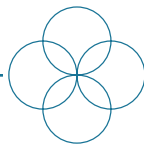


We embrace all as we journey
the way of Jesus



CHRIST
CHURCH UCC



December 1, 2024

Welcome

Prelude

"Shine, Jesus, Shine"
Chancel Choir

Graham Kendrick

Call to Worship

Scott Turner

One: Sojourners of faith, today we begin the journey to Bethlehem, to the city called "House of Bread."

**All: We take one step toward Christmas, the first step of many.
Let this journey transform us from beginning to end.**

One: Whether your belly is full or empty, whether your heart is broken or whole, look toward the manger, toward the stars over the city of David, and find hope.

All: We look with hope because Christ is coming to fill hearts and satisfy bellies with goodness and peace.

One: Come, let us worship as we journey to the House of Bread, where our Brother and Friend will be born.

All: Glory to God, there is hope today. Let us worship!

Red Hymnal #75

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Rinkart/Winkworth/Crüger/Mendelssohn

Praying Together (Unison)

Let us confess the ways in which we have reacted to the needs of the world with hopelessness. God who cares for every sparrow and every child, we confess the enormity of the world's hunger feels overwhelming. We do not know what to do about famine and starvation, so we look away and distract ourselves from suffering people and all creatures, great and small. We confess we neglect small acts of generosity because the problems seem so big. We confess we shrink back from true solutions because the sacrifices seem too great. May your hope compel us to make choices reflecting our love for our neighbors and creation. You take our feeble efforts and magnify your glory. May the world be fed with hope. Amen.

Assurance of God's Presence

Lighting of the Advent Candle

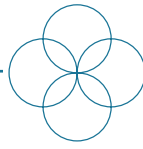
Nancy Pinguely, Pam Weber

Offertory

"Meditation from Thais"
Steve Phillips, piano; Vince Phelan, violin

Jules Massenet

Prayer of Dedication



Scriptures

Luke 2:7, Matthew 14:13-21

Sermon

Imagination and Hope

Rev. Dr. Edward Goode

Affirmation of Hope

- One: Let us affirm our commitment to and belief in the Christian discipline of hope.
Like the pleasing aroma of a hot meal, as it is placed on a table of fellowship,
All: we believe hope entices the people of God to come together in unity.
- One: Like the dreams of harvest that inspire the farmer to plant seeds in the spring,
All: we believe hope emboldens us to plan and plant for the future.
- One: Like the insects who collect pollen and unknowingly fertilize the food for all of creation,
All: we believe hope empowers us to follow our calling, allowing God to multiply our efforts when we are obedient to our calling.
- One: Like the instinct of animals who store and save for hard times ahead,
All: we believe hope persuades us to anticipate and endure challenges that will arise.
- One: And when anxieties and circumstances overwhelm us, or we are tempted to fall into despair,
All: we believe things can get better with compassion and imagination. This is hope. Amen.

Song

“Room for Us All” from *The Many*

Lenora Rand/Hannah Rand

Sacrament of Holy Communion

“Andante” from *Sonata for Piano and Violin Bb Flat Major*

Wolfgang Mozart

Red Hymnal #72

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Neale/Coffin/Emmanuel

Benediction

Postlude

“Allegretto poco Mosso” from *Sonata for Violin and Piano*

Cesar Franck

• Offerings

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:





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Announcements

• Discipleship Opportunities

Each week... All are welcome! No need to sign up.

- **Sundays, 9 a.m., History Room**
- **Thursdays, 12 p.m., History Room**
Both our Sunday and Thursday group will be watching and discussing the series, "The Chosen" which covers Jesus' chosen followers.
- **Wednesdays, 3 p.m. (Online)**
We're reading and discussing the book, *Help Thanks Wow* by Anne Lamott.
(Zoom link: <https://bit.ly/ccwednesday>)

• Holiday Walk – TODAY!

Sunday, Dec. 1 from 4-7 p.m.

We will be providing barbecue sliders, coffee, and hot chocolate. Please contact **Jean Braun** or **Linda Gracey** if you can help.

• Christmas Eve "Unplugged"

On **December 24 at 10:00 p.m.**, we will celebrate the birth of Jesus at our Christmas Eve service. It will be a candlelight service with acoustic "unplugged" music. It will be a beautiful celebration of the coming of Jesus into the world!

• Thanks to Jeri McMath

The beautiful Christmas banners hanging in the sanctuary were created by Jeri McMath. What a special gift!

• Birthdays (No Anniversaries)

Lauren Thomas
Carole Lukjan
Ryan Vogel
Nancy Hunter
Barb Stinnett

• 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>



• Stewardship 2025

Thank you for being part of Christ Church! If you have already sent in your commitment card, thank you! If you haven't please do so as soon as possible or consider using this QR code. If you didn't receive your commitment card, please contact the office at (859) 441-2565.



• Brighton Center

We are collecting instant mashed potatoes and gravy packets in November and December. Thank you for your generosity!

• Prayer Changes Us

Covenant Cluster Prayer Partner:

Washington UCC, Cincinnati, OH

Prayer Requests:

Gary Kennedy, the family of Al Rice, Mike and Laura Randall, Stacey Seiter, Susan Snyder, Beth Caby, Naomi Carroll, Stephanie, Robyn Cox, Elsie Loos, Eve Wellborn, Stacey, Jamie & Kelly Greenwalt, Jennifer Flynn, Chris P., John Thomas Flynn, The Flynn Family, the family of Phyllis Clark, the family of Evie and Jack Weber, the family of Rev. David Schwab, the family of Doug Miller, the family of Judy Gadd, Carolyn Tyler, Denise, Makayla, Gregg Frank, Cathy Van Lierop, Gordon Braun, Howard Storm, Sharon Roach, the family of Shane Miller, Steve Jarboe, Bette Ament, the family of Stella Pendery, Mike Bizzarro, Suzanne Jones, the family of Carlie Mc Mahon, the family of Guy Traylor, Susan Gabbard, Dave Jager, Béné, Jim Rehtin Jr., Maggie, Gary Hunter, Audrey Bernhard, Jeff McDonald, Nancy Castleman, Carolyn Watts-Raisor, Nancy Gabbard