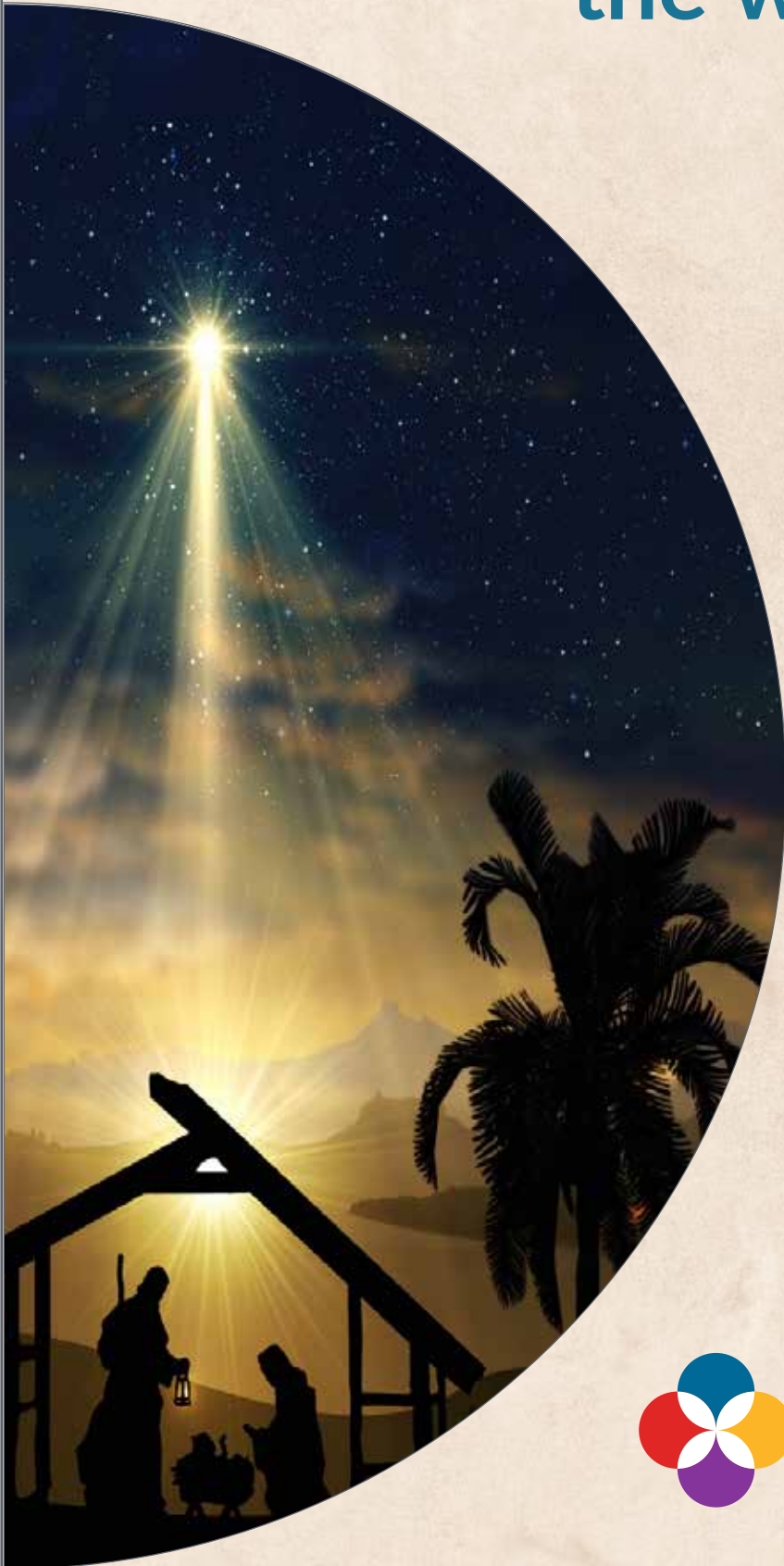
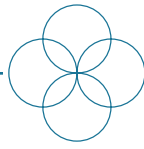


We embrace all as we journey
the way of Jesus



CHRIST
CHURCH UCC



December 17, 2023

Welcome

Prelude

**“Joy to the World”
“Silent Night”**

*Watts/Mason
Gruber/Darmon Mader*

Highlands High School Concert Choir

Lighting of the Third Candle of Advent – Joy

The last two weeks we have lit candles of hope and love. We lit the candle of hope to remember Elizabeth and Zechariah and finding hope in the mist of struggle. We lit the candle of love to remember the tangible expression of love Elizabeth shared with Mary when Mary desperately needed it. We light both of those candles now in hope and in love.

Today we light a third candle – this one of joy. It is the candle that is different from the others because joy can be so very different from how we often think of it. Joy can come when two relatives come together and a mother’s joy is passed to her soon-to-be-born child. Joy can come when a young woman who finds herself unexpectedly pregnant is embraced and welcomed. Joy can come to ancient shepherds who are used to being the last ones to know as they spend their days and nights with the sheep. Joy can come in all times, in all circumstances, and to all people.

All: Joy can come when we least expect it, when we are looking for it, and when we have built up our joy muscles to be aware of it. Joy is an expression of connecting with the presence and the work of God such as we remember in this holy season. So many of the stories of this season are expressed with joy – Elizabeth, Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, shepherds, Anna, Simeon. May we find that divine joy this day and this season.

Red Hymnal #117
Verses 1,3&4

“How Great Our Joy”

Traditional German Carol

Praying Together

Donna Hoffman

Assurance of God's Presence

Offertory

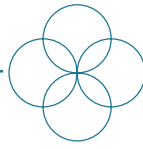
**“Talve oo”
“Gloria” from Heiligmesse
“Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy”**
Highlands High School Concert Choir

*Part Uusberg
J F Haydn
arr. Ken Burton*

Prayer of Dedication

Scriptures

Luke 2:8-15 NRSV



Sermon

The Joy of the Angels

Rev. Dr. Edward Goode

Hymn

“Joy to the World/Unspeakable Joy”

Lowell Mason/Christ Tomlin

Joy to the world! The Lord has come. Let earth receive her King.
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room. And heaven and nature sing.
And heaven and nature sing. And heaven and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns. Let all their songs employ.
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, repeat the sounding joy.
Repeat the sounding joy. Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Refrain: Joy, unspeakable joy! An overflowing well, no tongue can tell!
Joy, unspeakable joy! Rises in my soul, never lets me go!

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love.
And wonders of His love, and wonders, and wonders of His love. **Refrain**

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Black Hymnal #125

Verses 1,2&3

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Traditional French Carol

Benediction and Praying for Our Meal

Postlude

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Highlands High School Concert Choir

John Francis Wade

arr. Mack Wilberg

If you would like to make an offering,
you can put it in the plate during
the service or you can give online
using this QR code:



CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Edward Goode

Pastor

Toni Sheffer

Music Director/Organist

Max Gise

Guitarist

Talia Zoll

Vocalist

Kelly Kuhnhein

Director of Christian Education & 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 Music Series

- **Sunday, Dec 24** Our regular worship service will feature the Children's Program, the Chancel Choir, and in-house soloists.
- **Sunday, Dec 24, 10 p.m.** — Annual Christmas Eve service with a song from our Chancel Choir men and violinist, Evan Hurley.
- **Sunday, Dec 31** - Our regular worship service will feature our annual Carol Sing. **Be sure to get your favorite Christmas Carols to Toni Sheffer before Sunday, Dec 24.**

• Christmas Chili Cookoff!

TODAY! in Hoffman Hall

Immediately after the service.

Join your church family for lunch.

Helpers appreciated!

• Birthdays and Anniversaries

Bill Hitch

Tom Pendery

Max Gise

Jeanne Karrick

Jack Weber

Marcia Storm

Snezana Tenhunfeld

David Pendery

Nancy Witte

Robert & Nancy Witte

Tom & Amy Pendery

• Because of You... Stewardship

Because of you and the Holy Spirit, the church is changing lives. Thank you for being part of Christ Church and opening yourself to the work of the Holy Spirit in our



common ministry! If you have already sent in your commitment card, thank you! If you haven't please do so as soon as possible, or consider making a commitment using this QR code.

• Open and Affirming Process

If you have any questions about our Open and Affirming Process, please contact **Beckie Borah**.

• Prayer Changes Us

Covenant Cluster Prayer Partner:

Washington UCC, Cincinnati, OH

Prayer Requests:

Joy, Genene Lyons, Pierce, Ev & Jack Weber, Tom Cox, Marie Shields, Barry Bordenkircher, Jean Lacialley, Amber Schmidt, Bobby Grim, Roman, Lyuda & Natalya Shostak, Tim, John Jr., Sheila Mains, Sue, Judy & Greg Gadd, Kristen Bender, Mike & Laura Randall, Marcia Hosea, Emma Hamann, Sallie Schmidt and family, Barb Walkenhorst-Derby, Landon Schmidt, Jesse Clayton, Bill P., Don Seifert, Raenon Justice, the family of Bonnie Hitch, Kim Schnier, Chris, the family of Wilma Graves, the family of Nancy Faulkner, David Hosea, Scott, Stacey Seiter, Jeff McCall, Kelly Greenwalt, Kristin Bailey, Jamie, Jenny Holek, Nancy McLane, Mike & Sheila Smith, the family of Margi McKenna, John Fugate, the family of Judy Robinson, the family of John Neumaier, Andrew, Howard Storm, the family of Faye Gateley, Marshall Gantt, Sophia, Carolyn Tyler, Shane, Parker, Dave, Jane Cox, the family of Lillian Chapman, the family of Steve and Lesley Ann Gracey, the family of Billie Crowder, Paulina, Gregg Frank, Linda Gracey, Gary Kennedy

(Names underlined indicate request for anonymity)

We will start with a new prayer list Sunday, January 7.

If you would like to remain on the current list, please call the office: (859) 441-2565