

We embrace all as we journey
the way of Jesus

Hope
Peace
Love
Joy



CHRIST
CHURCH UCC



December 11, 2022

Welcome

Prelude

**"Festival Sanctus"
"Silent Night"**
Highlands High School Choir
Ms. Jisoo Bae, Director

*John Leavitt
Frank Gruber*

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Steve and Fran McAllister

One: In the winter, we long for sunlight. We light candles to testify, that the earth will turn and the light will come again. In our lives, we long for Christ. We light candles to testify, that the day will come when Christ will come again.

All: We begin with hope. We continue with peace. And now love.

One: Why do we call this candle the candle of love?

All: We call this candle the candle of love because it reminds us of God's great love for us. We remember that God so loved the world that he sent Jesus, God's only begotten son, into the world, not to condemn us, but to save us. We take joy in the love God has surrounded us with—the love of family and friends and neighbors—the love that flows through all our days. We give thanks that God is Love.

One: Let us hear God's promises in scripture.

All: This is like the days of Noah to me: Just as I swore that the waters of Noah would never again go over the earth, so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you and will not rebuke you. For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

One: May those who feel unwanted take strength from the light of this candle. May those who are full of love shine with its light. Now let us lift our voices to God together:

Hymn (*Words on screen*)

"Come and Fill Our Hearts"

*Jacques Berthier
Glory to God Hymnal*

Praying Together

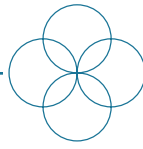
Jean Braun, Liturgist

Merciful God, we regret that the world we welcome you into still has so little love in it. We grieve that hate is so strong. Come and fill our hearts with your love, until it spills out into the world. Amen.

Assurance of God's Presence

One: Hear the gospel promise: "Mary bore a son, and named him Jesus, for he came to save his people from their sins."

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and set free. Alleluia! Amen.



Call for the Offering

Offertory

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

*French GLORIA
arr. Edward Shippen Barnes
Charles Wesley*

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”
Highlands High School Choir

Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

“O Holy Night”
Highlands High School Choir

Adolphe Adam

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

Sermon

Active Love

Rev. Dr. Edward Goode

Red Hymnal #74

All Verses

“While We Are Waiting, Come”

Cloninger/Cason

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Black Hymnal #148
All Verses

“What Child Is This”

*English Traditional
William Chatterton Dix*

Benediction

Postlude

“We Wish You a Merry Christmas”
Highlands High School Choir

English Christmas Carol

Many thanks to the Highlands High School Choir and Ms. Jisoo Bae, Director, for participating in today's service. Christ Church is sincerely grateful for your presence and sharing your many talents. Hope, peace, love and joy be yours for the Christmas season and beyond.

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Edward Goode
Pastor

Toni Sheffer
Music Director/Organist

Max Gise
Guitarist

Talia Zoll
Vocalist

Kelly Kuhnhein
Director of Christian Ed. & Outreach

Jeff Searcy
Custodian

Barb Walkenhorst-Derby
Bookkeeper

Michele Wright
Communications Director/Administrator

• Welcome to Christ Church

If you'd like information about our church, you can find our online service, newsletter, and much more on the church's website: christchurchft.org.

Visitors are encouraged to fill out our "Friendship Form" by scanning this QR code or going to:

<https://bit.ly/ccucc-welcome>



• Christmas Eve Services

Please note there will not be a service at the church on Christmas morning but there will be an online service and resources for a service at home.

There will be two services on Christmas Eve. Our **12 noon service (originally 1:00)** will involve our children and some important visitors. Our **10 p.m. service** is our traditional candlelight service.

• Children's Gifts Needed at RMH!

Children's Hospital's Ronald McDonald House is in dire need of toys for the upcoming holidays. Please consider donating to this cause that our church supports. Thanks so much!

Go to www.rmhcincinnati.org and click on "Wish List." Orders through Amazon are delivered.

• Brighton Center

Please continue to collect the following items to help fill the most needed items:

Canned Soup and **Macaroni and Cheese**.

• Sing for the Holidays!

Choir practice is on **Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.** If you have questions, please contact Toni Sheffer.

• Birthdays (No Anniversaries)

Susan Houben

Linda Gracey

Margaret McKenna

• Discipleship Opportunities

Each week, we have several opportunities to grow in our faith. All are welcome!

Sundays, 9 a.m., Chapel: Currently studying "The One Year Bible NIV"

Tuesdays, 12 p.m., Parlor: Currently studying *Grateful: The Subversive Practice of Giving Thanks* by Diana Butler Bass. Please feel free to join!

Wednesdays, 3:30 p.m., Zoom: Viewing and discussing a video series, *Bible Project*.

Zoom link: <https://bit.ly/ccwednesday>

• Hearing Assist Devices Available

If you need a hearing assist device during the service, please tell an usher as you come in the sanctuary.

• Lunch and Learn

There will not be an event in December.

• Prayer Changes Us

Covenant Cluster Prayer Partner:

Washington UCC, Cincinnati, OH

Prayer Requests:

Faye Gately, Jim Gracey, Margi McKenna, Al Rice, Mary Strange, Linda and Tara, Amber Schmidt, Dan Atkinson, Chris Witt, Marsha, Jeff Waxman, Roman, Lyuda and Natalka Shostak, Samantha Mecamp, The family of Lois Basham, Mike and Laura Randall, Thomas, Tice & Yon Cox, Dave Schwab, Genene Lyons, Robert Neace, Marcia Storm, Jean Mettens, The family of Marvin Cox, Marissa, Tim, Ev & Jack Weber, Jean Lacalley, Brenda Swan and family, Emma Hamann, Donna Hoffman, Joe Wuest, Sharon, Jessica, Owen, Shawna, The Griggs Family, Kelsey S. Foltz, Pierce, Tim Weber, Don Spaulding, Bonnie Hitch, Joy, Shawna T., David, Tom Cox, Nicole and Zach Lawson, Bobbi Grim

(Names underlined indicate request for first name usage only)

Beginning in January, we will start a new prayer list. Please call the office if you or someone you know would like to remain on the list.