

*Christmas Eve
Carols and Communion*

*a Unto Us
a Child is Born*



**8:00 PM
Dec 24, 2020**

WORDS OF WELCOME

**(Stand as you are able.)*

PRELUDE:

"In the Bleak Midwinter" Performed by Caroline Wolfe

Favorite Christmas Classics for Solo Singers © 1997 Alfred Publishing Co., INC. Used by/with permission CCLI No. 20182679. Words: Christina Georgina Rossetti "A Christmas Carol"

Music: Patrick M. Liebergen

In the bleak midwinter,
 Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
 Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
 Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter,
 Long ago.

Angels and archangels
 May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
 Thronged the [midnight] air;
But his mother only,
 In her maiden bliss,
Worshiped the Beloved
 With a kiss.

What can I give Him,
 Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
 I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise one
 I would do my part, —
Yet what can I give Him,
 [I will] give my heart.

*** HYMN: #127 NCH Lo, How A Rose E'r Blooming**

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*** HYMN #129 NCH Good Christian Friends, Rejoice**

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***ADVENT WREATH - RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

From Isaiah 9 and Psalm 96 (Leader Judy McCurdy)

Leader: Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything that is in it. Then the trees of the forest will sing for joy before the Lord; for he is coming.

All: Glory to God in the highest! Glory to God who is our Hope, our Peace, our Love, our Joy. Glory to God in the highest:

Leader: For a child has been born to us, a son has been given to us, and leadership is on his shoulders. And his name is called wondrous councilor, divine warrior, eternal father, prince of peace, making leadership abound and peace without end... over his kingdom to make it firm-founded and stay it up in justice and righteousness, forever more. (from Isaiah, Robert Alter translation)

All: Hope! Peace! Love! Joy! Christ Jesus! Born again in us. Thanks be to God!

"Born in the Night, Mary's Child" Performed by Caroline Wolfe

Born in the Night, Mary's Child © 1964 Hope Publishing Company. Used by/with permission One CCLI No. 20182679. Text and Tune: Geoffrey Ainger. Arranged: Caroline Wolfe

*HYMN #141 O Little Town of Bethlehem

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SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:1-7 (Reader Vicki Zeller)

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2: 8-14 (Reader Pam Miskov)

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2: 15-20 (In unison)

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.

HYMN #132 Angels We Have Heard On High

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HYMN # 133 “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

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CHRISTMAS MEDITATION: “YOU NEVER KNOW...”

HYMN # 145 O Come All Ye Faithful

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OFFERING INVITATION

Offertory: #143 “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

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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)*

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

A TIME TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION

SCRIPTURE READING Titus 2:11-14 (Leader Tom Hollstein)

One: Jesus said - All who are hungry, come and eat! All who are thirsty, come and drink! Christ Jesus invites you to this meal – a feast of love.

All: “This table is for all who wish to know the presence of Christ and share in the community of God’s people.”
(Book of Worship, UCC)

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God: Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

WE HEAR THE STORY...

"O Holy Night" Performed by Caroline Wolfe

Favorite Christmas Classics for Solo Singers ©1997 Alfred Publishing Company. Use by/with permission. 20182679. Words: Cappeau de Roquemaure . Translated: John S. Dwight
Arranged: Patrick Liebergen with additional edits by Caroline Wolfe.

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer of Christ (*debt, debtors*)

WE SHARE BREAD AND WINE

HYMN #157 Away In A Manger

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Passing the Christ Light

Bringing our Christ light into the world

* HYMN #147 "Silent Night, Holy Night"

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: #125 "Joy to the World!"

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Welcome Everyone! Feel at home, for Christ Jesus is our host.

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

Interim Senior Pastor
Zoom Director
Worship Producer
Camera Operator
Organist
Scripture Readers

Pastor Arlen G. Vernava
Mary K. Kirsch
Brian Schieferstein
Jennifer Wasilk
Daniel Jacky
Tom Hollstein, Judy McCurdy,
Pam Miskov, Vicki Zeller



*May God's hope,
peace, love and joy:
Christ Jesus our Lord,
fill your heart, and St
Peter's UCC, with deep
gladness.*

*A Blessed Christmas
and New Year to
you and yours.*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

ISAIAH 9: 2-7

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. Those dwelling in the land of death's shadow- light has beamed on them.

For a child has been born to us, a son has been given to us, and leadership is on his shoulders. And his name is called wondrous councilor, divine warrior, eternal father, prince of peace, making leadership abound and peace without end on the throne of David and over his kingdom to make it firm-founded and stay it up in justice and righteousness, forever more.

The zeal of the LORD of Armies shall do this."

Robert Alter translation



Luke 2:1-7

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.



Luke 2:8-14

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!'



From Psalm 96

Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar,
and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything that is in it.
Then the trees of the forest will sing for joy before the Lord; for
he is coming.



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:

Topic: Sunday Morning Worship

Meeting ID: 524 411 3917 Passcode: 379205

Facebook Live

Christmas Eve Service will also be streamed via Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/StPetersUCCAmherstOh>

How to Reach Us

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