

Sunday December 10, 2017

GOD'S PEOPLE LEAVE TO SERVE

- *Closing Hymn "Let There Be Peace on Earth" Insert
- *Benediction
- *Response
- Organ Postlude:
- *Congregation: Please rise in body or in spirit.

CHECK IN ON YOUR NEIGHBOR REGULARLY

GIVE A NEIGHBOR A HUG
Advocate for justice by joining the Justice and Peace Action Network (JPANet)

TREAT YOUR NEIGHBOR WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT

ARRANGE A NEIGHBORHOOD KID'S DAY

Start a neighborhood clean-up program

HOST A BIBLE STUDY GROUP WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS

INVITE A NEIGHBOR TO DINNER

Offer to TAKE CARE of neighbor's pets when they need help

JOIN A DISASTER RECOVERY RELIEF EFFORT

WRITE A NOTE OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO A PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER

SMILE

HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR DISCOVER SOMETHING NEW

Send a letter or card to a Global Mission Co-Worker

Help a neighbor with transportation to the grocery store or doctor visits

Volunteer to serve a COMMUNITY MEAL at a local church or agency

TAKE A NEIGHBOR TO CHURCH

Connect with a partner church in South Africa

Participate in the GLOBAL MINISTRIES Child and Elder Sponsorship Program

Be there to provide a LISTENING EAR to your neighbor

LOVE OF NEIGHBOR

LOVE OF NEIGHBOR GREAT DEEDS a just world for all

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. - 1 John 4:11

ENCOURAGE YOUR NEIGHBOR

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

renew a friendship

UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 10, 2017

Sunday Morning Worship

10:00 AM



Welcome

in Christ's name to all who are visiting.

We are an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. Please let us know you were here by filling out one of the guest cards provided by the ushers. We are blessed by having you here. May you also be blessed because you worshipped God with us.

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December 10, 2017

10:00 AM

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Music for Quiet Reflection

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude:

Calling Each Other To Worship

One: The voice of God calls out across the ages

All: We hear and respond. We rise up to worship God from the valleys, the mountains, and the plains.

One: Like a shepherd God leads us and tenderly gathers us together. *Comfort, comfort O my people, says our God of love.*

All: The grass withers and the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever!

Opening Hymn: "O Come, O Come Emanuel" #275 maroon hymnal

Calling God into Our Hearts, Minds, and Spirits (In Unison as in one voice)

Oh God; You call to us from the wild places, You call to us from the inner chambers of our hearts. We come in answer to your call. We come to pray, to praise, and to learn of your love for all creation. Reveal your glory that we may see it together - Inform and inspire us to seek your kingdom on earth in our time. Amen.

GOD'S PEOPLE LISTEN

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: PEACE

THE SMITH FAMILY

Reader 1: Advent is the time of waiting and anticipation as we prepare to welcome Jesus anew. Like a family prepares a home for the arrival of a baby, we prepare our hearts for the arrival of God's own beloved Child.

Reader 2: John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness proclaiming, "One who is more powerful than I is coming after me; am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water, but that One will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

Three: John prepared the way in the wilderness. We prepare the way in our hearts.

"Reader 1: On this second Sunday of Advent, we re-ignite the candle named Paz, peace. Today we light the candle named Amor, love. May this light shine to remind us that God is the peace and love that can never be extinguished. Amen.

We Sing: "I Want to Walk As A Child of the Light" V.2

Anthem "The Candle of the Lord" by Straton, Furman & Courtney

***Fellowship Hymn:** "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" #81 green hymnal

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11 Mark 1:1-8

L: God is still speaking to us through the Living Word.

P: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Do Not Water Down"

Anthem "How Far Is It To Bethlehem?" Arranged by Knowles

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

Responding in Prayer

Sharing Celebrations & Concerns

Morning Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (using **debts** and **debtors**)

Response

Responding through Giving

Invitation to Giving and Receiving of Gifts

Offertory:

Hymn of Praise: "The Doxology"

***The Prayer of Dedication of Our Gifts, Time, Talents to Our God (Unison as in One Voice)** Love is an emotion that must be shared. When love is returned we experience belonging, in a state of happiness, joy. Jesus said we are to love our neighbor as God loves us. Have you loved your neighbor today? Have you loved God? May these offerings demonstrate our commitment to love others as God loves us. Holy God, the love we receive from you is beyond our comprehension. Accept these gifts of love returned to you from grateful hearts. As your love has no limits, may this offering be infinite in compassionate outreach to others Amen.