

Sunday December 24, 2017

**GOD'S PEOPLE LEAVE TO SERVE**

\*Closing Hymn "Joy to the World " #88 green hymnal

\*Benediction

\*Response "Peace, Peace" by Powell & Powell

Organ Postlude:

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



**UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

December 24, 2017

Sunday Morning Worship

10:00 AM



*And blessed is the fruit  
of your womb*

**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 24, 2017**

**10:00 AM**

**GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER**

**Music for Quiet Reflection**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude:**

**Calling Each Other To Worship**

One: Love. Everything ends with Love.

**All: From the most challenging struggle to the most wondrous delight,  
God's love flows through everything.**

One : Give love with open hands and you will find joy shining in the surprises  
that undo us and transform us.

Love. Everything leans toward Love.

**All: From the greatest ruler to the tiniest baby, God's love changes  
everything.**

**Opening Hymn:** " Angels From the Realm of Glory" #92 green hymnal

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

Holy God, Generous Lover of all, we come to worship longing to abide in love, as  
lavish and wide as the stretching ocean and still as intimate as a tear. We yearn to  
feel your presence flowing among us. Emmanuel, the promised one, we know you  
are as near to us as our breathing. As we sing and pray, speak and listen, let the  
light of love shine in our midst, for it is through this world-changing love that we  
witness you moving in and among us. God-with-us, be with us, in this hour and  
every hour. Amen.

**GOD'S PEOPLE LISTEN**

**Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle: Love: The Nesbitt Family**

**Reader 1:** Prepare the way for love and you will find love shining in each and every  
breath that whispers: Emmanuel. Shine a candle in the darkness, breathe new love  
into our lives. Wind your blessed peace around us till the day when Christ arrives.

**Reader Two:** Shine a candle in the darkness. Wind your blessed peace around us.

Shine a candle in the darkness, breathe new love into our lives. Wind your blessed  
peace around us till the day when Christ arrives.

*The Candles of Hope, Peace and Joy are re-lighted and the Candle of Love is lit.*

**We Sing:** "I Want to Walk As A Child of the Light" V.1 Insert

**Anthem** "Light the Advent Candle" by Clark & Clark

**\*Fellowship Hymn:** "Away in a Manger" #93 green hymnal

**Scripture Reading:** Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 Luke 1:26-38

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** "Infinite Possibilities"

**Anthem** "Wait On The Lord" by Stratton & Courtney

**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 Gifts, Talents and Funds (In Unison)**

Love Divine, all loves excelling, for every gift we have received and every gift we  
are blessed in giving, we thank you. As we await the celebration of incarnation –  
your love made flesh and blood and dwelling among us – we honor the many  
servant leaders who have made your love manifest in our midst. We dedicate our  
offerings and ourselves as expressions of your love. May we continue to hear the  
message of the angels, reminding us to not be afraid as we live out our call to bring  
your love to birth in our midst. In the name of the love that comes down at  
Christmas, we pray. Amen.

(Continued on back of Bulletin)