Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021

Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler

Congregation is invited to respond as indicated in **bold**

* Please stand as you are able
  Songs listed at the end of bulletin

Prelude

Welcome

* Prayer of Confession  (from Malachi 3:1-4)
  “See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, says the Lord.”
  **We are too distracted to recognize your face in others.**
  **We are too wrapped up in everything else to hear anyone as your messenger.**
  “But who can endure that one’s coming? Who can stand when that one appears?”
  **We run, we rationalize, we excuse, to escape the pain of seeing clearly, of being set right.**
  “You will be refined with heat, and purified with burning lye.”
  **You made us, God, to be precious as silver, shining like gold.**
  **Burn away the sin that closely clings, that we ourselves cling to, so that we might shine with your pure light.**  (silent prayer)

* Words of Grace and Sharing the Peace of Christ

* Song  **“Now Bless the God of Israel”**

A Time With Kids – Lighting of the 2nd Advent Candle

Moment for Mission  The Christmas Fund

A Time of Prayer
  Sharing Our Joys and Concerns
  A Time for Personal Prayer
  A Time of Corporate Prayer

Scripture  Luke 1:5-24, 57-64, selected

Message  ‘Well, Shut My Mouth!’
A Time of Offering  
Invitation  
Offertory  
Prayer of Gratitude and Dedication  
Compassionate God, you made us for caring and sharing. Like you. Grateful, we dedicate not just our monetary offerings but all our spending as means of sharing. We dedicate not just our volunteering but all our living as means of caring. Amen.

Celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion, including The Prayer Jesus Taught:  
Our Father, who is in heaven: hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

* Song  
“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”  
Announcements  
Blessing  
Postlude
View the Present through the Promise

1. View the present through the promise, Christ will come again.
2. Probe the present with the promise, Christ will come again.
3. Match the present to the promise, Christ will come again.

Trust despite the deepening darkness, Christ will come again.
Let your daily actions witness, Christ will come again.
Make this hope your guiding premise, Christ will come again.

Lift the world above its grieving through your watching and believing
Let your loving and your giving and your justice and forgiving
Pattern all your calculating and the world you are creating

in the hope past hope’s conceiving: Christ will come again.
be a sign to all the living: Christ will come again.
to the advent you are waiting: Christ will come again.

Those assisting with worship:
Anne Badger, piano
Sharon Karasti, reader
Dave Hayes, usher
Meredith Martin Olsen, communion preparer
Dee Dressler, tech team
Sharon Loudon and Steve Malinsky, counters of our gifts

“View the Present Through the Promise” words Thomas Troeger © 1994 Oxford University Press, Inc.; Welsh tune AR HYD Y NOS.
“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” by Marty Haugen, © 1982 G.I.A. Publications, Inc. CCLI License #1198096, OneLicense License#541260-L.
Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

1 Awake! awake, and greet the new morn, for
   angels herald its dawning, sing out your joy, for
   Jesus is born, behold! the Child of our longing.

2 To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes singing,
   whose humble song is
cold the winter and cheerless, the rising sun shall
   quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing.
   Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts to
   Music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving.

3 In deepest night Christ's coming shall be, when
   all the world is despairing, as morning light so
   crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless;
   quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.
   One without voice breaks forth in song, a lame one leaps in
   Love be our song and love our prayer, and love, our endless

4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though
   angels herald its dawning, sing out your joy, for
   Jesus is born, behold! the Child of our longing.

G/B C Am7 D7 G Am7
D D/F# G D Em Am D
Em D7 G C B7 Em
Am7 D7 G

lives now inside us for ever.
shatter all hate and injustice.
weapons are broken a-sunder.
bring us at last into glory.
Welcome to Open Table United Church of Christ!  

No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, YOU are welcome here.

Welcome to Open Table United Church of Christ. We are an open table where all are welcome. We celebrate diversity, nourish and serve others, work for justice, and grow together in faith through the teachings of Jesus Christ and the voice of the still-speaking God.

Open Table UCC firmly believes in science and is following directives from state and federal agencies, making the following changes to keep people as safe as possible: Those coming into the church building must wear a face mask and remain socially distant from staff and others present who are not from their household. We are now holding hybrid worship, meaning you are welcome to come to in person worship or join us through Zoom in the comfort of your home, with the exception of the last Sunday of the month which is a Zoom only offering.

Today, we will share the meal of Holy Communion. At Open Table UCC, we celebrate an open table where all are invited to eat the bread and drink the wine or juice as we remember the life and death and resurrection of Jesus and offer thanksgiving for God’s amazing love. Communion will be served in individual packets. Those at home are invited to gather some bread, crackers, water, juice or whatever you have at hand.

We hope you find our church family warm and welcoming, and that you experience worship as meaningful and spiritually uplifting. We are an Open and Affirming congregation, and we take seriously our commitment to create a worshiping community where ALL people feel welcome, affirmed, and valued. Please stay and join us after worship for an opportunity for fellowship. And please, when you are ready, share with us your contact information so that we can keep you up-to-date on all the exciting things happening at Open Table UCC!

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Today</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Worship</td>
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<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Fellowship Hour</td>
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<td>12/6 - Monday</td>
<td>4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>IVYSO Rehearsal</td>
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<td>12/7 - Tuesday</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Pastor’s Office Hours</td>
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<td>6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Youth Outlook</td>
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<td>12/8 - Wednesday</td>
<td>12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Pastor’s Office Hours</td>
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<td>4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Music Lessons</td>
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<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td>12/10 - Friday</td>
<td>6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Music Lessons in Sanctuary</td>
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<td>12/11 - Saturday</td>
<td>11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Music Lessons in Sanctuary</td>
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<td>12/12 - Sunday</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Hybrid Worship</td>
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<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Fellowship Hour</td>
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<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Second Sunday Lunch</td>
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<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>PADS Team</td>
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<td>12/14 - Tuesday</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Pastor’s Office Hours</td>
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<td>12/15 - Wednesday</td>
<td>12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Leadership Table Meeting</td>
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<td>4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.</td>
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Our December Mission of the month is the Christmas Fund; caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years by providing extra monies for pensions, health insurance, emergency grants, and a Christmas “Thank You” gift to low-income retired UCC ministers. Emergency assistance to clergy and lay employees and their families is also available. When giving to this mission please write Christmas Fund in the memo section of your check, if giving online through our website ("Donate") or Facebook page ("Learn More"), make a note in the memo or notes section that the donation is for the Christmas Fund. This year's theme is Good news..Great joy..All the people! Coloring books supporting this theme are available in Fellowship Hall or via the attachment in the Weekly Menu email.

Second Sunday Lunch is next Sunday, Sam will be serving lentils with Italian sausage and fresh baked bread. Friends and members please bring a dessert to share. Lunch begins at noon, is carry-out only, masking and social distancing are still in effect for everyone present. This meal is free and all are welcome!

Our PADS Team will be working at the local homeless shelter next Sunday, if you would like more information on how you can help out please contact Steve Malinsky or Wendy in the office; 815-433-0771 or office@opentableottawa.org.

Leadership Table will meet on Wednesday, December 15 at 3:00 p.m. If you have an item to bring to the table please contact one of the members: Moderator: Jordan Johnson, Moderator-Elect: Steve Malinsky, Clerk: Sharon Karasti, Treasurer: Donna Martin and Member at Large focusing on Ongoing Small Projects: Sarah Reckmeyer.

Do you like to read poetry? Perhaps you prefer to listen. Join us Thursday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m. for hybrid Other People's Poetry; Zoom links will be available next week.

Would you like to be a reader during our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service? Contact Pastor Jennifer or Wendy in the office: 815-433-0771 or office@opentableottawa.org.

This year we are decorating the altar with silk poinsettias. You are welcome to sponsor a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one. Please contact Wendy in the office to share your loved one’s information; 815-433-0771 or office@opentableottawa.org. Loved ones will be listed in the Christmas Eve service bulletin.
John and Anne McKinstry—“Veterans of the Cross”

In the United Church of Christ, through the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, we take care to express our love and gratitude for our retired ministers. One of the ways we do that is through the Annuitant Visitors’ Program, which coordinates visits by often younger retired UCC clergy to older retired ministers (annuitants) across the country. The purpose of these visits is to check in, see how they’re doing, find out if they have any needs that can be addressed, and thank them for their “years of service to a grateful church.”

One such visitor, now retired, is the Rev. Richard L. (Rick) Floyd, of Pittsfield, MA, who wrote of a visit to the Rev. John and Anne McKinstry of Great Barrington, MA, who are, in Rick’s words: “indeed Veterans of the Cross, having served small country congregations throughout their ministry (and they really did share the ministry as ‘old school’ minister and spouse).”

John McKinstry’s last pastorate ended with an unfortunate forced resignation from a church that was leaving the United Church of Christ. This left John and Anne—close to retirement age—with neither home nor equity, having lived in parsonages their entire adult lives.

That was over 20 years ago. Since then, the McKinstry’s have been able to manage with generosity from friends and with supplements and gifts from the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance through the Christmas Fund. John teaches guitar and dulcimer; Anne writes hymns (two of her hymns are in The New Century Hymnal, which can be found in UCC pews across the country).

“I was proud that our church, through the Christmas Fund, could help these lovely people in retirement,” Rick says. “I think it meant a lot to them that I could hear their story. When I ‘thanked them for their years of service from a grateful church,’ I thought they were going to cry.”

In 2020, gifts to the Christmas Fund enabled:

- Monthly pension supplementation for 276 retired clergy and lay employees ($1,180,187)
- Health benefits supplementation for 89 retired clergy and lay employees ($274,008)
- Emergency grants for 96 individuals and families ($214,649)
- Christmas “Thank You” gift checks to 504 retired clergy and lay employees ($252,000)

The Christmas Fund
For the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund
Trinity Lutheran Church sends their thanks:

Dear Pastor Jennifer,

On behalf of Trinity Lutheran Church’s council, I would like to thank you for the letter of affirmation your Leadership Table sent us earlier this month. It is comforting to know that the level of support in our church community extends beyond ourselves, to embrace one another so wholeheartedly.

We also appreciate your generous monetary gift to help us initiate our involvement in the Sunday Community Lunch ministry. We are looking forward to partnering with you and the Christ Episcopal Church in this program!

As we continue through our transition and reorganization, we will most certainly be contacting you.

Thank you for your prayers and support!

In Christ,
Kevin Evensen
Trinity Lutheran Church Council President

The outdoor mobile food pantry of the Community Food Basket of Ottawa is Saturday, December 11 at OSF Healthcare parking structure, 1050 E. Norris Dr. in Ottawa. Registration is from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., distribution begins at 10:00 a.m. Please bring a container to take food home in and be prepared to wait as the process can take up to 2 hours. This event is open to anyone in need of food assistance regardless of residency and you must be present or send a representative with a completed proxy form in order to receive food for your household. Proxy forms are available for download here: https://tinyurl.com/y2n7x25h.

The Community Food Basket schedule for distribution is Monday and Tuesday 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. and Wednesday and Thursday 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. at 519 W. Madison Street in Ottawa. For more information call 815 431-0155 or visit https://www.ottawafoodbasket.org/.

Office Hours: Mon. and Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Tues. - Thurs. 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Phone: 815-433-0771
Email: office@opentableottawa.org
Address: 910 Columbus St., Ottawa, IL 61350
OTUCC Website: www.uccottawa.org
Facebook: Open Table UCC Ottawa
Pastor’s Office Hours:
Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Wednesdays 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
pastor@opentableottawa.org