

# The Federated Church

*United Church of Christ + Unitarian Universalist Association*



**ADVENT IV: LOVE**

**December 19, 2021 | 10:00am**

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**

*All music is from the black New Century Hymnal in your pew back, unless noted otherwise.  
Please join in on those parts printed in **bold**.*

### **Welcome & Passing the Peace**

### **Call to Worship & Lighting of Advent Candles**

In a world that is in love with winning, with power, and with being right,  
**We gather in Advent to prepare our hearts for the coming of Emmanuel,  
Who calls us to love God, to love our neighbor, and to love our enemies.**

We gather in Advent to prepare our hearts and world for God's Reign of Love.  
**For, how can we welcome and love the Christ-child, if we refuse to  
welcome and love our neighbor; if we struggle even to love ourselves?**

Amidst our darkening days, let us gather to be strengthened with the light of  
Hope, sustained by the light of Peace, restored with the light of Joy, and  
inspired by the light of Love.

*the candles of HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE are lit*

**Ever-coming God, claim and transform us in the light of Your Love,  
And with us, all whole world.**

**Gathering Hymn**      "Christ Be Our Light" vv. 1, 2, 4 & 5      (p. 5)

### **Advent Prayer of Repentance: LOVE**

*"Give thanks to God who led us through the wilderness, who remembered us in our  
low estate, and who rescued us, for his steadfast love endures forever." ~ Psalm 136*

*In what "wilderness" or times of "low estate" have you experienced God's  
steadfast love and abiding presence? What of previous generations?*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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**

Friends, hear the Good News: Even as we wait for the Coming One with  
longing and expectation, the Hope 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 will light candles of Joy.  
To inspire all our living, we will light candles of Love.

**Song of Preparation**      “If In Your Heart”      (p. 5)

**Scripture**      [Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 2:1-7](#)

**Sermon**      “Make Room”

**Musical Meditation**

**Our Shared Life & Offering**

**Announcements**

**Offertory**

**Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.*

*Praise God all creatures here below.*

*Praise God for all that Love has done.*

*Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.*

**Sending Hymn**      “O Little Town of Bethlehem”      (p. 6)

**Benediction** *Go in the Joy of Emmanu-el: God-With-Us*

**Postlude**

## **WORSHIP NOTES**

Those serving us this morning are:

**Pastor:** Rev. Eric J. Ogi   |   **Ministers:** All of us!   |   **Director of Music:** Gary Mattin

**Liturgist:** Sally Stevens | **Ushers:** Nate & Pam Kitterman, Linda Mason and Allison Stahl

*Those scheduled to usher next Sunday, **December 26<sup>th</sup>**, are: Paul von Ende and Skip & Beverly Schramer.*

All music is used with permission: *CCLI License #3234671*

## Christ Be Our Light

1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for  
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for  
 4 Long-ing for shel-ter, man-y are home-less. Long-ing for  
 5 Man-y the gifts, man-y the peo-ple, man-y the

truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man-y de-spair. Your word a-lone  
 warmth, man-y are cold. Make us your build-ing,  
 hearts that yearn to be-long. Let us be ser-vants

your ho-ly peo-ple, light for the world to see.  
 has power to save us. Make us your liv-ing voice.  
 shel-ter-ing oth-ers, walls made of liv-ing stone.  
 to one an-oth-er, mak-ing your king-dom come.

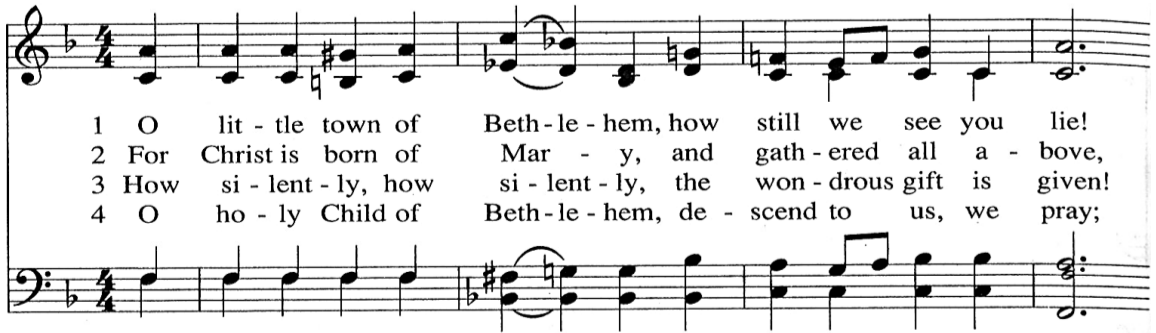
*Refrain* G C G Em Bm Em  
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the  
 dark-ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your  
 church gath-ered to-day.

## If In Your Heart

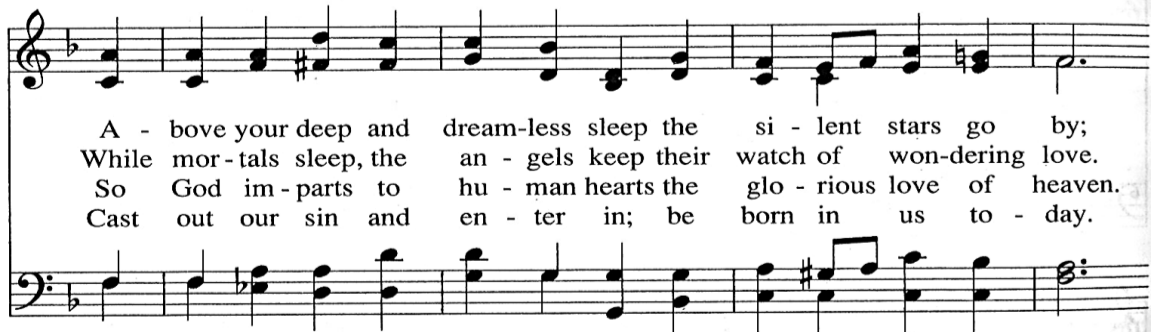
If in your heart you make a man-ger for his birth, then

5 1. 2.  
 God will once a-gain be-come a child on earth. If earth.

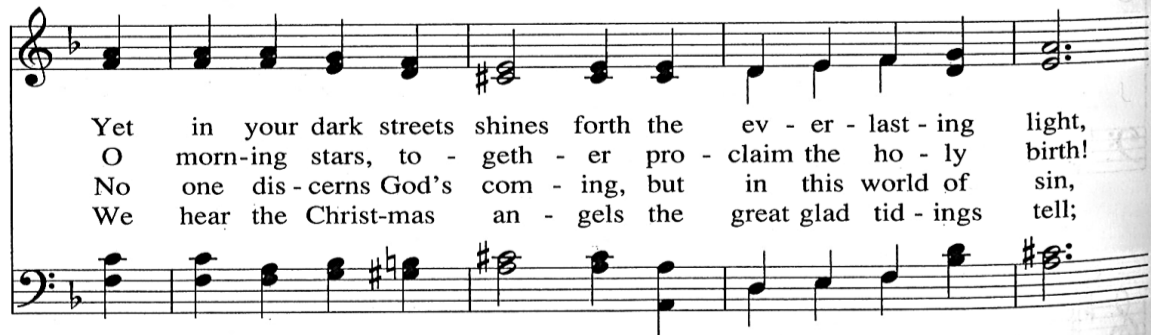
# O Little Town of Bethlehem



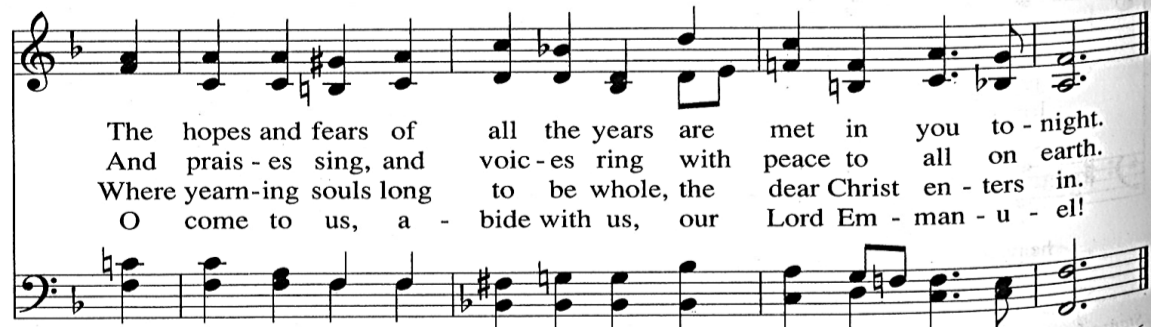
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see you lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!  
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove your deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
 While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the glo - rious love of heaven.  
 Cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.



Yet in your dark streets shines forth the ev - er - last - ing light,  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!  
 No one dis - cerns God's com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in you to - night.  
 And prais - es sing, and voic - es ring with peace to all on earth.  
 Where yearn - ing souls long to be whole, the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!



# Advent Opportunities

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

A dark blue rectangular graphic with a subtle background of silhouettes of the three wise men on camels and a star. The text is white. At the top, 'ADVENT DEVOTIONAL' is written in a serif font. Below it, on the left, is a white decorative border containing the text 'Tuesdays 9-10am Nov. 30 - Dec. 21 via Zoom'. To the right of this border is another white decorative border containing the text 'Join us for a time of connecting, reflecting, & praying'. At the bottom right, there is a small icon of a laptop with the text 'click to join!' on its screen.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Tuesdays  
9-10am  
Nov. 30 -  
Dec. 21  
via Zoom

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

click to  
join!

A graphic with a dark blue background featuring a bright starburst at the top center and falling golden confetti or sparkles. The text is white and gold. At the top, 'FEDERATED CHURCH' is in a white serif font. Below it, 'Christmas' is in a large, gold, cursive script font. Underneath that, 'EVE' is in a large, white, serif font. Then 'CANDLELIGHT' and 'SERVICE' are in a gold, serif font, separated by small gold stars. At the bottom, a solid yellow horizontal band contains the text 'DECEMBER 24 | 7PM | IN-PERSON & FB LIVE' in a dark blue, sans-serif font.

FEDERATED CHURCH

Christmas

EVE

CANDLELIGHT  
\* SERVICE \*

DECEMBER 24 | 7PM | IN-PERSON & FB LIVE

# ***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+ people to be, to belong, to lead, to question, and to grow in faith.



# ***“Welcoming Any, Loving All”***

*The Federated Church is affiliated with two national denominations:  
the United Church of Christ & the Unitarian Universalist Association*



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