

Sunday December 17, 2017

UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 17, 2017

Sunday Morning Worship

10:00 AM

CHECK IN ON YOUR NEIGHBOR REGULARLY
Start a neighborhood clean-up program

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

TREAT YOUR NEIGHBOR WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT
INVITE A NEIGHBOR TO DINNER
JOIN A DISASTER RECOVERY RELIEF EFFORT

ARRANGE A NEIGHBORHOOD KID'S DAY
Offer to TAKE CARE of neighbor's pets when they need help

HOST A BIBLE STUDY GROUP WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS

WRITE A NOTE OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO A PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER
SMILE

HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR DISCOVER SOMETHING NEW
Help a neighbor with transportation to the grocery store or doctor visits
Participate in the GLOBAL MINISTRIES Child and Elder Sponsorship Program

Send a letter or card to a Global Mission Co-Worker
Volunteer to serve a COMMUNITY MEAL at a local church or agency
Be there to provide a LISTENING EAR to your neighbor

TAKE A NEIGHBOR TO CHURCH
ENCOURAGE YOUR NEIGHBOR
renew a friendship

Connect with a partner church in South Africa

LOVE OF NEIGHBOR
a just world for all

LOVE OF NEIGHBOR
GREAT EYES

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

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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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10:00 AM

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Music for Quiet Reflection

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude:

Calling Each Other To Worship

One: We gather to worship with expectations: God revealed in new and astonishing ways.

All: God comes to us in real time. God comes to us in dreams.

One: Sometimes God's presence is hard to take in – difficult to believe.

All: Oh God, we long to believe. Help our unbelief!

One: God is present here. God is working in our midst.

All: Then our mouths are filled with laughter, our tongues shout out with joy!

Opening Hymn: "Hark, The Herald Angels Sing" #286 maroon hymnal

Calling God into Our Hearts, Minds, and Spirits (Unison)

Holy God of Advent, the world in which we live is as terrifying as it is wonderful. We need Jesus as much today as in times of old. Many sow in tears, and go out weeping. Replenish our lands, fill our hearts with gladness, restore our faith in you and each other, wipe away the tears of despair. As we worship today, we tilt an ear to listen close. Let the voice of your angel fill our minds with new understandings. We are waiting for you. Speak to us today. Amen.

GOD'S PEOPLE LISTEN

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle: Joy: Dallas and Melissa Embling

Reader 1: The words of the angel were frightening to Mary.

Reader 2: She didn't know what to imagine. I can't blame her, can you?

Reader 1: When she realized the truth of Gabriel's words Mary sang, Mary danced, Mary praised God for the Holy Spirit blooming within her.

Reader Two: We rekindle the candles of *Hope* and peace. Today we also light the candle of *Joy*. May this light brighten the Advent season reminding us that God is Hope, God is Peace and God is Joy.

We Sing: "I Want to Walk As A Child of the Light" V.3

Anthem "Baby Boy" by Besig & Price

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

P: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Do Not Water Down"

Anthem "Still is the Night" Jim Terry & Maryjane Starr (Duet)

"Sing a Song of Christmas" A Christmas Musical:
Starring: The Children and Youth

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 (Unison)**

Holy God, our answer is "Yes!" Yes, we will serve only you. Yes, we will bring our whole selves to the effort. Yes, we will sing your praises to the universe. Accept these offerings as tangible proof of our collective "yes." May they be magnified for your use in our time. Amen.

GOD'S PEOPLE LEAVE TO SERVE

***Closing Hymn** "O Little Town of Bethlehem " #292 maroon hymnal

***Benediction**

***Response**

Organ Postlude:

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