



CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Christmas Eve

2647 CHILI AVENUE

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14624

585.247.2494

COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ)

December 24, 2021

7:00 PM

The Reverend Steven Price

Pastor home from Sabbatical

The Reverend Dr. Margo Markestijn

Sabbatical Interim Minister

Mr. Ron Strong

Choir Director

Mr. Ron Herman

Bell Choir Director

Mr. Frankie Bones

Church Musician

Mr. Ryan Hubbell

Technical Support

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

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

GATHERING

In Preparation for Tonight's Service ...

1. **Communion** will be celebrated this evening: For those who might have forgotten, the elements are available on the tables in the atrium.
2. In consideration of all, please **wear a mask at all times** while in the building.

Prelude

"What Child is This"

arr. Lloyd Larson

Youth Bell Choir

Janet Herman, piano

Christmas Eve Selections on the Piano

Frankie Bones

"Night of Silence"

Duet – George Barberi and Ron Herman

John Ferguson

WELCOME!

We are blessed to be able to gather this Christmas Eve to welcome the Christ Child into our lives once again. Meister Eckhart, the 13th Century Christian mystic once said,

"We are all meant to be mothers of God, for God is always needing to be born."

We are graced by the power of science and technology, both the ability to be in person and the capacity to be with us virtually on this sacred night. God is in everything!

Let us worship together.

Call to Worship for Christmas Eve (Responsive)

~ excerpted from Isaiah 9:2,6 and Psalm 96:1, 6

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light!

Many: For a child has been born - for us! The gift of a son - for us!

One: His names will be Amazing Counselor, Strong God, and Prince of Peace.

Many: And we will sing a new song, all the earth.

ALL: Honor and majesty, strength and beauty are in God's sanctuary. Amen.

Gathering Carol

O Holy Night

O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining.
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
'Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees; O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born.
O night divine, O holy night, O night divine!

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: We have waited a very long time for this blessing to be visible among us.

Many: It is the Light of Christ, that guides our life's journey and shows us the Way.

One: The light comes into this world as a child, sent by God.

Many: We must nurture this light with Hope in our hearts.

One: (Lighting the Candle of Hope) Our faith carries Hope.

Many: We must nurture this light with Peace in our hearts.

One: (Lighting the Candle of Peace) Our faith longs for Peace.

Many: We must nurture this light with Joy in our hearts.

One: (Lighting the Candle of Joy) Our faith is filled with Joy.

Many: We must nurture this light with God's Love in our hearts.

One: (Lighting the Candle of Love) Our faith is Love.

And on this night we light the Christ Candle, pure and strong,
As Jesus is the center of our lives. (Lighting the Christ Candle)

The Christ Candle is lit and silence is kept.

Opening Song

What Child is This

Verses 1 and 3

What child is this, who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

(continued)

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, rich and poor, to own him,
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

New Testament Reading

John 1:1-5

Lector: John Giffen

Anthem

“*Three Festive Carols for Christmas*”

arr. Hayes and Gaspard

A Christmas Meditation

The Reverend Dr. Margo Markesteijn

Moment of Silence

Special Music

“*Breath of Heaven*” (*Mary’s Song*)

Grant / Eaton

Jennifer Kann, soloist



THE LORD’S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

Communion Prayer

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and Cup

(If you are able, we will eat and drink the cup together.)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

THE LORD’S PRAYER (Using whatever words you are comfortable with)

Our Father (or Creator) which 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 our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil

for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Carols

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

The First Noel

The first Noel, the angel did say,
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

Angels We Have Heard On High

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King!
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Reading

"It is Not Over" by Ann Weems

Reader: Sophie Wanck-Kann

It is not over, this birthing.
There are always newer skies into which God can throw stars.
When we begin to think
that we can predict the Advent of God,
that we can box the Christ in a stable in Bethlehem,
that's just the time
that God will be born
in a place we can't imagine and won't believe.
Those who wait for God
watch with their hearts and not their eyes,
listening
always listening
for angel words.

SHARING OF THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Introduction to “*Silent Night*”

Frankie Bones

Lighting individual Candles:

While we softly hum Silent Night along with the instrumental music, the ministers, deacons and elders will light candles at the end of each pew beginning in the front of the church.

To receive the light, extend your unlit candle to the stationary-lit candle.

Please pass along the light to your neighbor, holding the lit candle upright and tilting the unlit candle.

When all candles have been lit, we will sing the Carol of Peace.

Carol of Peace

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night, all is calm all is bright,
round yon virgin mother and child, holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Following the benediction, quietly extinguish your candle and silently leave the sanctuary.

Please return your candle to the place you received it.

Benediction



Assisting In Worship This Evening

Elders Jeannie Strong and Kathy Schaefer

Deacons..... Karen Destino and Susan Dobbins

Community Christian Church is an open, affirming and welcoming congregation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ.

We invite you to worship with us Sundays at 10:30 am.

Open communion is celebrated weekly.

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 Steven Price, Pastor (585) 733-7121