

Sundays, December 4, 11, and 18 at 8am and 10:30am

Friday, December 23 at 7pm, Christmas Eve Worship Candlelight and Communion

Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve Worship

3pm Candlelight and Communion

5pm Children's Choir, No Communion

8pm Candlelight and Communion

Sunday, December 25 Christmas Day No 8am Worship, Only 10:30am Worship

Sunday, January 1 New Year's Day No 8am Worship, Only 10:30am Worship

Sunday, January 8 8am and 10:30am Worship with Communion, Young Adult Sunday

Pick up a copy of the book *Everything Is Sacred* for inspirational daily readings.

Copies are in the lobby on Sundays or in the bin on the South side entrance during the week.

## Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> 5pm Christmas Eve

**GUESTS**, Welcome to our faith community here at Union UCC. To learn more about us please visit our website at [www.unionucc.org](http://www.unionucc.org) or like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/unionneffs](http://www.facebook.com/unionneffs).

Please complete the Welcome Card in the racks in front of you and hand it in with your offering or give it to a pastor. This is a good way to let us know you're here.

**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 are on life's journey, you are welcome here.**

Lay Reader: Mollie Jarrett

Sound: Karl Klinger, Mike Baer

Additional Musicians: Jacob Roth, Organ; Abby Hill, Soprano

Lighting by Damon Gelb

**\*Please stand in body or spirit.**

## **Gathering Music**

Away In A Manger

Instrumentalists: **Justin Bower, Lucas Maxwell, Mike Baer, Andy Hill, Gareth Hill, Cameron Kuntz, and Mitchell Roth.**

Folk Carol Suite

- I. Noel Nouvelet *Traditional French Carol*
- II. Masters in This Hall *Traditional French Carol*
- III. Coventry Carol *Traditional English Carol*
- IV. O Du Frohliche/Echo Carol *by J.D Falk and Heinrich Holzschuher*

**Payge Haydt with Blake Hoppes**

Christmas Reminiscence Arr. Phillip Keveren  
**Garet Hill, Piano**

On Christmas Night (Sussex Carol)  
**Kiel Baer with Mike Baer, Guitar**

Variation on Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming Johannes Brahms  
**Jacob Roth, Organ**

Welcome to Our World Chris Rice  
**Abby Hill (Vocals and Piano)**

### **Reflecting the Sacred**

*Our Christmas visuals have lots of shiny things this year to remind us that we are called to reflect the sacred each and every day. "Incarnation" is a word that means that God's presence came to dwell among all people, and we believe this happened in a special way in the birth of Jesus. All creation has always been imbued with the Creator's brilliance. This season, we have been remembering the call to shine with this holy light.*

# Welcome

## Crossing the Threshold

*Leader:* All through the season of preparation for this night, we have been spending some quiet time at the beginning of worship so we can be still and wonder at the brilliance of this world, of the sacred all around us. Tonight, we sit among the reflection of the lights of Christmas. You have likely had some Christmas lights up at home for a little while, and you've seen lights decorating houses and stores in our neighborhoods and cities. Shining lights this time of year seem to help soften our focus a bit, allowing us to see the ordinary places and people lit up in the reflections. Even our houses can feel special with the trees' lights illuminating the room in a magical way. I hope you've had a few moments to stop and notice and take it in. Times of quiet contemplation are not just good for the soul, they are good for our whole being, and our being with each other. And so let us begin our worship again with settling in and slowing down for just a moment.

I invite you to get comfortable where you are sitting and instead of closing your eyes, find one detail here in the room, or in your room at home if you are joining us online, to look at that brings you joy—it could be a light, a candle, anything. If other senses are better for you, then listen, or touch, or smell. There are many ways to drink in a moment deeply. Take a deep, intentional breath in and out. That's it. Take time to settle in.

Now shift your attention to something else, or simply let your eyes wander and take in more and more details that perhaps you didn't notice when you first came in, or if you are at home, things that have become so ordinary that you have stopped noticing them. What colors are getting your attention? What lights? Continue to use your senses

intentionally, marveling at the things you notice. Now focus on one light out of all the lights where you are. Let this reflection of light be an anointing of insight for seeing your own journey through the lens of the Sacred. Continue to just breathe, listen, and see with your heart.

SOLO or CHOIR:  
Upon this moment,  
upon this people,  
upon this place,  
the holy comes.  
And sacred knowing  
brings sacred being  
for sacred doing of God's plan.

Take one more deep breath and open your eyes slowly.

Reader: Mollie Jarrett  
Please repeat after me [us]:

We pray for Hope this night.  
**We pray for Hope this night.**

We pray for Love this night.  
**We pray for Love this night.**

We pray for Joy this night.  
**We pray for Joy this night.**

We pray for Peace this night.  
**We pray for Peace this night.**

We open to see the Sacred reflected in all things.  
**We open to see the Sacred reflected in all things.**

We open to see our deepest selves  
**We open to see our deepest selves**

as a gift of holy presence.  
**as a gift of holy presence.**

This is the gift of the Christ Mystery,  
**This is the gift of the Christ Mystery,**  
lighting the way to peace.  
**lighting the way to peace.**

**ALL (sung):**  
**Upon this moment,**  
**upon this people,**  
**upon this place,**  
**the holy comes.**  
**And sacred knowing**  
**brings sacred being**  
**for sacred doing of God's plan.**

**Prayer**

*Leader:*

Living God, Christ Mystery, Holy Spirit,  
we give you thanks for this holy sensing of your presence.  
As we take in the light you offer,  
may we be a reflection of that light,  
expanding the sacred being of this place  
into the sacred being of all things.

**Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn #193 O Come All Ye Faithful (Gold Hymnal, Hymns for the Family of God)**

**Jacob Roth, Organ**

**1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;**

**O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.**

**2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
O sing, al ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;**

**O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.**

**3. Ye, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,  
O Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;**

**O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.**

Please be seated.

### **Time for Children**

**Be sure to send your children forward for a time with  
Ms. Tiffany. They will also receive a gift bag!  
Then they will be directed to return to their seats to sit with  
their family.**

On Sundays Ms. Tiffany would like to invite children to join  
her and her volunteers for Sunday School at 9:15 and  
Children's Church during 10:30am service.

#### **Sundays**

**Education Hour for All Ages – 9:15-10:15am**

**Children's Church – during 10:30am Worship for ages 3-  
grade 5.**

**MUSIC OFFERING Christmas Carol Mashup  
Kids Choir: Isaac Brace, Micayla Hoffert, Darren Hoppes,  
Lincoln Hoppes, Mason MacDonald, Raegan Minnich,  
Esther Porembo, Lily Stanek  
Director: Blake Hoppes**

# The Christmas Story Reflected By All of Us!

Adapted from [childrensministry.com/instant-christmas-pageant](http://childrensministry.com/instant-christmas-pageant)

**City:** Adults as old as Pastor Kris (57) and older. Make city sounds such as talking, horse sounds, yelling.

**Joseph:** Men say, "O Holy Night."

**Mary:** Women pretend to hold a baby and say, "Silent Night."

**Child:** The children on the tree side - stand, place their hands over their hearts, and say, "Love."

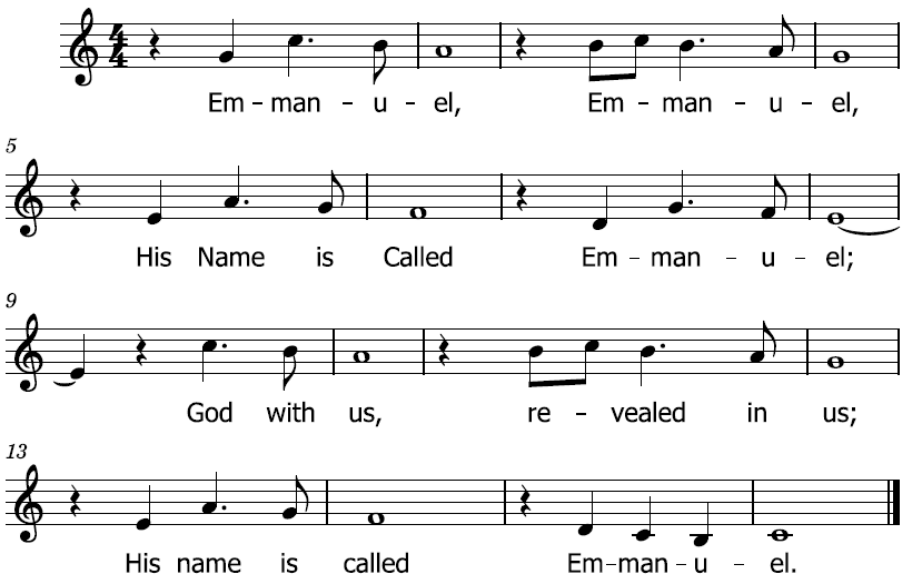
**Angels:** The children on the piano side stand, make prayer hands and say, "Peace."

**Shepherds:** Church staff members and pastors stand and say "Baaaa baaaa" like sheep.

**MUSIC OFFERING:** Angels We Have Heard on High  
**Arranged by Matt Gerry**

**Trumpets: Matt Gerry, Andy Hill, Justin Bower, Mitchell Roth,  
Mike Baer, Logan Mesics**

**Prayers** Emmanuel, Emmanuel      Bob McGee



Em - man - u - el,      Em - man - u - el,

5  
His Name is Called      Em - man - u - el;

9  
God with us,      re - vealed in us;

13  
His name is called      Em-man - u - el.

**ALL: (Spoken) Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ  
behind me,  
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,  
Christ when I arise.  
(St. Patrick's Prayer)**

**Repeat ALL Singing: Emmanuel, Emmanuel**

### **The LORD'S PRAYER**

**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,  
forever. Amen.**

### **MUSIC OFFERING**

**○ Little Town of Bethlehem  
Jacob Roth, Organ**

**ALL: 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.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;**



**Cast out our sin and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell:  
Oh, come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel!**

### **Prayer**

God of birthing new life into the world and our lives, we bring our gifts to you and to this church and community: gifts of heart, spirit, energy, love, time, resources, dreams, hopes, passion, compassion, meaning and purpose, and faith. We come to the manger and we bow, asking for your guidance and blessing on these gifts and on us. Deepen our commitment to you and to each other. Pour your light on these gifts, on us, and on your church and all people we pray. Amen.

### **Offering**

**Thank you for the many ways in which you support  
God's work and God's people.**

### **CHRISTMAS MISSION OFFERING**

Please share your financial support by using the Christmas Mission Offering envelope in your envelope packet, or blank envelope marked - Christmas Mission, or donate online at <http://www.unionucc.org/resources/giving-and-sponsorship/ways-to-give/ChristmasMission>.

**The Allentown Rescue Mission** For more than a century, the Allentown Rescue Mission has addressed the changing face of homelessness, tackling the root causes of homelessness, and helping to end homelessness

one life at a time throughout the Lehigh Valley. Thousands have come to their shelter receiving life changing help. Their shelter has been a place where men have begun to experience restoration.

**The Laurel House** is part of the Thistle Farms and Bloom community which provides sanctuary and a continuum of care to heal, empower, and employ women survivors of sex trafficking. This new location in Allentown will support pregnant survivors with 2 years of safety while they heal, deliver their child, attend parenting classes, and receive mentoring and vocational training in order to live independently.

**Donate to God's Mission and Ministry at UNION UCC OFFERING ENVELOPES.** If you can't attend worship, you can mail your envelopes to the church. The church address is on one side, just add a stamp.

**ELECTRONIC GIVING.** Choose to give a repetitive contribution on a regular basis (i.e weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly), or make single contributions whenever you desire in an amount of your choice. Electronic contributions are initiated from Union UCC's website (UnionUCC.org). Click on 'giving', then on 'Ways to Give' and follow the prompts. Feel free to contact John Harting 610-799-2508) or Don Penrod (610-398-2654) to answer your questions or demonstrate the process.

**MOBILE GIVING.** If you would like to give on the go, Vanco, the company that processes our e-giving transactions, has a mobile app that allows you to do so. Open your app search screen, search under "Vanco Mobile Faith \Engagement" and follow the prompts.

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

## **MUSIC OFFERING**

Christmas is Coming Vince Guaraldi  
**Matt Gerry, Trumpet with Blake Hoppes**

### **\*Offering Response**

**Please stand in body or spirit.**

*(Sung to the tune of "What Child Is This")*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow**

**Praise God all creatures here below**

**Praise God all heavens and the earth**

**reflecting the sacred story.**

**This, this is Christ the One  
who mirrors LOVE for all of us.  
Haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the Word of time eternal.**

## **MUSIC OFFERING**

A Child Is Born Thad Jones  
**Mitchell Roth, Trumpet with Blake Hoppes**

### **Anointed to Sacred Knowing**

All season long, we have been marking sacred time, people, and places with the idea of "anointing," which is the literal meaning of the word "Christ." We believe we are all "Christified," which means that the sacred is reflected in and through us all. There is an obscure Irish fable of St. Brigid, patroness of that country, that says St. Brigid was also a time-traveler and was mysteriously present at the birth of Jesus. She had a shell of water with her, and she placed three drops on the infant Jesus' forehead. The Irish are quite generous with their blessings, and apparently St. Brigid was their representative at the stable that night. This fable is simply a wonderful story to help us remember that all times are holy, not just that night so long ago. All people are sa-

cred, because God loves us by becoming us. So right now I invite you to an anointing of sorts by touching your forehead lightly three times, a sign that you are blessed and that you are also part of the story of hope, love, joy, and peace this night.

## **CANDLELIGHTING**

**\*Carol** Silent Night, Holy Night  
**Jacob Roth, Organ**

**Directions: Turn your candle on when the music begins and join in singing.**

**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**

**ALL: Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,  
Christ the Savior is born!  
Christ the Savior is born**

**RAISE YOUR CANDLE:**

**Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God love's pure light.  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth**

**Benediction**

Leader: When you see lights twinkle,  
when you catch a reflection in a mirror,  
when you notice the sunlight dancing on a surface  
or a nightlight glowing in the darkness,  
let these be signs that the Christ Light is revealed  
again and again in and through this world.

Know that your brilliant presence  
is pouring more LIGHT into a weary world.  
God loved us by becoming us.  
This means you are already  
reflecting the sacred.

In the name of the Creator, Christ, and Spirit of Hope.  
Amen.

\* **Carol** Joy To The World

**Fanfare Arranged by Matt Gerry**

**Trumpets: Matt Gerry, Andy Hill, Justin Bower, Mitchell Roth,  
Mike Baer, Logan Mesics  
Jacob Roth, Organ**

**ALL:**

**1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come:**

**Let earth receive her King;**

**Let every heart prepare Him room,**

**And heaven and nature sing.**

**And heaven and nature sing.**

**And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**2. Joy to the world! The Savior reigns:**

**Let men their songs employ;**

**While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains**

**Repeat the sounding joy,**

**Repeat the sounding joy,**

**Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**Merry Christmas! Enjoy the Lights in the Grove, they will be on every night until the New Year.**

**Go, Be Light in the World Music**

**God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen**

**Blake Hoppes, Matt Gerry, Andy Hill, Mitchell Roth, Mike Baer**

Worship Theme

©[www.worshipdesignstudio.com/theinn](http://www.worshipdesignstudio.com/theinn)

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

**Thank you** to all who helped to make our Advent and Christmas so meaningful. Thank you to everyone who helped clean and decorate our sanctuary, church, and grove. Thank you to those who served as choir members, musicians, ushers, and worship participants. Thank you to our staff, Consistory, and leaders for giving your time and talents so generously.

**Thank you** to our Poinsettia Sponsors. See insert.

# EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	
Calendar Year 2022 (Jan-Oct.)	\$ 309,414.00
Calendar Year 2021 (Jan-Oct.)	\$ 302,292.00
Change from Last Year	<b>2.4%</b>
Budget FY 2022 (July 2022 - June 23)	\$ 131,000.00
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July 2022-June 23)	\$ 112,648.00
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	<b>-14.0%</b>
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

Attendance Last Week		
	In person	Online
8:00 am		
10:30 am		
Education Hour		

2022 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	lbs, \$
Total YTD:	5,989 lbs, \$1449.00

## Presentations to the Glory of God

***Spread the Good News :***

***Merry Christmas! from 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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