



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



**December 27, 2020**

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

## A TIME OF GATHERING AND WELCOME

*Announcements*

*Birthdays*

*Anniversaries*

CALL TO WORSHIP: *From Psalm 118*

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!  
Worship has begun.

**PRELUDE:** "Once in Royal David's City", arr. Wayne L. World  
*God with Us: Preludes for the Incarnation* ©1999 Augsburg Fortress. Use by/with permission. One License #A-724594 CCLI No. 20182679 Music: Wayne L. World

**\*OPENING HYMN:** #151 "Good Christian Men Rejoice"  
*The Hymnal For Worship and Celebration* ©1986 Word Music. Use by/with permission. CCLI No. 2411660 / 20182679 Text: trans. John M. Neale from 14th C. Latin Music: Harm. John Stainer, German 14th C. Both in public domain

**\* RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF INVOCATION:** Psalm 148

**Leader:** Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights!

**All:** Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

**Leader:** Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining  
stars! Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters  
above the heavens!

**All:** Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he  
commanded and they were created.

**Leader:** He established them for ever and ever;  
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

**All:** Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and  
all deeps,

**Leader:** fire and hail, snow and frost,  
stormy wind fulfilling his command!

**All:** Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

**Leader:** Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

**All:** Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the earth!

**Leader:** Young men and women alike, old and young together!

**All:** Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name  
alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

**Leader:** He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his  
faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him.

**All:** Praise the LORD!

**Repeat after Leader:**

Hope! Peace! Love! Joy! We light this candle -Christ Jesus! –  
Born again in us. God with us. Thanks be to God!

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

“All the Ends of the Earth”

Performed by Caroline Wolfe and Luke Melnyk

*All the Ends of the Earth* ©1981 Hope Publishing Co. - Used by/with permission CCLI No.

20182679. Text and Tune: Bob Dufford, SJ Accompaniment: Bob Dufford, SJ and Chris Morash

## **A TIME OF PRAYERFUL SHARING**

*Silent Prayer Pastoral Prayer The Lord's Prayer (debts, debtors)*

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

## Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

## **The Return to Nazareth**

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

MESSAGE: DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?

REFLECTION HYMN: #137 "What Child Is This?"

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## **A TIME OF GIVING**

### **OFFERING INVITATION**

Offertory: "Cantabile" Robert J. Hughes

*Sacred Organ Journal vol. 51 no. 2* ©2016 Lorenz Publishing Co. Use by/with permission. One License #A-724594 CCLI No. 20182679 Music: Friedrich Wilhelm Zachau

\*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)*

*The Hymnal For Worship and Celebration.*©1986 Word Music. Use by/with permission. CCLI No. 2411660 / 20182679 Text: T. Ken; Music: Genevan Psalter, 1551. Both in public domain.

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

## **A TIME OF GOING OUT**

### **THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

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

\*PARTING HYMN #131 "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

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## BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE "Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ" Samuel Scheidt

*80 Chorale Preludes German Masters of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries* © 1937 C. F. Peters Corporation. Use by/with permission. CCLI No. 20182679. Music: Samuel Scheidt

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to you, dear friend.

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

### WORSHIP TEAM

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

Pastor Arlen G. Vernava  
Mary K. Kirsch  
Brian Schieferstein  
Jennifer Wasilk  
Daniel Jacky  
Karen Geduldig





## **Sunday School Noisy Collection**

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation donating to our noisy collection, we were able to buy 5 gift cards to donate to Mercy Resource for moms and children to help make a few Christmases brighter! Part was from Noisy Collection, and part was from some anonymous donations to Christian Education. Thank you all!

**\*\*\*Please Note:** In January, there are 5 Sundays. There was some confusion in November as to when Noisy Collection would be held. It is always the 4th Sunday of the month. So, in January, it WILL NOT be the last Sunday. It will be January 24, 2020. Thank you!

## **Preschool Dine and Donate - December**

Don't want to cook so you can finish your Christmas shopping? Why not order a yummy pizza?

During the month of December, Soul on Fire Brick Oven Pizza shop has graciously offered St. Peter's UCC Preschool the entire month to Dine and Donate.

If you or any family member, company catering, small group gathering order from Soul on Fire, please mention the preschool and they will receive 15% of all sales.

This offer includes the sale of gift cards.

Soul on Fire is located at 3819 Oberlin Ave in Lorain. Their phone number is (440) 240-8529.

## The Christmas Fund

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

Over the past nine months, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the emergency financial needs of many who serve the church have increased dramatically.

In such a time as this, the need for the Christmas Fund is more urgent than ever.

United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. Thank you!

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To donate, please go to: [www.christmasfund.org](http://www.christmasfund.org) and click on the "Donate" button at the bottom of the page.

## Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is currently in the need of the following items:

Canned Meat (Tuna, Chicken)	Kleenex	Paper Towels
Canned Soup (Pop top lids)	Spaghetti Sauce	Pasta
Spaghetti-Os (Pop top lids)	Peanut Butter	Jelly
Mac & Cheese (Microwavable)	Oatmeal Cereal	

Please leave your donations in the drop of boxes at the church.



## **St. Peter's is on YouTube!**

Scripture and Sermon from November are now on our public YouTube channel: **St Peters UCC Amherst**

Here is the link to the YouTube page for St. Peter's :

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdljVHzTXllu\]-sB4Ij\]kQg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdljVHzTXllu]-sB4Ij]kQg)

Feel free to share this new source of our Sunday message with your friends!



Hello all-

We have completed the second round of interviews with our candidates.

Please keep us in your prayers as we determine which, if any, of these candidates we will ask to be the next Pastor of St. Peter's.

Sincerely-

Your Search Committee

## **St. Peter's Prayer Room**

You are invited to join St. Peter's Prayer Room! We look forward to you joining us on Zoom where a name for prayer will be read and we will respond "Lord, hear our prayer". There will also be a time for you to submit yourself or someone you know for prayer. The meeting will be every Wednesday 1:00 -1:30 or before. Please join us!!! If you have any questions, please contact a member of Compassionate Care.

### **Saint Peter's Prayer Room**

1:00 - 1:30 or before

Every Wednesday

### **Join Zoom Meeting from computer:**

<https://zoom.us/j/94084872220?pwd=ckJ2bURSZHllVW4xdEFLNHVrNnI1Zz09>

### **Join from Zoom app:**

**Meeting ID: 940 8487 2220**

**Passcode: Prayer**

### **OR Call in with phone:**

**1 929 205 6099**

**Meeting ID: 940 8487 2220**

**Passcode: 022121**

## **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**

Praise  
the  
Lord

# THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Mon, Dec. 28	MovementWorks 1:30-2:15 PM MovementWorks 6:00-8:00 PM
Tue, Dec. 29	MovementWorks 4:30-7:25 PM Bible Study 7 PM (Zoom)
Wed, Dec. 30	Zoom Prayer Room 1 PM MovementWorks 4:30-8:15 PM
Sat, Jan. 2	MovementWorks 8:45 AM- 11:55 AM
Sun, Jan. 3	Sunday Worship Service 10 AM

## How to Reach Us

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