

The Federated Church

United Church of Christ + Unitarian Universalist Association



JOY

December 13, 2020 | 10:00am

***YOU* ARE WELCOME HERE!**

Federated Church is an Open & Affirming Community. In a time of deep division and vitriolic rhetoric around issues of race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality, and where the dignity of people living with disabilities or mental health issues are often ignored, demonized, or turned into a joke, we promise to:

Welcome all people of every age, gender, race, national origin, faith expression, marital status & family structure, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, physical ability, mental or emotional condition, economic and social status, and educational background to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, and joys of our church family.

The Rainbow Flag: We proudly display a rainbow flag at the front of our sanctuary as a visual declaration of God's extravagant and inclusive love, as well as of our own "promise of welcome" to all people. Our prayer is that all can be their truest selves here. This flag serves as a particular signal that our church is a safe and affirming space for LGBTQ+ persons to be, to belong, to lead, to question, and to grow in faith.

help me
make
a space for you

emptying myself
to create
a place for you

spreading the straw
on the floor
of my soul

in joyful
expectation
of your coming.

“a clearing,”
by christine rodgers

Order of Worship

please join in reading those parts that are written in **bold*

Prelude & Centering Our Hearts

Welcome & Passing the Peace

Proclaiming the Word Luke 1:26-38

Call to Worship & Lighting of Advent Candles

Adapted from Isaiah 52:7-9

As the days grow shorter and the nights longer; as the world cries out to be released from its bondage to the forces of death and despair,

We pause and gather for worship, so that we may be strengthened with Hope, sustained by Peace, and restored with Joy.

the candles of HOPE, PEACE & JOY are lit

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim with Joy the dawning of God's shalom.

Even as we await the redemption of our world, our hearts rejoice; together with all creation, we sing a song of praise, for the God who raises us when we are low.

Gathering Hymn "Joy to the World" (p. 6)

Advent Confession & The Lord's Prayer

"The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary.' ...

And Mary said, 'Here am I, a servant of the Lord;

Let it be with me according to your word.'" ~ Luke 1:30, 38

What is God inviting *you* to say "Yes" to? What fear is the angel inviting *you* to let go of so that, like Mary, you may risk birthing God's love into the world?

Our Father who art 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.

Advent Promise

Adapted from "I Will Light Candles this Christmas," a poem by Howard Thurman

Friends, hear the Good News: Even as we face our fears and wait for God's Peace to be born in our midst, the Light of the World is already with us. So, let us light candles to shine in every darkness.

Wherever despair keeps watch, we will light candles of Hope.

Wherever fear crowds in, we will light candles of Peace.

Wherever grief overwhelms, we light candles of Joy.

Song of Preparation "One Candle is Lit" vv. 1-3 (p. 7)

Scripture [Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Luke 1:46-55](#)

Special Music "My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord"
Solo by Peggy Safford

Sermon "The Gospel According to Mary"

Special Music "Mary, Woman of the Promise"
Solo by Peggy Safford

Our Common Life

See announcements at the end of the bulletin (pp. 9 & 10)

Sending Hymn "My Heart Sings Out With Joyful Praise" (p. 8)

Benediction

Postlude *Go in the Joy of God-with-us!*

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth its
 2 Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 Christ rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

prais - es bring; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Christ room,
 songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 na - tions prove The glo - ries of God's righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 and won - ders of God's love, and won - ders of God's

and
 re -
 and

heaven and na - ture sing,
 re - peat the sound - ing joy,
 won - ders of God's love,

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of God's love.

heaven and na - ture sing,
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 won - ders of God's love,

One Candle Is Lit

Unison



1. Come sure - ly, Lord Je - sus, as dawn fol - lows night,
2. Come quick - ly, sha - lom, teach us how to pre - pare
3. Come, fes - tive - ly sing while a - wait - ing the birth,



1. our hearts long to greet you, as ros - es, the light.
2. for a gift that com - pels us with jus - tice to care.
3. join an - gels in danc - ing from heav - en to earth.



1. Sal - va - tion, draw near us, our vi - sion en - gage.
2. Our spir - its are rest - less till sin and war cease.
3. Wave ban - ners of good news, lift high thank - ful praise.



1. One can - dle is lit for the hope of the age.
2. One can - dle is lit for the reign of God's peace.
3. One can - dle is lit for the joy of these days.

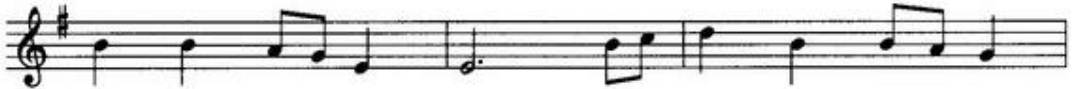
My Heart Sings Out With Joyful Praise



1. My \times heart sings out with joy - ful praise To God who rais - es
2. The arm of God is strong and just To scat - ter all the
3. The prom - ise made in a - ges past At last has come to



me, Who came to me when I was low And
proud. The ty - rants tum - ble from their thrones And
be, For God has come in pow'r to save, To



changed my des - ti - ny. The Ho - ly One, the
van - ish like a cloud. The hun - gry all are
set all peo - ple free. Re - mem - b'ring those who



Liv - ing God, Is al - ways full of grace To those who
sat - is - fied; The rich are sent a - way. The poor of
wait to see Sal - va - tion's dawn-ing day, Our Sav - ior



seek their Mak - er's will In ev - 'ry time and place.
earth who suf - fer long Will wel - come God's new day.
comes to all who weep To wipe their tears a - way.

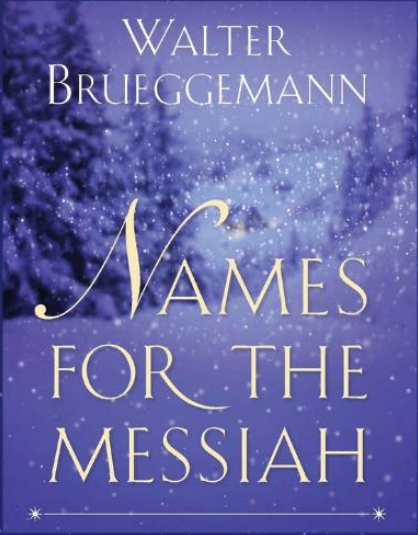
Text: *Magnificat*, Luke 1:46-55; Ruth Duck, b.1947, © 1992, GIA Publications, Inc.

Tune: KINGSFOLD, CMD; English traditional; harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958, © Oxford University Press

Advent Opportunities

All are welcome, including those who've only joined us online!

join us for a 4 week
A D V E N T S T U D Y



WALTER
BRUEGGEMANN

NAMES
FOR THE
MESSIAH

Wednesdays
6-7pm
Dec. 2 - 23
via Zoom

(click the image to check out the book. Email Pastor Eric for the Zoom link if you're new and would like to participate)

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Tuesdays
9-10am
Dec. 1 - 22
via Zoom

Join us for a time
of connecting,
reflecting,
& praying

click to
join!

Contemplative Christmas

**join us around the nativity set at
church on the longest night & darkest
day of the year for a service of
candlelight, reflection & carols**

*--- masks required. we will spread out across the lawn.
subject to change per public health guidelines ---*

Monday | 12/21 | 6:30-7pm