jesus was with God at the point of Creation, the eternal light of the world. He also talks of John the Baptizer, coming to give testimony to the Advent of the Light.*

*Page # 862*

Anthem

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Mark A. Miller  
Celebration Singers

Sermon:

"God's Creative Creation"

Pastor Rick

\*Hymn

"Christians All, Your Lord is Coming"

*(insert)*

## 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 "Come, O Long Expected Jesus" #122

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 Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne Gina Pierson  
Elliott & Matthews

\*Prayer of Dedication Confirmation Class

**God, we give thanks for the gift of hope 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 hope that You offer to all the world. 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 "To God Be the Glory" Gina Pierson  
Arr. Carol Tornquist

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STEVEN YEUN GINA RODRIGUEZ ZACHARY LEVI KEEGAN-MICHAEL KEY KELLY CLARKSON  
PATRICIA HEATON KRISTIN CHENOWETH and TRACY MORGAN TYLER PERRY OPRAH WINFREY

# THE STAR

THE STORY OF THE FIRST CHRISTMAS



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IT TAKES MANY TAILS TO TELL THE GREATEST STORY EVER



Little One's Day Out

Presents: The Star

Date: December 9th

Time: 6:00 PM

Entry Fee: \$5 per person  
(limited to 50 people)

Snacks and drinks will be  
available for purchase.

Bring your comfortable  
seating, blankets, and pillows  
for a cozy evening as we  
enjoy this family-friendly film  
together!



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MOVIE LICENSING USA

# Columbia United Church of Christ

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**Custodian:** Caleb Berry

[calebprenticeberry@gmail.com](mailto:calebprenticeberry@gmail.com)

**Pastor Emeritus:** Rev. Fred Brandenburg

## TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Pat Forward

Song Leader: Mike Pierson

Ushers: Christine Staelens & Mary Lorber

Greeters: Jessica Lucas

Technology: Josh Muench

Council Stewards: Christine Staelens & Mary Lorber



Online Giving

## NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Audrey Lasley

Song Leader: Katie Jones

Ushers: Charlie Marcks & Phillip Neale

Greeters: Jolene Kirchhoff

Technology: Brent Marcks & Ted Dachroeden

Council Stewards: Mary Lorber & Edie Diel

## COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

**Moderator:** Jerry Kiesling [rollzierp50@gmail.com](mailto:rollzierp50@gmail.com)

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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!

**VAC FAMILY DONATIONS DUE - 12/7**

Most of our families have been “adopted” and now it is time to bring in the gifts! All VAC donations (gifts and monetary) are due by 12/7 for distribution to the Voluntary Action Center that week.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AFTER WORSHIP - 12/7**

The Church Council is calling a special congregational meeting for after worship on December 7 to talk about the possibilities of investing in solar power for our congregation. The details were presented to the congregation at our Lunch and Learn last Sunday, and in our special forum last week. This is a great opportunity for our congregation! Questions? Talk to Jerry Kiesling.

**ADVENT BANQUET - 12/14**

This years Advent Cantata and Banquet will be on Sunday, 12/14! Come and hear our Celebration Singers and Chapel Ringers share the sounds of the season as the offer a “sermon in song;” and then stay for a delicious catered Advent meal with your church family! We do need an accurate meal count for the caterer; RSVP in the rear of the Sanctuary or talk to Mary Lorber!

**COOKIES BY THE POUND - 12/14**

Be prepared to donate and purchase your homemade Christmas Cookies at our annual Cookies by the Pound fundraiser! Tables will be set up in the Gathering Space, and it is first come, first serve! All proceeds go to our Nurture & Education Designated Fund. Please have all cookie donations here by 9:00 a.m.

**THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR**

Sun	11/30	Bible Study & Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Decorating the Sanctuary	12:00 p.m.
		Quorus Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.
Mon	12/1	Scouting America	7:00 p.m.
Tue	12/2	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
		Staff Meeting	10:00 a.m.
		Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team	5:30 p.m.
Wed	12/3	Chapel Ringers/Celebration Singers	6:00/7:00 p.m.
		Confirmation Class	7:15 p.m.
Thu	12/4	Worship & Music Ministry Team	6:30 p.m.
Fri	12/5	Church Women United Christmas Party	9:00 a.m.
Sun	12/7	<i>Children’s Christmas Program/Cookie Communion</i>	
		Men’s Fellowship Breakfast	7:30 a.m.
		Bible Study & Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Congregational Meeting– Solar Proposal	11:45 a.m.

# Columbia UCC Prayer List

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

Cliff Beckman... health issues, hospitalized this week

Roger Meers... recovering from hip surgery

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

The family of Jennifer Held... on their loss (Edie Diel's Niece)

Cindy Deegan's family... on the loss of her brother, Brian

Jeff Remelius and his family... on the loss of his father

Pam & Jim Kahler... health issues and challenges (Lyn Eggemeyer's friends)

Phillip Neale's Niece... awaiting liver transplant

Our Organist/pianist/accompanist search here at CUCC

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

Owen Ramsingh and family

## *Health Issues:*

Rev. Jim Elliott, Harold Hackman, Barry Kirchhoff, Glenn Duermeyer,

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 & Ann Wilke (Alethea's Parents), 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)*

***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***



## **Romans 13:11-14**

11 Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers;  
12 the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light;  
13 let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy.  
14 Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

## **John 1:1-18**

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.  
2 He was in the beginning with God.  
3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being  
4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.  
6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.  
8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.,  
10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him.  
11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.  
12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,  
13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.  
14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.  
15 (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ")  
16 From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace., 17 The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.  
18 No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

## 119

## O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*Unison*

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2. O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine  
 3. O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,  
 4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

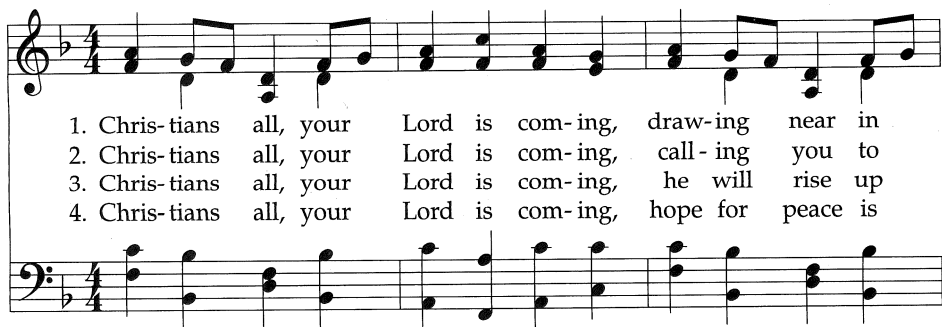
Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here,  
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,  
 far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show,  
 heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease;

*Refrain Harmony*

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 and death's deep shad - ows put to flight.  
 and cause us in her ways to go. Re - joice, re - joice!  
 fill the whole world with heav - en's peace.

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

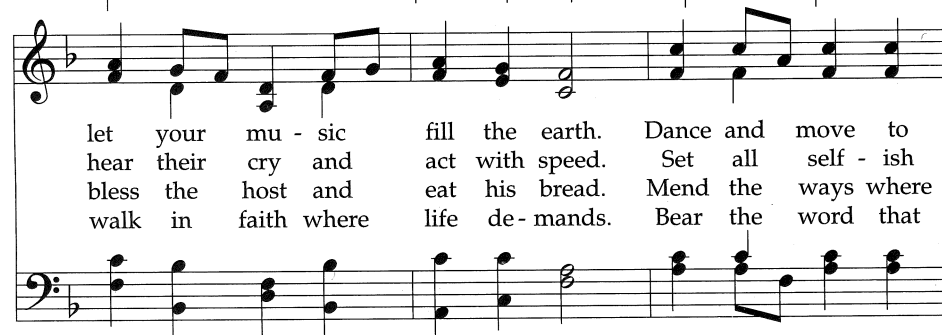
# 136 Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming



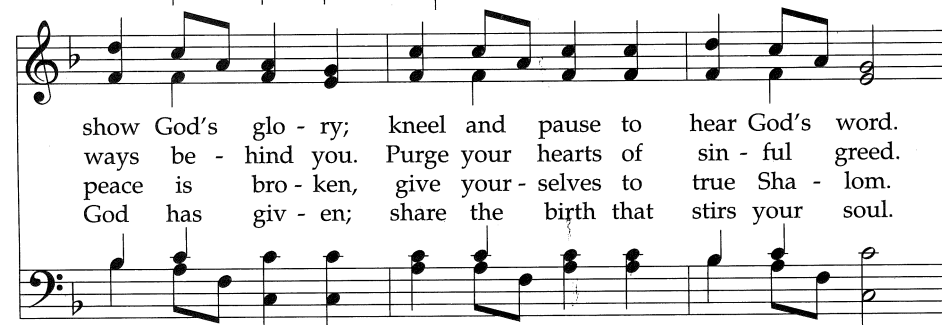
1. Chris-tians all, your Lord is com-ing, draw-ing near in  
 2. Chris-tians all, your Lord is com-ing, call-ing you to  
 3. Chris-tians all, your Lord is com-ing, he will rise up  
 4. Chris-tians all, your Lord is com-ing, hope for peace is



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.



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.



# Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

122

Charles Wesley, 1744; alt.

1 Come, O long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set all peo - ple free;  
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope to all the earth im - part;  
3 Born all peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, you came to reign!  
4 By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it, come to claim us as your own;

From our fears and sins re - lease us; grant us your true lib - er - ty.  
Dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, en - ter ev - ery long-ing heart.  
Born to rule on earth for - ev - er, come, be known to us a - gain.  
By your all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, let us share your cross and crown.

Charles Wesley, the brother of John, was one of the students known as "Methodists" at Oxford University. He wrote hymns for every occasion. This is from his small collection Hymns for the Nativity.

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.  
Melody attrib. to Christian F. Witt (1660–1716)  
from Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715  
Alternate tune: IN BABILONE



**LODO**

Little One's Day Out



# CYBER MONDAY

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# A Very Cozy Very Classic Very Fireside Holiday Special

hosted by David McSpadden, featuring Cabaret for a Cause,

Rochara Knight & the Honey Doves, & The Quorus,

Dec 4 @ 7 pm @ Montminy Gallery

