

the inn

HOUSING THE HOLY



Sunday, December 26, 2021

10:30am

Sunday After Christmas

Dwelling

College/Young Adult Sunday

The pandemic has laid bare, and widened, economic disparity locally and globally. As we enter the Advent season, how can our churches become houses where the Holy will be born anew—offering respite, sustenance and care, opening the doors ever wider to those seeking shelter from the onslaught of life? No one church can do it all, but each can do something. As we study the biblical prophets that call us to care for our neighbors and “make room in the inn,” the lonely and frightened spaces within us are filled with the light of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

GUESTS, Welcome to worship. To learn more about us, please visit our website at www.unionucc.org or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/unionneffs. If you would like us to follow up with you contact Pastor Kris at 610-767-6961, pastorkris@unionucc.org

One of our core values as a church is extravagant welcome and hospitality. We believe in God’s inclusive love. No matter who you are or where you on life’s journey, you are welcome here.

Lay Reader: Young Adult

Ushers: 8am: Cliff James, Carol James, Patricia Warmkessel

10:30am : Carrington Smith, Jim Lane, Jason Klinger, Susan Smith, Al Stubbmann, Teri Fekula, Karen Misera

Sound: Pat Sorg

***Please stand in body or spirit**

PRELUDE

Holiday Medley Arr. Mark Hayes
Blake Hoppes

Welcome and Announcements

We Open the Door

Hope Waits for Us at Advent Amanda Udis-Kessler

Amanda Lane: Developed in the 14th century, the word “dwell” became known as a “lingering” or “abiding.” It had connections to “in-habit”—another word developed at that time. After an Advent/Christmas season of focusing on housing the holy, how will we linger and abide in this habit of hospitality? What habits did you invite into your heart in this season that you desire to take with you into the new year? How might we sustain the dwelling places that feed, house, clothe those who need it most?

Choir/Solo:

**Love comes to us at Christmas
Love comes to heal our souls.
Love brings an invitation
that our hearts might be made whole.
As we gather at the stable
in the darkness, glad and grateful
for the sacred in our midst,
for wonder and delight,
Christ is born in us this night.**

Amanda Lane: Today we light the Christ Candle once again that illumines the Door of Welcome.

May this light shine in our hearts, in our lives,
and in our church.
May Christ’s Light awaken us to possibilities and
lead us to greater hospitality.
There *IS* room in this Inn, a House for the Holy.

ALL:
Love comes to us at Christmas
Love comes to heal our souls.
Love brings an invitation
that our hearts might be made whole.
As we gather at the stable
in the darkness, glad and grateful
for the sacred in our midst,
for wonder and delight,
Christ is born in us this night.

The Peace

Amanda Lane: The [HOPE] of Christ be with you!
ALL: And also with you!

Amanda Lane: As we rise and stand in body or spirit for the first song, I invite you to pass a “wave” of peace to the people around you (and the people worshipping at home)!


***Carol #154 Go Tell It On The Mountain Black Hymnal (New Century Hymnal)**

10:30 Worship Children’s Time

Church Family Worship. Children’s Church will resume on January 9, 2022


Song: This, This is Where Children Belong
Congregation/ All:

F C/E Dm B♭

Voice 

This, this is where child-ren be - long,

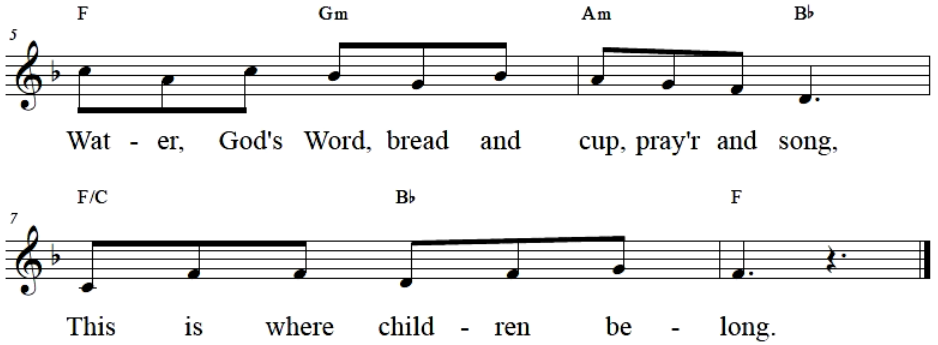
F/A Gm Am/C C



Wel-comed as part of the wor - ship - ping throng.

F Gm Am B♭

5



5 F Gm Am Bb
 Wat - er, God's Word, bread and cup, pray'r and song,
 7 F/C Bb F
 This is where child - ren be - long.

Scripture Julie Lane

First Reading

Colossians 3:12-17 (NRSV)

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to [Abba God] through him.

Second Reading

Luke 2:41-52 (CEB)

Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. When he was 12 years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to their custom. After the festival was over, they were returning home, but the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem... After three days they found him in the temple. He was sitting among the teachers, listening to them and putting questions to

them. Everyone who heard him was amazed by his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were shocked.

His mother said, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Listen! Your father and I have been worried. We've been looking for you!" Jesus replied, "Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know that it was necessary for me to be in my Father's house?" But they didn't understand what he said to them. Jesus went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. His mother cherished every word in her heart. Jesus matured in wisdom and years, and in favor with God and with people.

Musical Offering

Angels Medley

(Angels from the Realms of Glory/ Angels We Have Heard on High)

Payge Haydt with Blake Hoppes

Message Jacob Roth

Prayers of the People

Make of My Heart a Stable Amanda Udis-Kessler

ALL: (sung)

**Make of my heart a stable,
a house for the holy,
a warm and sturdy place
for [hope] to live and grow.**

Leader: In this moment we open the doors of our hearts to honesty before God about what we've done and left undone that created less hope in a hurting world.

Let us breathe out this regret...
and breathe in the life-giving, for-giving Spirit of God...
and out again with the Peace of Christ...

ALL: (sung)

**Make of my life a stable,
a house for the holy,
a warm and sturdy place**

for [hope] to live and grow.

Leader: In this moment we open the doors of our lives to the
call of the Spirit,
inviting us to become more than we can ask or imagine.
Let us breathe out our fear...
and breathe in the courage of the Spirit of God...
and out again, with the Peace of Christ...

ALL: (sung)
Make of our church a stable,
a house for the holy,
a warm and sturdy place
for [hope] to live and grow.

Leader: In this moment we open the doors of this church,
filling it with
the compassion of Christ for all those who are struggling.
We remember and pray for...

... those who are suffering economic hardship, and insecurity
in basic needs;
may abundance be shared.

... those who are suffering mentally, finding it difficult to cope;
may paths open and hope return.

... those who are suffering illness or injury;
may healing abound.

.... those who are suffering loneliness and isolation;
may companionship and solace arrive.

... those who are suffering discrimination, fear and violence;
may they know respect, respite, and safety.

May the Advent of Compassion be born in us,
reside within us,
move outward from us,
to meet the needs of the world,

making a house for the Holy that is each and every child of God.

We pray this in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray:

The Prayer of Jesus

**ALL: 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 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, for ever. Amen.**

Donate to God's Mission and Ministry at UNION UCC

OFFERING ENVELOPES you can mail your envelopes to the church. The church address is on one side, just add a stamp.

ELECTRONIC GIVING This is a great time to try e-giving!

Choose a weekly, semi-monthly or monthly donation to be transferred electronically. Fill out form at <http://www.unionucc.org/egive.pdf>

and send to financialmanager@unionucc.org

DONATE ONLINE with your Credit or Debit Card

Go to <http://www.unionucc.org/resources/giving-and-sponsorship/ways-to-give/> and click **GIVE ONLINE**.

AMAZON SMILE Donate to Union UCC, Neffs (Search by zip code 18065) while you shop at Amazon. <https://smile.amazon.com>.

Offering – we will not be collecting your offerings during the service. Please plan to share them at the welcome table as you arrive or as you leave worship.

Thank you for being the church with us!

A Story of Innkeeping: Offering

Christmas Mission Offering This year our special offering will go to: 1. **The Allentown Warming Station at the YMCA** provides shelter, food, and a safe place for those experiencing homelessness. Doors are open 7pm-7am for a safe place to sleep and to get a meal.

2. **Parkland C.A.R.E.S. Food Pantry** serves members of the community affected by and suffering from hunger. The food pantry at Kernsville Elementary School serves over 130 families each month.

You can support these important efforts with your gifts using an envelope from your packet for “Christmas Mission,” or a blank envelope marked Christmas Mission, or by donating online <http://www.unionucc.org/resources/giving-and-sponsorship/ways-to-give/> using the Christmas Mission category.

Thank you for your 401G investments of GENEROSITY and GOOD in our community and neighbors.

MUSIC OFFERING

Mary Did You Know Mark Lowry & Buddy Greene
Abby Kern

Benediction Madison Milander

May God’s Door of Welcome
swing open in your heart and in your life.

May Christ’s humble first dwelling
remind you of the plenty you already know.

And may the Spirit lead you into
more possibility and hospitality than you can imagine,
making room in The Inn for all.

May it be so for you.
May it be so for us.
May it be so for this church.
Amen.

Closing Carol

Leader: We end our Advent/Christmas worship series with one last Christmas carol, and this one is truly about Christmas Day. “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” is a medieval carol that would have been used for folk dancing rather than for Mass—a more boisterous praise of the newborn child than was permitted in worship at that time. It was written in Latin and German and the original Latin reveals the heart of this song:

“In sweet jubilation
Now sing and be joyful!
The joy of our hearts
Lies in a manger
And shine like the sun
In the lap of his mother
Alpha and Omega (beginning and end)!”

Let us remember that the joy of our hearts lies in the simplest of mangers. May our church be a “lap of the mother” for those who need it most.

**Carol #129 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
Black Hymnal (New Century Hymnal)**

Postlude

Let it Snow Sammy Cahn and composer Jule Styne
Blake Hoppes

Worship Theme ©www.worshipdesignstudio.com/theinn

Thank you to our team of angels and elves for their work in decorating the church for Christmas: Kathy Bonsell, Claire Kern, Deb Topp, Deb Wenner, Tiffany Lakatosh, Christian Ed Committee, Worship Committee – Susan Glosan, Edie Fella, Ron Pope, Dan Haftl, Julie & Phil Wehr, Eric & Pam Minnich family, Pastors Kayli and Kris.

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	\$13,442.00
Calendar 2021 (Jan.-Nov.)	\$333,115.00
Calendar 2020 (Jan.-Nov.)	\$327,195.00
Change from Last Year	+1.8%
Budget (July-Nov.)	\$145,530.00
Actual (July-Nov.)	\$146,026.00
Giving vs. Budget	+0.3%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

Attendance Last Week	
8:00 am	56
10:30 am (includes children)	108
Children's Church	28

2021 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	\$125
Total YTD:	6,346 lbs, \$872

Christmas Mission to date: \$1,819.00
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All donations to be included on 2021 donation statements need to be received into the church office no later than Monday, December 27th.

Presentations to the Glory of God

Spread the Good News :

Holding you in my prayers - Pastor Kris

Be a sponsor for \$20, send to Union UCC through your offering envelope or online marked Spread the Good News or \$8 for Children's Bulletin.

Contact Marissa to sign up for a certain date or to sponsor in honor or memory of someone.

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