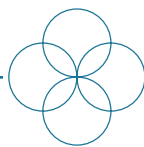


We embrace all as we journey  
**the way of Jesus**



CHRIST  
CHURCH UCC



December 15, 2024

Welcome

Prelude

**“Come, Come, Immanuel”**  
Chancel Choir

*Jay Althouse*

Call to Worship

Jean Braun

One: Have you heard the good news? A baby is to be born in Bethlehem,  
and his birth will bring joy to the world!

**All: Jesus will be born to make all things new!**

One: Have you heard the good news? God anointed Jesus to proclaim  
good news to the poor.

**All: Jesus will proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for  
the blind.**

One: Jesus will set the oppressed free, and proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.

**All: Let us worship with glad and joyful hearts—Jesus will be born soon!**

Song

**“Joy to the World! Unspeakable Joy”**

*Tomlin, Watts, Cash, Handel, and Gilder*

Praying Together (*Unison*)

**God of abundance and joy, like the shepherds who heard the angel’s good news,  
we celebrate the good news of your Son’s arrival. Fill us with uncontainable joy as  
we lift our voices in praise and gratitude. While we gather in spirit and truth, comfort  
the sorrowful places in our hearts, and help us mend the broken relationships.  
Let the deep joy of this third week of Advent nourish our souls today. Amen.**

Assurance of God's Presence

Offertory

**“Sinfonia” (from Christmas Oratorio)**  
Max Gise, guitar; Melissa Cox, flute

*J.S. Bach*

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Shelley and Steve Kappesser

Scriptures

**Luke 2:20 and Luke 19:1-10**

Sermon

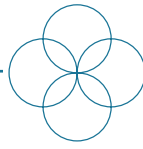
**Joy Grows**

Rev. Dr. Edward Goode

Song

**“Room for Us All” from *The Many***

*Lenora Rand/Hannah Rand*



## Affirmation of Joy

**One:** Let us affirm our commitment to and belief in the Christian discipline of joy. We believe joy breaks out when everyone is free and fed.

**All:** **We believe joy happens when we feel so thankful we could burst with excitement and gratitude.**

**One:** We believe everyone was made for joy, but life circumstances make joy more elusive for some.

**All:** **In all circumstances, we rejoice in the Lord while never forgetting the suffering of others.**

**One:** We believe the joy of the Lord may be found both on mountaintops and in valleys, in seasons of plenty and seasons of want.

**All:** **Because of this miracle of joy, we do not despair, nor do we leave people to languish.**

**One:** Let the people be joyful, not in spite of our hunger, but because we have fed one another with generosity.

**All:** **Let the people be joyful when our tables are covered in love and liberation, when everyone has what they need. Amen.**

## Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

**Red Hymnal #92**

**"Joy to the World"**

*Watts/Rider/Holford/Mason*

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

Jacob Priddy, piano

## 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:



## CHURCH STAFF

**Rev. Dr. Edward Goode**

Pastor

**Max Gise**

Interim Worship Coordinator

**Joshua Woodward**

Interim Choir Director

**Talia Zoll**

Interim Worship Coordinator

**Madeline Queen**

Director of Christian Education

**Jeff Searcy**

Custodian

**Barb Walkenhorst Derby**

Bookkeeper

**Michele Wright**

Communications Director/Administrator



CHRIST  
CHURCH UCC

We embrace all as we journey the way of Jesus

# Announcements

## • Discipleship Opportunities

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

### • Sundays, 9 a.m., History Room

Watching and discussing the series, "The Chosen" which covers Jesus' chosen followers.

### • Thursdays, 12 p.m., History Room

A Bible study in December on the prophecies around the coming of Jesus, the Messiah

### • Wednesdays, 3 p.m. (Online)

Sharing and reflecting on the spiritual poetry of Wendell Berry in December.

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

## • Christmas Poinsettias

David and Marcia Hosea are graciously donating poinsettias this year for the church. Please feel free to take yours home after the Christmas Eve service or the church service after Christmas.

## • 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! Who will you invite to join you?

## • Brighton Center

We are continuing to collect instant mashed potatoes and gravy packets in December.

Thank you for your generosity!

## • Birthdays and Anniversaries

Linda Gracey

Bill Hitch

Tom Pendery

Max Gise

Marcia Storm

Jeanne Karrick

Snezana Tenhunfeld

David Pendery

Robert & Nancy Witte

Tom & Amy Pendery

## • 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](http://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.



## • 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, Brian, Gene, Nathan, Dominic

(Names underlined indicate request for anonymity)

**Please contact the office to make changes:**

**(859) 441-2565 or [office@christchurchft.org](mailto:office@christchurchft.org)**