



Community UCC

We're worth our words

Welcoming Progressive Community

Vibrant Messengers of Hope



Champaign, Illinois

Third Sunday of Advent Year A

December 11, 2022

Thoughts Before Worship—

As this new church year begins, where are you finding joy?

If you have requests to add to the prayer list (a public document), go to community-ucc.org/pray (a Google Form), or scan the QR code found in the bulletin or there are prayer cards on the table at the back of the sanctuary that you may fill out and hand to the usher.

Gathering Music

Aaron Ames

*Call to Worship

We have called one another to hope, and we have sought peace with one another. Now comes a reminder to rejoice!

We look forward to a time when God will bring joy to the world. For so many reasons, we need this joy ourselves.

The demands and reminders of this season may make joy difficult. This is why we come together to worship.

We as a worshipping community are called to point out joy to one another. We set our lights on a lampstand for all to see.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: The Candle of Joy

Rejoice in the Lord always! Again, I will say rejoice! The Lord, our source of joy, is near!

May our lives and spirits be brightened by this worship moment, and by those with whom we praise God's name!

*Invocation

Let us pray:

Gracious God, we confess that we're not always able to detect reasons for joy that you have placed all around us. We are not always open to the rejoicing to which you have called us. This time of year is often as much of a reminder of endless tasks and lost relationships as it is an invitation to sing and to be merry. Help us to join together with joyful hearts in this time and place. Fill our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy for the wonderful things that you have done and will do for us. Amen.

We welcome you to our service this morning. Celebrating the diversity of creation, Community United Church welcomes persons of any age, ability, race, gender identity, sexual orientation or life condition. May the Divine Presence become real to you through this time of worship. We hope you come back!

Note: Our worship services are live streamed. If you prefer not to have the back of your head seen on the live stream worship please do not sit in the first seven pews on the left side (organ/piano) of the sanctuary.

Note 2: The congregation responds to the liturgy parts in **BOLD**

*Everyone is invited to stand in body or in spirit.

***Carol**

Now Bless the God of Israel

NCH 110

Ruth Duck, Traditional English Melody, Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams
One License Song #88108, One License #A-734456

Welcome

Introit

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

NCH 116 v3

Transl. John Mason Neale, and others; alt. , St. 2, 7 transl. Henry Sloan Coffin, Arr. Thomas Helmore
CCLI Song#31982, CCLI License #3154689

***Passing of the Peace**

As we share signs of peace with one another, you are invited to either to stay in your pew and offer a wave or peace sign to those around you, or to move from your space and exchange signs of peace with one another. As a church, we recognize that some folks may want to refrain from shaking hands. Respect one another's lead in this as we pass the peace. Peace be with you!

Children's Moment

Anthem

Torches

CUCC Choir

John Joubert
CCLI Song# 657744, CCLI License #3154689

Call to Prayer



After the sermon, we will offer up our joys and concerns. Your prayer requests will be offered aloud. Whether you are sitting here in the sanctuary, or worshipping with us remotely, you are invited to add your joys and concerns to the prayer list: go to community-ucc.org/pray (a Google Form), or scan the QR code found here or there are prayer cards on the table at the back of the sanctuary that you may fill out and hand to the usher.

Prelude to Scripture

Whether we take what is written in the Bible as fact, metaphor, myth, or story, let us listen now for the meaning it might hold for us on this day.

Sacred Reading from the Original Testament

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.'

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
⁸ A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.
⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Sacred Reading from the Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' ⁴ Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." ¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Postlude to Scripture

Together, let us say:

May the Spirit bless us with wisdom and wonder as we ponder the meaning of these words for our lives.

Sermon

Quiet Meditation

***Carol**

Who Would Think That What Was Needed

NCH 153

John Bell Graham Maule, English traditional melody, Arr. John Bell and others
One License Song #07827, One License #A-734456

Call to Offering

God has told us what is good; and what does the Lord require? To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God. Every generous act of giving is itself a gift from God above. To give to the ministry and mission of Community UCC, please visit www.community-ucc.org and click donate. If you are worshipping here in the sanctuary, you may also place offerings in the offering plates as you leave the sanctuary. May God bless the gifts and the givers.

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Response

Comfort, Comfort O My People

NCH 101 v1

Johannes Olearius, Transl. Catherine Winkworth, Trente quatre Pseumes, Geneva 1551

Commissioning of the Community

*Carol

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

NCH 144

Charles Wesley, Felix Mendelssohn, Arr. William H. Cummings
CCLI Song #7143492, CCLI License #3154689

Benediction

Benediction Response

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

NCH 116 refrain

Transl. John Mason Neale, and others; alt. , St. 2, 7 transl. Henry Sloan Coffin, Arr. Thomas Helmore
CCLI Song#31982, CCLI License #3154689

Postlude

Aaron Ames

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Serving Today

Ministers: The Community of Community UCC
Preaching & Presiding: Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser
Liturgist: Rocio Arroyave-Jamison
Usher: Peg Wade

Organist: Aaron Ames **Singers:** Kathy Lee, CUCC Choir
Audio/Video: Joel Caldero, David Gerstenecker, Oscar Tomkin, Sean Walker

Community United Church of Christ Staff

Pastor: Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser leah@community-ucc.org	Director of Music Ministries: Kathy Lee music@community-ucc.org
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Commissioned Minister of Congregational Health: Linda Morgan lindamorgan@sbcglobal.net	Office Manager: Carla Rush info@community-ucc.org
Faith Community Nurse Johnalene Radek johnalene.radek@carle.com	
Parish Associate: Rev. Connie Bandy connie@community-ucc.org	

Your Ministry Team Leaders

Moderator: Erin Ewoldt* Past Moderator: Elizabeth Shack* Incoming Moderator: Johnalene Radek* Clerk: Jeff Radek* Pastoral Relations Committee: Cara Finnegan Personnel Committee: Anna Barnes	Children & Family: Julie McClure* and Alison Anders Finance: Roger Wade* (treasurer), David Willcox (financial secretary)
Community Building: Peg Wade* and Randy Musser	Identity: Keri Evans* and Ramona Oswald
- Care Team: Marilou Hinrichs	Mission: Jeanne Ward* and Kristy Brownfield
- Prayer Shawls: Elena Kasper	Sound & Ethical Practices (SEP): (Open) and (Open)
- Meal Train: Jennifer Robbennolt	- Buildings & Grounds: Tom Ward and Matthew Hart
- Driver's Ministry: John Osborne	- Contracts & Insurance: Andrew McClure
- Healing Music Ministry: Marilou Hinrichs	UCC Campus Ministry Liaison: Ilsa Kantola*
- Card Ministry: Peg Wade	Worship: Susan Pawlicki* and Tina Cowsert
- Visitor's Ministry: (Open)	- Sound Coordinator: Roger Wade
- Health and Wellness Team: (Open)	
- Hospitality Team: Randy Musser and Peg Wade*	

*denotes Church Life Board Member

United Church Foundation (UCC Campus Ministry)

Director of Campus Ministry: Reverend Nate Brantingham | nate@ucccampusministry.org
www.community-ucc.org/campus-ministry

Community United Church of Christ

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