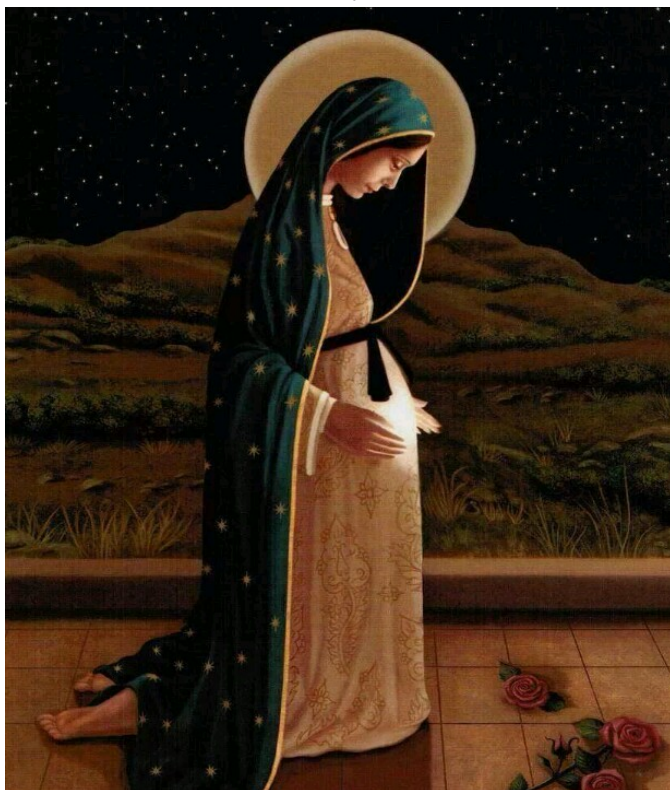


The Church of the Pilgrimage
United Church of Christ
Sunday, December 17, 2017
10:00am
Third Sunday in Advent



Rev. Dr. Helen Nablo, PASTOR
Sam Butterfield, WORSHIP LEADER
Kelley DePasqua, MUSIC DIRECTOR
Michael Eaton, ORGANIST
Jenny Healy, DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN ED

Order of Worship

Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

Prelude Where is that Goodly Fragrance?
 -Harrison Oxley 1933-2009

Welcome and Announcements

Choral Introit

Call to Worship

Weeping may linger for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.

**Restore to us the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in us a willing spirit**

O God who in Jesus Christ is making all things new!

* **Hymn No. 127** Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

* **Lighting of the Third Advent Candle** (unison)

Judy and Larry Foster

God, you've given us joy so we can share it. As we move through our days, help us to see those who need some good news. Give us courage, then, like Mary, to be bearers of your joy. Amen.

The third purple candle is lit. The Candle of Joy found on next page is sung and then we say the Lord's Prayer.

* **The Lord's Prayer** (unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

The Candle of Joy

Advent III

The can - die of joy re - minds us to sing,
For God is at work to do a new thing.
The proud will be hum - bled; the low - ly will rise.
God's king - dom is one of de - light and sur - prise.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

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MUSIC: Attr. Johann Michael Haydn (18th century); arr. William Gardiner, 1815

LYONS

10 10.11 11

* Gloria Patri No. 36 (unison)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

The Children's Message Jenny Healy

Children will be dismissed to Sunday School

Anthem

And the Glory of the Lord
from The Messiah by G.F. Handel
Isaiah 40:5

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,

and all flesh shall see it Together:
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Sharing of Celebrations and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer and Choral Response

Scripture Luke 1: 39-45; Luke 1: 47-55 NT53 or 831

Sermon God-Bearers Rev. Helen Nablo

* **Hymn** No. 124 My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Anthem The Silent Word
 “*What Child is This*” (Greensleves)
 Old English Melody Arr. Jackson Berkey
 Text – William Dix (1837-1898)

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?

This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and Angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the Silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh, Come peasant, king to own Him;
The King of Kings salvation brings, Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Raise, raise a song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby,
Joy, joy for Christ is born, The Babe, the Son of Mary.

* **Advent Doxology**

All praise, eternal Christ, to thee,

Whose advent sets thy people free;
Once more upon thy people shine,
and fill the world with love divine. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn No. 128 Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

Benediction and Choral Response

Postlude Noel (Chant de Roi René)
 -Alexandre Guilmant 1837-1911

*During the Postlude you may remain seated,
or rise to greet the pastor and proceed to coffee hour.*

The Deacon in Charge is Mark Coombs.

The Greeters are the Hogan family.

The flowers are in loving memory of our sister-in-law, Loretta Martin Fair. Given by Ellie and Don Reinhardt.

Thanks to the Board of Trustees for arranging for coffee hour for the month of December.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES-

10 am. Fourth Sunday in Advent with the Christmas Pageant.

9 pm Candlelight Service with Lessons and Carols and a
Meditation by Pastor Helen, includes the Sacrament of
Communion. *Note change in time from the usual 11 pm.*

Sunday, December 31st there will be a worship service in the JRC at 10am, with breakfast prior, starting at 9:00 am. Carol singing and prayers for the New Year, Pastor Helen will offer a reflection. Pajama Sunday for kids with special storytime.

NOTES

Welcome to worship at The Church of the Pilgrimage. We hope you enjoy the worship service, and we invite you to join us in Allerton Hall downstairs for coffee hour after the service.

Please silence your cell phones so we can be fully present to the spirit and to one another.

This morning we have nursery/cribroom care with Kristin Moses, our childcare worker. Kristin is with us every Sunday.

We invite everyone seated beside the center aisle to fill out the **fellowship pad** and pass it down your row for others to sign it too.

Copies of the morning sermon and hearing devices available on the table in the upper vestibule.

Please join us at coffee hour today and take a look at the items for sale at the alternative gift offerings – gifts that please the recipients and help others too!

Memorial Poinsettias: Today is your last chance to order a poinsettia and be included in next Sunday's bulletin insert listing the donors and those memorialized or honored. The suggested donation for a poinsettia is \$15. Volunteers will be welcomed to take flowers to shut-ins following next Sunday's service. All other flowers may be picked up after the Christmas Eve services or the following Sunday.

Pageant News: Today in Sunday School we will be making preparations for the Christmas Pageant. After worship, we will be rehearsing in the sanctuary after the choirs rehearse. Hope to see you all there!

Flowers: There is an opening for pulpit flowers on Sunday, January 21 and on Sunday, January 28. Please call Linda Montague at 508-

209-0308 if you wish to honor or memorialize someone on either of those dates with beautiful flowers in the sanctuary.

Covenant Group: There is room for more participants in a daytime “Covenant Group” that reads a daily devotional (provided) and meets once a month. To learn more, contact Nancy Sweeney 774-404-7961.

SAVE the DATE: We are planning a lock-in for youth over Christmas vacation, Dec. 28-29. This involves a day of service in Boston and supper and a sleep over back here in the JRC.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR-

Mon, Dec 18: Monday Meals, 11am, Allerton Hall.

Wednesday Dec 20: *Please note: no Bible study this morning. We resume on Wednesday, January 10th.* Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary. Herald deadline for January edition.

Friday, Dec 22: Office Closed.

Sun, Dec 24 Fourth Sunday in Advent:

Worship with a Christmas Pageant, 10am.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with Meditation and Communion, 9pm.



OPEN & AFFIRMING

As an Open and Affirming Congregation we invite all into our faith, to fully share in all church life, including our work, worship, rites, and sacraments, with the assurance that we are all created in God's image, reconciled by Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

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