The Candle of Joy

THIRD SUNDAY OF

Advent

DECEMBER 12, 2021
COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ)

December 12, 2021

10:30 AM

The Reverend Steven Price
Pastor on Sabbatical

The Reverend Dr. Margo Markesteijn
Sabbatical Interim Minister

Mr. Ron Strong
Choir Director

Mr. Frankie Bones
Church Musician

Mr. Ryan Hubbell
Technical Support

Third Sunday of Advent ~ Joy

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life’s journey,
you are welcome here!

Words of Welcome
As we begin our service, just some notes of preparation:

1. For Communion: For those who might have forgotten, elements are available on the tables in the atrium.

2. Prayer requests – Please text your prayer requests to Beth Fulkerson at 585.755.6310 by the time we’re listening to Special Music/Anthem. State your name should your number not be in her contact list and your requests will be read during community prayer. ALSO, for those without cell phones, slips of paper/pencils can be found on pews by center aisle. Thank you.

3. Announcements will take place right before the benediction. Should you have an Announcement to share, text it to Beth Fulkerson at the above number, identifying it as an Announcement vs. a prayer request. Beth will read those as well as those printed in the bulletin.

4. In consideration of all, please wear a mask at all times while in the building.

GATHERING
Please take this time to center yourself as we listen to this morning’s prelude.

Prelude “And the Glory of the Lord” Handel; arr. McChesney
Bell Choir – Ron Herman, director

Land Acknowledgment: Our physical space stands on unceded land originally stewarded by the Seneca people. Today let us acknowledge and honor the Seneca nation by walking paths that lead to equality for all and care for creation.

Call to Worship (Responsive)

One: Shhh...listen! It’s God calling!

Many: We hear! Oh joyful sound. The angels are singing their praises!

One: God reaches out to us, for us!

Many: We open our ears to the joyful sound of God’s voice echoing through the spheres.

We open our eyes to the brilliant joy of God’s presence shining in each new day.

ALL: We belong fully to you, Creator! Amen.
Advent Song

“When God Is A Child”
We will sing verse 3 only.

*Please remain seated.*

Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Savior is born.
When God is a child there’s joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.

Lighting of the Candle of Joy

“*This Year Will Be Different*” by Ann Weems

Who among us does not have dreams that this year will be different?
Who among us does not intend to go peacefully, leisurely, carefully toward Bethlehem,
for who among us likes to cope with the commercialism of Christmas,
which lures us to tinsel not only the tree but also our hearts?
Who among us intends to get caught up in tearing around and wearing down?
Who among us does not long for:
  - gifts that give love?
  - shopping in serenity?
  - cards and presents sent off early?
  - long evenings by the fireside with those we love?
  - (the trimming devoid of any arguing about who’s going to hang what where,
    the aroma of cinnamon and nutmeg mingling with
    the pine scent of the tree,
    and carols gently playing over our idyllic scene)
  - and the children! the children cheerfully talking about
giving instead of getting?
Who among us does not yearn for
  - time for our hearts to ponder the Word of God?
  - moments of kneeling and bursts of song?
  - the peace of quiet calm for our spirit’s journey?

This year we intend to follow the Star
instead of the crowd,
But, of course, we always do
intend the best.
(And sometimes best intentions tend to get the best of us!)
This year, when we find ourselves off the path again
(and we invariably will!),
let’s not add yet another stress to our Advent days,
that of “trying to do Christmas correctly!”
Instead, let’s approach the birth of our Lord
With JOYFUL abandon!

The Candles of Hope and Peace provide their guiding light.
Today, we add the light of the Candle of Joy.
May your hearts embrace this gift.
Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn

Awake! Awake and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning.
sing out your joy, for soon he is born,
behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heavenly door
and lives now inside us forever.

In deepest night his coming shall be,
when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free,
so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the silent join in song,
the tired shall leap in wonder,
the weak be raised above the strong,
and weapons be broken asunder.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light,
be strong and loving and fearless;
Love be our song and love our prayer,
and love, our endless story,
may God fill every day we share,
and bring us at last into glory.

Sharing With Children

Anthem

“Some Children See Him” Hutson/Burt; arr. Martin

Children are invited to Faith Formation activities following the choir’s anthem.

ENGAGING

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 12:2-6 Pew Bible, OT pages 641-642

Lector: Connie Bottoni

Sermon The Reverend Dr. Margo Markestijn

Music for Reflection Frankie Bones
RESPONDING
Offertory Sentence and Blessing
While no plates are passed during the offering, your gifts are still needed and appreciated for the continuation of our ministries. You are welcome to use the Tithe.ly app on our webpage, send a gift via U.S. mail, or through your bank.

* An offering plate is available in the narthex for those who would like to give after worship.

† Offertory Hymn

Doxology
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, (God) all creatures here below;
Praise him (God) above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE LORD’S SUPPER
This table is open to all. Together we are the Body of Christ.
We will partake of the Bread and the Cup in unison following the Elder’s prayer.

Let us sing together the prayer Jesus taught his disciples . . .

The Lord’s Prayer
Cantor: Jen Michels
(uns responsively; please listen then repeat after the Cantor)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day the food we need and forgive our sin as we forgive those who sin against us all.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever,
forever and ever.
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Prayers for Our Community and the World
Hear now our community prayers. After request... God in your goodness, grace or mercy... People: Hear our Prayer.

Silent Prayers

GOING FORTH
† Closing Hymn

Come, O Long-expected Jesus
Chalice Hymnal, No. 125
Come, O long-expected Jesus, born to set your people free;
from our fears and sins release us, Christ, in whom our rest shall be.
You, our strength and consolation, come salvation to impart;
Dear desire of many a nation, joy of many a longing heart.
(continued)
Born your people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, born your gracious realm to bring. By your own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by your all-sufficient merit, raise us to your glorious throne.

Preparing to Go Out and Participate in the Life of the Church
Beth Fulkerson will share an abbreviated version of each announcement in the bulletin. If you have something to announce that is NOT in the bulletin, please text it to Beth Fulkerson at 585.755.6310 and begin your message with the word “Announcement.” This is one way of assuring that those on ZOOM will be able to hear all the announcements. Thank you for your cooperation.

Benediction

Postlude
Frankie Bones

† All who are able, please stand.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY
Elders .......... Kathy Schaefer & Jeannie Strong Deacons ....................................... Jess Ayers, Laura Schunk
ZOOM Host..............................................Barbara Coe Greeters.............................................. All God’s People!

OUR CHURCH AT WORK

READY TO SERVE:

Ron Herman, Chairperson of the General Board
Ron can be reached at 313-2459 or duncan1160@yahoo.com

Bill Kelly, Co-Chairperson of the Elders
Bill can be reached at 546-5929 or bkelly.ccc@inity.com

Connie Bottoni, Co-Chairperson of the Elders
Connie can be reached at 747-4479 or cmbottoni@gmail.com

Sandy Hubbell, Office Administrator
Sandy can be reached at turkielegs@aol.com or if you need immediate assistance, call her at 617-4009 and leave a message.

COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
2647 Chili Avenue † Rochester, NY 14624 † (585) 247-2494
e-mail address: cccopentoall@aol.com  web page: www.cccopentoall.org

The Reverend Dr. Margo Markesteijn – Sabbatical Interim Minister
General Board Meeting – TODAY – Sunday, December 12 – 11:45 AM
All church officers are voting members of the General Board. You are encouraged to attend the meeting in the Fellowship Hall (masks required) and via ZOOM. This is an opportunity to make your voice heard. The Board Meetings are open and all are welcome to attend.

HOPES and PRAYERS – Tuesdays at 10:00 AM.
Join Diane Ellis via ZOOM for a time of sharing those things heavy on your heart as well as lifting up the ways God has already blessed your life or answered your prayers. A ZOOM invitation will be sent Monday evening.

Abundant Blessings – Thursday, December 16th – Volunteers Needed!
2:30 – 5:30 PM    Parking Lot Duty (3 volunteers needed)
3:30 – 5:30 PM    Food Distribution (Many volunteers needed – some lifting required)
5:00 – 6:00 PM    Takedown & Cleanup (5 volunteers needed – lifting required!)

Please TEXT or message Ron Herman at 585.313.2459 OR sign up on the sheets in Fellowship Hall if you can lend a helping hand (or two!). ALSO, mark on your calendars the next date for Abundant Blessings: Thursday, January 27.

Update on SWEM Distribution of Boxes ... The date is Sunday, December 19 (NOT Saturday the 18th) from 12-4 PM from St. Monica’s Church. They’re hoping for 8-9 volunteers. See Ron Herman if interested.

Sunday, December 19th
Next Sunday, December 19, is our annual Children’s Christmas Pageant. As usual, this will take place as part of the regular church service. To allow the children to participate without masks, we will exit the church at the end of the service to watch the pageant - so bring your coats into the sanctuary for worship! The pageant will take place on the entry sidewalk. There will be music by the senior choir and children's choir as part of the event. In case of bad weather, the pageant will be moved indoors.

Attention Church Officers – The 2021 written reports for the Annual Meeting must be submitted to the church office no later than Sunday, December 19 to be included in the Annual Meeting Booklet. Reports should be emailed to Sandy at Turkielegs@aol.com or hard copies may be dropped off in the office in the wooden mail slot marked “Annual Reports.” If you would like a copy of last year’s report dealing with your ministry, let Sandy know. Thanks!

Note: The Annual Congregational Meeting is Sunday, January 9, 2022.
The Christmas Offering supports Disciple regional ministries. In 32 regions across the United States and Canada, ministers are nurtured and congregations are provided opportunities for work and worship. Often recognized for the ministries of camps and conferences, regions also play a critical role in the preparation and authorization of ministerial ordination. Both are key to church leadership and development. Regions partner with congregations to support the work required to call a new minister.

We believe the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) needs a strong witness and presence in a place like the Northeast. From big, bustling New York City to rural areas in upstate New York, from New Jersey to Massachusetts, Connecticut and Maine, we are the church of Jesus Christ.

The Gospel calls us to believe in a deeper Hope that moves beyond the “wrappings” of Christmas around us. We proclaim a Hope that brings Good News, Joy, and Compassion for ALL of God’s people.

Please join with others in the Northeastern Region as we support the special Christmas offering on December 19th. A large percentage of the offering will come back to our region for our new beginning. Donations may be made by writing a check to the church clearly marked “Christmas Offering” and dropping it in the offering plate or mailing it to the church.

Don’t Forget Our Annual Mitten Tree
Each year CCC gathers so many mittens, hats, gloves, and scarves that they make the branches of our little tree bend from all the warm and snuggly donations that wrap all the branches. Please consider giving one or more items to adorn our special tree.

MOJO is great at selecting a well-deserved agency to give all our donations to help those who need a little warmth this winter.

As the MOJO Christmas activity, we’re collecting items from a wish list of the residents at the Coldwater Women and Children’s Center in Chili. Please go to the link below for information on the organization.

Take however many gifts you want. Put one of the stapled cards in the bag by the tree in the Atrium so we can keep the list edited. Except for the higher priced ones, your gift must be new because of Covid. Bring it and the card you took back in a bag unwrapped by 12/12 or 12/19.

Zoomers got the edited list to ponder. Please email Kathy Schaefer your choice at shaykathryn@gmail.com so she can update the list.

https://opendoormission.com/coldwater-women-and-childrens-home
Please Consider
Wishing Our Pastor

A Merry Christmas!

Dear Church Family,

It’s tradition at CCC to offer church members and friends an opportunity to contribute towards a monetary gift at Christmas for the pastor. Since Pastor Steven is away, we will present the gift to him later than normal - on Epiphany Sunday - the same day the Wise Men brought their gifts to the Baby Jesus. On that day we will give Pastor Steven a gift from the church in thanks for the many ways he has served our congregation so faithfully, especially during the challenging years of the Covid pandemic.

If you would like to contribute to this gift, all you need do is put your donation in the offering plate clearly marked “Pastor’s Christmas Gift” – or you can give or mail it directly to the Financial Secretary, Pat Cannon.

The Ministry of Congregational Care

DON’T MISS IT! – “Welcome Back Steven” and “Thank You, Margo” BONFIRE
Tuesday, December 21st – Snow Date – Thursday, December 23rd - 5:30 PM

We’ll stay nice and warm and toasty by the rip-roaring fire – small heaters available under the large canopy.

- Grilled Hot Dogs A chance to greet Pastor Steven & welcome him back before Christmas Eve.
- Light Sides A chance to express our sincere thanks to Margo for filling in so wonderfully.
- Wraps A chance to be outside and not have to wear masks (unless you want to keep warm!).

More details to come. Make sure you mark your calendar!
“RECORDING OUR STORIES” PROJECT

WHAT: Recording stories from each church person (kids too!)

ABOUT: Who you are and someone who has been an important influence in your life (a “saint” for you!)

HOW: By ZOOM – done in groups of 2 (interviewing each other)

WHEN: Starting in November 2021 and occurring over the next several months

WHERE: At your home or at church (your preference)

COORDINATORS: Jeannie Strong and Carol Giblin; Ryan Hubbell as ZOOM master

This project is part of the Sabbatical funding that Steven Price received through the Lily Foundation grant. It will also be a part of the church’s 125th Anniversary which is coming up next year! Jeannie and Carol will be contacting everyone at some point to schedule their recording so be thinking ahead to who you would like to remember on your recording and also who you would like to have as your recording partner! All the information you need will be provided before you record; Jeannie and Carol will help you with any questions you may have!

Hungry for Some Inspiration?
Sign up now for the CCC Daily Dish - a heaping helping of inspiration! MOJO, in cooperation with our diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts, is launching a new daily engagement platform. You can opt in by texting CCCDailyDish to 43506. Each day you'll receive a short message to ponder, reflect on, and/or share with others. Questions? Ask Shawna (shawnalusk@gmail.com or 576-5159).

Best Wishes to Those Celebrating Birthdays This Week . . .

December 12    Jen Flagg
December 17    Josiah Peck
December 18    Ken Poulton, Gracie Homer

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Today, December 12th 11:45 AM General Board Meeting – FH
Tuesday, December 14th 10:00 AM Hopes and Prayers (ZOOM)
12:00 PM Deadline for bulletin announcements
Wednesday, December 15th 9:00 AM The Quilting Gals – FH until 4p
7:00 PM Sr. Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, December 16th 2:15 PM Abundant Blessings Setup
3:30 PM Abundant Blessings Food Distribution
Saturday, December 18th 10:00 AM Girl Scouts – FH (til 11:30a)
Sunday, December 19th 10:00 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:30 AM Hybrid Worship – Please wear a mask.
10:45 (ish) Children leave for Faith Formation Activities
11:30 AM Service continues w/ Children’s Pageant
12:00 PM Annual Reports Due
12:00 PM SWEM Food Basket distribution from St. Monica’s Church