



**ST. PETER'S**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



*Where do we find joy these days?*

**Third Sunday in Advent**  
**December 12, 2021**

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

*\*(Stand as you are able.)*

## GATHERING MUSIC

*Greeting      Announcements      Birthdays      Anniversaries*

PRELUDE: "Once in Royal David's City", arr. Wayne Wold

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ADVENT LIGHTING – "JOY" *(Jodi Maderitz & daughters  
Reese & Tessa)*

**O Come, Advent:** *Verses 1, 2, & 3 (Tune of: O Come, O Come,  
Emmanuel #123)*

O come and be the hope in all our lives  
Though chaos and confusion still survive  
We know the path of hate all too well  
We need our God with us, Emmanuel!  
Rejoice, rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to us  
And all things shall be well

O come and bring your peace upon the earth  
That even now still longs for its rebirth  
We seek to live and move in your ways  
Guide us to peace and justice all our days  
Rejoice, rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to us  
And all things shall be well

O come to us like joy of heaven's dawn,  
From Mary's womb a faithful paragon  
Brought forth into this world by love's power  
Your Spirit through her labors in that hour  
Rejoice, rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to us  
And all things shall be well

## **Candle Lighting Ritual** (Luke 3:7-18)

When confusion claims us

When we feel unable to do anything right

The Holy invites us to be faithful

That we may find Joy

*(Light candle of Joy)*

Where in the world do we find Joy these days?

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Pam Miskov)*

Leader: Rejoice, give thanks; call on God's name;  
the Holy One is in our midst.

**People: How good it is to come home to God's house!  
How good it is to gather in Christ's presence!**

Leader: Sing aloud! Exult with all your heart;  
the Sovereign One has done glorious things.

**People: We offer up our anxieties, seeking God's  
peace. We face our plenty, eager to share.**

Leader: Shout your praise! Express your joy!  
The God of our salvation welcomes us.

**People: God's love is renewing us in these moments;  
God's strength is becoming our song!**

### **\*HYMN OF PRAISE: #131 "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"**

### **\*THE MORNING PRAYER/INVOCATION** *(Unison)*

God of our baptism, renew in us today the gifts of your Holy Spirit and fire. We have come together, eager for good news. We are here for instructions, ready to do the work you call us to do in the world. Equip us in this time of worship to draw deeply from the waters of salvation. Fill us with your love that we may pass it on. Recall us to truth and excellence and justice in all we say and do. Amen.

\*GLORIA PATRI #623

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

HEBREW LESSON: ISAIAH 12: 1-6 (*Pam Miskov*)

You will say in that day: I will give thanks to you, O Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, and you comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

## **A TIME TO PRAISE GOD WITH MUSIC**

ANTHEM: "Come, Emmanuel", Don Besig

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*Pastoral Prayer      The Lord's Prayer*

HYMN OF PREPARATION: #139 "I Wonder as I Wander"

## **A TIME OF LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: LUKE 3:7-18 (*Pam Miskov*)

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell

you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

**SPIRITUAL REFLECTION: “PAY IT FORWARD”**

## **A TIME OF GIVING**

### **OFFERING INVITATION**

**OFFERTORY: “Creator of the Stars of Night”, Gilbert M. Martin**

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**\*Doxology #625 unison prayer of dedication**

praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God all creatures here below;  
praise God above ye Heavenly host; \*\*  
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

(\*alternate: Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen)

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

### A TIME OF GOING OUT

#### THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*(We offer one another the peace of Christ for the week ahead.)*

\*HYMN SENDING FORTH #120 *“The Advent of Our God”*

#### BENEDICTION

#### POSTLUDE: “Praise to the Almighty God”, J. S. Bach

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**Everyone is Welcome! Feel at home,  
for Christ Jesus is our host. If you are  
visiting for the first time, we are delighted  
to have you here!**

The Psalmist sings: *“Worship the Lord  
with gladness; come into God's presence  
with singing... thanksgiving... and praise.”*  
We pray peace and joy to you, dear friend.

#### WORSHIP TEAM

Senior Pastor

Zoom Director

Worship Producer

Handbell Choir Director

Organist/Choir Director

Scripture Reader

Ushers

Pastor Chris Buckingham-Taylor

Mary K. Kirsch

Brian Schieferstein

Shelley Harmych

Daniel Jacky

Pam Miskov

Fred Helyes, Gary Thompson,

Earl Wiegand



# Church News



## **Annual Cookie Sale Today!**

Circle Six is holding their **Annual Cookie Sale** today in the Fellowship Hall. Cookies are \$6.00/lb. *Thank you! Sally Readinger*

## **Altar Guild Still Needs Help**

The Altar Guild urgently needs help for their team. The duties will include Preparation of Sanctuary for church service, Baptisms and Weddings, and Restocking Supplies. Members pair up with the Veteran Altar Guild. Your service would probably be 3 alternating months. If you think this is something you would like to be part of, please contact **Lynn Hollstein at 440-988-8066**. *Thank you in advance for helping our team!*

## **Altar Flowers Signup**

The signup sheet for Altar Flowers will be available in the book on the table at the back of the church (the green binder), ready for signup in 2022. If you need help, there is an information sheet, "Altar Guild Flower Process", that explains the procedure.

Questions? Please call Lynn Hollstein at **440-988-8066**.

Please note: Altar Guild has silk flower arrangements available to use in place of fresh flowers. A donation would be appreciated. Thank you!

## Update from Sunday School

For December, we are still accepting donations for the Christmas dinners. Baskets will be in front of the lectern and pulpit. Items such as scalloped potatoes, canned vegetables, canned gravy, and anything nonperishable that would work well for Christmas dinner.

The social worker at Amherst Schools asked for hats and gloves...adult age!!! to be packed in the boxes. Again, people think of the little kids, but often the high school and junior high kids get forgotten and those little hats and mittens don't fit them!!!

We will be packing the boxes of Christmas dinners to take to the high school on Tuesday, December 21 at 9 a.m. We are hoping to pack 12 boxes. Any help packing would be greatly appreciated!

**Thank you!** Jessie Kubuske, Director of Christian Education



## FOOD PANTRY

In December, we will be collecting items that can be used to give others less fortunate, a Christmas dinner. Below are some ideas:

Canned Meat (Tuna, Chicken)

Canned Soup (Pop top lids)

Instant Mashed Potatoes

Mac & Cheese

Jiffy Cornmeal Mix

Cranberry Sauce

Stuffing Mix | Gravy

Sweet Potatoes-Yams (Canned)

A big thank you to Pam Miskov for taking the time to ensure all items are transported to Good Shepherd Food Bank. Please leave your donations in the drop off boxes at the church. Thank you again for helping others!

## Christmas Caroling | Dec. 19 | 3-4:30 PM

Warm up your voices and join us in singing Christmas Carols for our Compassionate Care members. We will meet on December 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM in the church parking lot and will car pool.

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Meet the Pastor at Arabica's  
254 Park Ave., Amherst  
Every Wednesday from 9-11:00 a.m.

*Everyone is welcome!*

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## Wednesday Worship Service: Breeze Chapel "BLUE CHRISTMAS"

Wednesday, Dec. 22 at 7:00 p.m., the Breeze Service will be a Blue Christmas theme. Each one of us comes bearing the loss of loved ones, or may be struggling to mend our own broken places. This will be a time to light a candle in the memory of loved ones. We hope you can join us for this special evening of hope and comfort. God bless you with comfort during the holiday season.

"Let your dreams be bigger than your fears,  
your actions louder than your words,  
and your faith stronger than your feelings."

— Michael Hyatt

## **Friends of St. Peters,**

You will notice some changes in the sanctuary this week—the blue tape and pew ropes are gone and hymnals and Bibles are back! As a precaution, masks are still encouraged, especially when you are in close proximity to another person. Hand sanitizer can be found in the pews. We want to continue to protect the vulnerable as we *care for us and care for others*.

As we begin to return to a more “normal” service, beginning in November we will no longer be emailing pdfs of the Sunday hymns with the bulletin. If you would like to continue to sing along on Zoom you can request a church hymnal to be delivered to you, or you can pick one up in the church office! However, you chose to obtain a copy, please take this opportunity to connect with and get to know Pastor Chris!

Looking forward to seeing you in person or Live on Zoom!

Mary-K Kirsch  
Council President

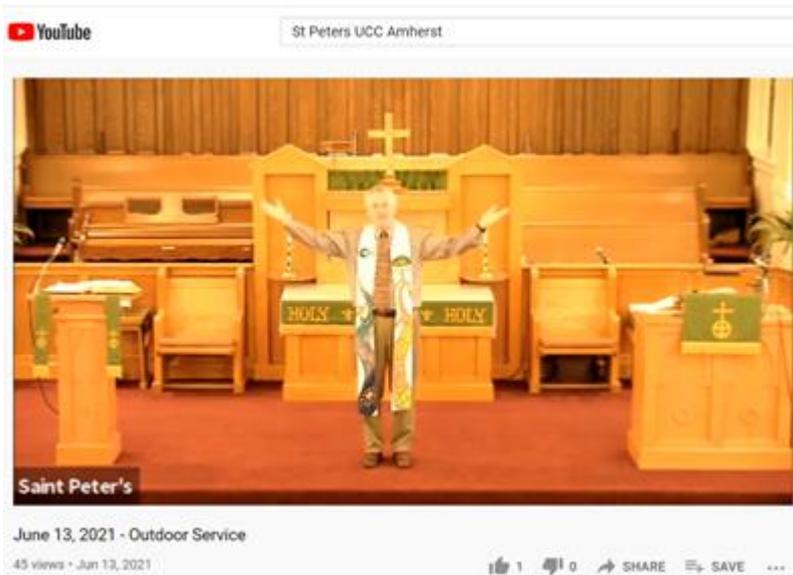
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## **Stewardship Cards and Participation Cards**

The yellow Participation cards and the orange Stewardship Pledge cards are now placed by the bulletins and also in the pews. Please take a moment to fill out and drop into the offering plate. *Participation cards should be filled out weekly*. Thank you.

## **Christmas Fund Offering**

There are red envelopes by the bulletins. Please pick one up if you'd like to donate to The Christmas Fund which provides Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and Christmas “Thank You” Gift Checks for retirees and those facing unforeseen financial hardship. Join with others in the United Church of Christ to help those who have who have given so much to our church.



## St. Peter's is on YouTube!

Please be sure to visit our YouTube channel ~ **St Peters UCC Amherst** ~ and be sure to click the SUBSCRIBE button. Then share our channel with your friends! The more subscribers we have, the greater our visibility on YouTube and the more we share the good news! 

## Sunday Morning Zoom Worship

For our Zoom worship you will join one another through a free video and audio conference application. Download the Zoom app to your smartphone, computer, or tablet and use the meeting login below:

**Join from Zoom app:**

**Meeting ID: 524 411 3917 | Passcode: 379205**

**Join Zoom Meeting from computer:**

<https://zoom.us/j/5244113917?pwd=aEJEcGhWUUh2dTV4eGJBSDZlUWgwzd09>

**OR Call in with phone: 1 929 205 6099**

**Meeting ID: 524 411 3917 | Passcode: 379205**



## This Week's Events

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- Mon., Dec. 13 Spiritual Life 1-4:00 PM  
*No Executive Council Meeting this month*
- Tue., Dec. 14 Preschool Board Meeting 6:30 PM  
Bible Study 7:00 PM Zoom
- Wed., Dec. 15 Coffee Chats with Pastor Chris 9-11:00 AM  
Arabica Coffee in Amherst  
Clergy Meeting 11:30 AM at Hungarian Reformed  
Breeze Chapel 7:00 PM
- Thurs., Dec. 16 Preschool Christmas Program 9 AM & 12:45 PM  
Trustees Meeting 6:00 PM 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Fireside  
Choir 6:30 PM & Handbell Choir 7:30 PM
- Fri., Dec. 17 Preschool Christmas Program 9:00 AM
- Sun., Dec. 19 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM  
Christmas Caroling 3-4:30 PM Meet at church

## How To Reach Us

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**Office Hours:** Mon.–Fri. 8:30-12:30 PM and 1-2:30 PM  
Afternoons available by appointment with Pastor Chris

**Address:** 582 Church St., Amherst, OH 44001

**Website:** [www.stpetersamherst.org](http://www.stpetersamherst.org)

**Phone:** 440-988-4965

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