



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



CHRISTMAS EVE  
*Candlelight*  
SERVICE

December 24, 2021

7:00 PM

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

## GATHERING MUSIC

*Presented by the Handbell Choir*

*Greeting*

*Announcements*

*Birthdays*

*Anniversaries*

PRELUDE: "Angels We Have Heard on High", arr. Wayne L. Wold  
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**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Don Krueck)*

**Leader:** Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice.  
The grace of God has come to save us.

**People:** **For our sakes, God sent the child of Bethlehem.  
For our salvation, Jesus came to live among us.**

**Leader:** Let all people sing for joy and give thanks.  
Tell the world what God has done in our midst.

**People:** **God has called and chosen us to hear good news.  
God's marvelous works are new every morning.**

**Leader:** Glory to God in the highest.  
Peace on earth to all who please God.

**People:** **We seek to honor God in this time of worship.  
We want to see for ourselves what God has done.**

ADVENT LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE *(Don Ramsey)*

**O Come, Advent:** *Sing verses 1-4 (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

O come you source of Love unto us all  
Enlighten us and help us hear your call  
To bear your Love out into the wild  
And celebrate God's wondrous holy child!  
Rejoice, rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to us  
And all things shall be well

Rejoice, rejoice!

Emmanuel has come to us  
And all things shall be well

**Candle Lighting Ritual** (Luke 2:1-20) *(Don Ramsey)*

When the world seems predictable  
Stuck in patterns of injustice and hurt  
The Holy astonishes us with good news  
And we find Awe  
*(Light Christ Candle)*

Where in the world do we know Awe these days?

EVENING PRAYER (*Don Krueck*)

Out of deep shadows, we are attracted to your brightness, Glorious God. From the trauma of life's battles, we are drawn to the peace you alone can provide. Away from our irreligion and worldly passions, you invite us to center our lives in you. Come, Holy One, to reign among us. Bring the joy we cannot know apart from you. Lead us in the ways of justice and righteousness that you intend. Establish among us your marvelous works that we might declare them to a waiting world. Amen.

HEBREW LESSON: PSALM 97 (*Don Krueck*)

The Lord is king! Let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!

Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

Fire goes before him, and consumes his adversaries on every side.

His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles.

The mountains melt like wax before the Lord, before the Lord of all the earth.

The heavens proclaim his righteousness; and all the peoples behold his glory.

All worshipers of images are put to shame, those who make their boast in worthless idols; all gods bow down before him.

Zion hears and is glad, and the towns of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments, O God.

For you, O Lord, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.

The Lord loves those who hate evil; he guards the lives of his faithful; he rescues them from the hand of the wicked.

Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart.

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name!

\*HYMN OF PRAISE: #125 *“Joy to the World!”*

*Pastoral Prayer     The Lord’s Prayer*

HYMN: #133 *“Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

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

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: LUKE 2:1-20 *(Don Krueck)*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with

the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**ANTHEM:** “Night of Silence”, arr. John Ferguson

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**SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION:** “WATCHTOWER”

## **A TIME OF GIVING**

### **OFFERING INVITATION**

**OFFERTORY:** “In dulci jubilo”, J. S. Bach

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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 OF BLESSING**

**HYMN:** #145 “O Come All Yea Faithful”

# A TIME TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION

SHARING THE HOLY MEAL

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

## A TIME OF GOING OUT

\*HYMN SENDING FORTH #147 *“Silent Night! Holy Night!”*  
*Sing Verses 1, 2, & 3*

**Accompanied by the Handbell Choir. *The Hymnal for Worship & Celebration.***

Bells play one time through before the congregation sings. Then the congregation sings vs. 1, 2, 3 accompanied by the bells. Then after singing vs. 3, the bells will play one last time alone.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: “Fantasia on Joy to the World”, Daniel Jacky

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*The Hymnal For Worship and Celebration* ©1986 Word Music. Used by/with permission CCLI No. 2411660 / 20182679. Used by/with permission One License # A-724594.



**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	Pastor Chris Buckingham-Taylor
Zoom Director	Mary K. Kirsch
Worship Producer	Brian Schieferstein
Organist/Choir Director	Daniel Jacky
Handbell Choir Director	Shelley Harmych

Scripture Reader  
Ushers

Don Krueck  
Judy McCurdy, Sue Cherry,  
Gary Thompson

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### **FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR**

The flowers on the altar are given by Patti and Jeff Stump in memory of loved ones. Thank you for beautifying the sanctuary for our Christmas Eve Service.

### **Wednesday Worship Service: Breeze Chapel**

The Breeze Chapel is every Wednesday, from 7-7:30 p.m. in person in the St. Peter's Chapel. This will be a shorter service, 30 minutes at length. Please enter by the door to the Chapel that faces the parking lot off Elyria Avenue. *We would love to have you join us!*

### **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.

## **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.

### **Update on Stewardship Cards and Participation**

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 place. *Participation cards should be filled out weekly.* Thank you!

**If anyone has church keys that you no longer need, please return them to the church office. *Thank you!***



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

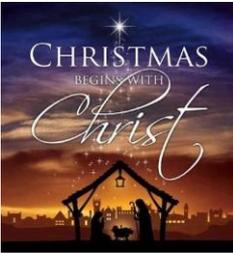
*Everyone is welcome!*

## 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)	Jiffy Cornmeal Mix
Canned Soup (Pop top lids)	Cranberry Sauce
Instant Mashed Potatoes	Stuffing Mix   Gravy
Mac & Cheese	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!



Thank you for worshipping with us. If you are visiting for the first time, *welcome!* If you are looking for a church to attend, we'd love to have you join us. Our Sunday morning service is at 10:00 AM in the sanctuary, or join us for our Breeze Chapel Service on Wednesdays in the Chapel at 7:00 PM.

## SO GLAD YOU CAME

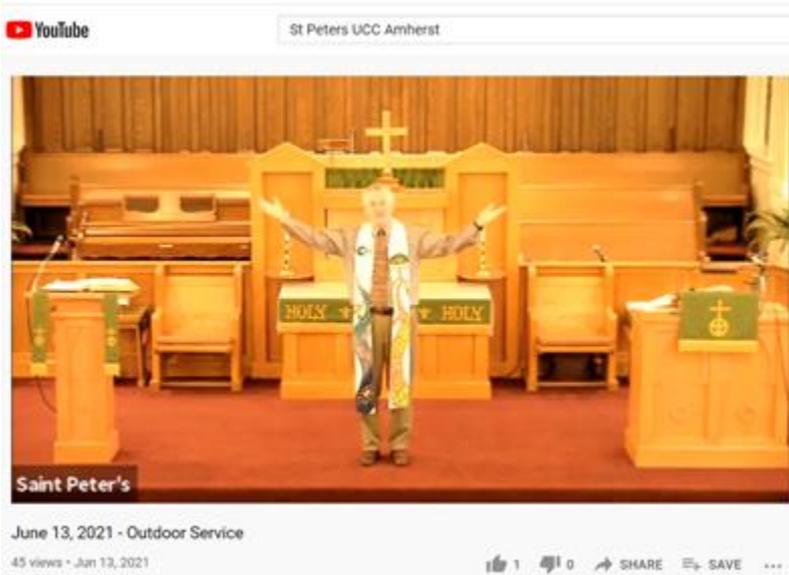
**Friends of St. Peters,**

**COVID protocol update:**

With the coronavirus still around, while in the building, masks are still encouraged, especially when you are in close proximity to another person who is not in your personal "circle."  
Hand sanitizer can be found in the pews for your convenience.

Let us continue to care for ourselves and each other by doing our part to keep Covid at bay.

Mary-K Kirsch  
Council President



## 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=aEJEcGhWUUh2dTV4eGJBSDZIUWgwdz09>

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

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



## This Week's Events

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Sat., Dec. 25	Christmas Day
Sun., Dec. 26	Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
Mon., Dec. 27	Spiritual Life 1-4:00 PM
Tues., Dec. 28	Bible Study 7:00 PM Zoom
Wed., Dec. 29	Coffee Chats with Pastor Chris 9-11:00 AM Arabica Coffee in Amherst Breeze Chapel 7:00 PM
Thurs., Dec. 30	Choir 6:30 PM & Handbell Choir 7:30 PM
Sun., Jan. 2	Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM

## 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

Chris Buckingham-Taylor, Pastor  
[pastor@stpetersamherst.org](mailto:pastor@stpetersamherst.org) 920-650-0761

Mary-K Kirsch, Church Council President  
[president@stpetersamherst.org](mailto:president@stpetersamherst.org) 216-559-6160

Kaye Oswald, Church Office, Administrative Secretary  
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*to make your donation electronically* via Breeze or Paypal. If you  
would like more detailed information, contact the church office.



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