

*Columbia
United Church
Of Christ*



December 24, 2019 11:00pm Worship Christmas Eve

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

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

“Cradle Lullaby”

Chapel Ringers

Chris Peck

Bringing in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship

“Come Worship and Adore Him”

Celebration Singers

Don Besig

*Opening Hymn

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

verses 1,3,4

(insert)

*Opening Prayer

Rev. Bryan Crousore

Gracious God, this evening the world pauses, contemplating the glory of your Wisdom shared with us. This evening, the ways of your Kingdom seem very near to our earthly existence. This evening the HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE that Jesus brings us are almost tangible gifts that we can grasp and embrace and take into ourselves. This evening is an evening we have been longing for all year long.

Help us to realize that this evening, though it stands apart from the rest of the year, need not be isolated. The Wisdom you share with us today is not just for today. The gifts Jesus brings us are eternal, if we allow them to transform our hearts.

Remind us all year of the Wisdom of this evening. Teach us to plant your wisdom in our hearts, that it may bloom and multiply and we can share it with the world, all year long. 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 Rev. Bryan Crousore

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

"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 as children return to their seats)

Hymn: "Away in a Manger" *(insert)*

Celebrating Christ

Gospel Reading Luke 2:8-14 Rev. Bryan Crousore

*Hymn: "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" *(insert)*

Proclaiming Christ

Gospel Reading Luke 2:15-20 Rev. Bryan Crousore

Christmas Anthem Celebration Singers
"Angels Watching Over Me" *Joel Rainey*

Homily "Prophecy Fulfilled" Pastor Rick

Offering our Gifts Amy Crousore

"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"
Heather Sorenson

*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

Anthem Shelby Oberle
“O Holy Night” *Adolphe Adam*

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)

Institution; Blessing; Fraction

Sharing the Meal

*You will be invited to come forward in groups and gather around the
chancel. Pastor Rick and Rev. Crousore will offer the communion
elements and a special Christmas Blessing*

Communion Music Amy Crousore
“Silent Night” *Franz Gruber*

Communion Prayer Rev. Bryan Crousore

*The lights will slowly dim as Rev. Crousore offers the following
Communion Prayer; you are invited to pray along in silence. By the
time we join together in saying the Unison Lord’s Prayer, the
Sanctuary lights will be out and we will be reciting the Lord’s Prayer
together amid the lights of Christmas. They will remain out until after
we sing “Silent Night.”*

We give you thanks, O 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 very early Christmas Morning in the bread and the cup. This morning we accept as our own your gifts of HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE. Send us into the world rejoicing, ready to share your gifts, renewed through your presence this night. We celebrate our Savior’s birth this morning, Gracious God; and in Jesus’ name we pray 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 fully extinguished, the choir will lead us in singing “Silent Night.” You may extinguish your candle after the prayer of dedication.

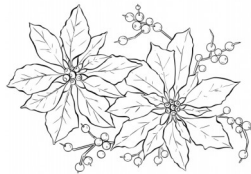
*Prayer of Dedication

Thank you, God for the miracle of this morning. 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 Day by your prophetic words of justice; hear our joyful responses as we share this message of hope in words and deeds all year long. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Responding to Christ “Joy to the World” *(insert)*

*Choral Benediction Celebration Singers
“Go in Love and Peace”

*Postlude Amy Crousore
“Joy to the World” *Virgil Fox*



Columbia United Church of Christ

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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 -

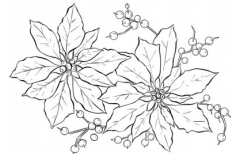
in honor of our wonderful children

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 Duermeier –
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

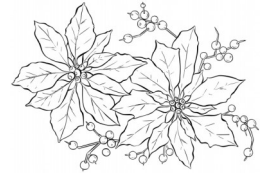
The Lasley Family –
in memory of Andrew Helmreich

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 & John 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, & Bhisam Tolani