

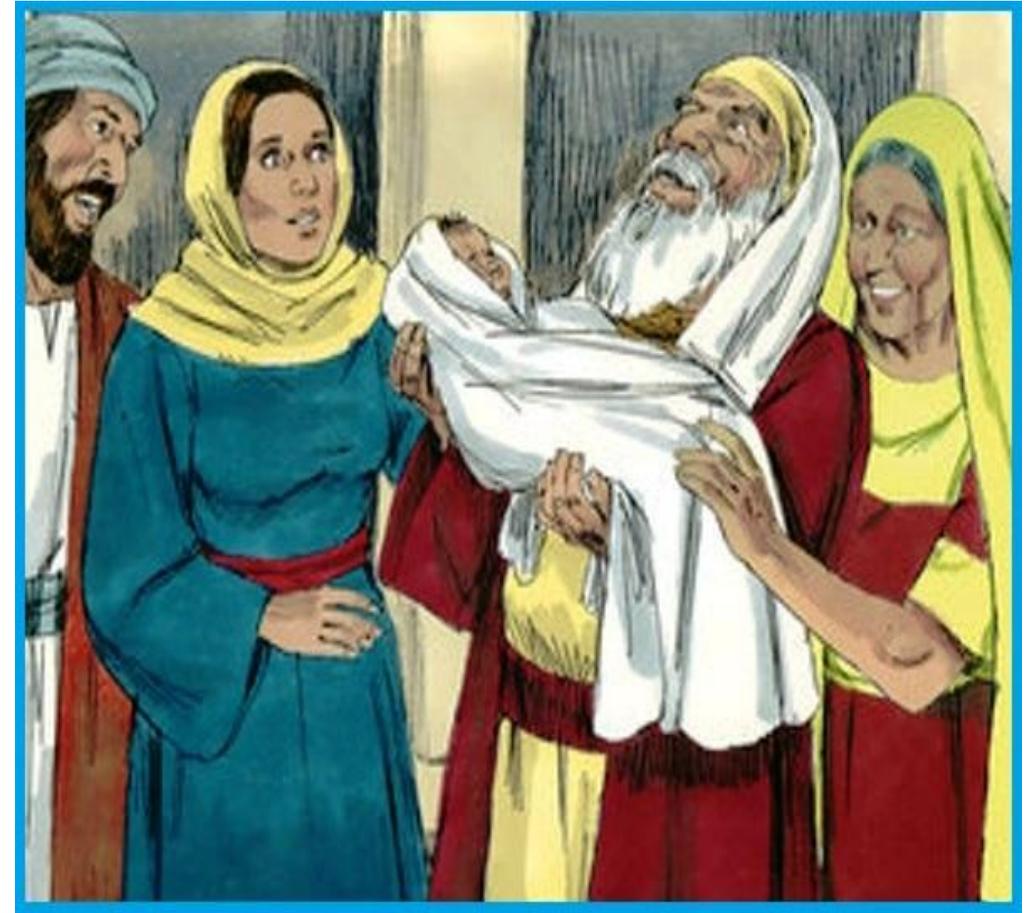
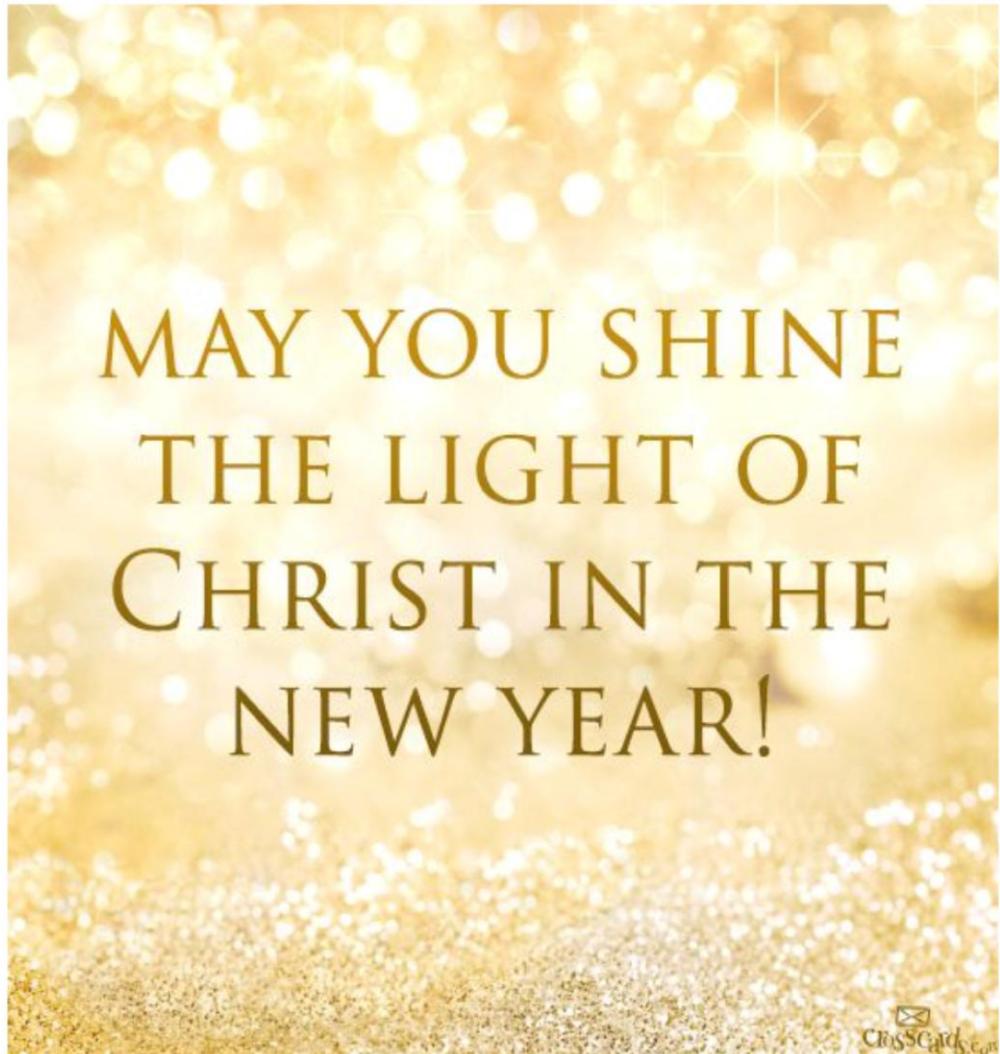
Sunday December 31, 2017

UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 31, 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.

**UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
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**December 31, 2017**

**10:00 AM**

**GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER**

**Music for Quiet Reflection**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude:**

**Calling Each Other To Worship**

Leader: When Jesus is born to Mary and Joseph,

**People: God is there.**

Leader: When Jesus is presented at the temple,

**People: God is there.**

Leader: When Simeon holds Jesus in his arms,

**People: God is there.**

Leader: When Anna recognizes Jesus in the temple,

**People: God is there.**

Leader: This very morning,

**People: God is here.**

Leader: In the future we cannot see,

**People: God is there. Let us worship God!**

**Opening Hymn:** "Joy to The World" #88 green hymnal

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

Holy God, we know that you have been present to us throughout all of history, even throughout our own histories. We know you will be with us in our future. Yet often we don't live as if we know that. You ask no more of us than what we can provide. As Jesus' parents were asked to give within their means at the temple, you ask us to give of our means. We often fail to do this. As Simeon recognized in Jesus the salvation of his people, we recognize in Jesus' Way our own wholeness and health, yet we often fail to follow. As Anna recognized in Jesus the redemption of her people, we recognize in Jesus God's saving grace for us, yet we often fail to rejoice and to share this good news. Forgive us, make us wise and joyful and strong so that we live in the understanding of your never ending love. The scriptures promise

that God will make all things new. As God makes the year new, may we also be made new by God's love and forgiveness in Jesus. Amen.

**GOD'S PEOPLE LISTEN**

**Special Music**

**A Time for the Child In Us All**

(Children leave for Sunday School through the Fellowship Room afterwards)

**\*Fellowship Hymn:** "What Child Is This" #295 maroon hymnal

**Scripture Reading: Psalm 148 Luke 2:22-40**

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** "I Hope My Child Is ....?"

**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"

**\*Prayer of Dedication of Our Gifts, Time, Talents and Financial Support**

**(Unison)** God of Vision, Take these offerings of money and turn them into vision; vision of all people fed, vision of all people safe, vision of all people housed, vision of all people educated. Amen.

**GOD'S PEOPLE LEAVE TO SERVE**

**\*Closing Hymn** "Go Tell it on the Mountain " Insert

**\*Benediction**

**\*Response**

**Organ Postlude:**

**\*Congregation:** Please rise in body or in spirit.