



Union Presbyterian Church

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2022 | 10AM

Reformed worship is centered around the Word, both the Word of scripture and Christ as the Word Incarnate. In worship we gather around the Word, engage with the Word, and respond to the Word.

Bold text is read or sung by the congregation.

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

Our Advent liturgy this year is adapted from resources written by Amanda Meisenheimer and published by Illustrated Ministry LLC @2022.

Confession is our opportunity to be honest with God, so that our relationship may be restored and our hearts reconciled.

The Passing of the Peace is one of the most ancient practices of worship. Having received Christ's peace, we pass it on.

Gather

Welcome and Announcements

Please help us to know you by signing the fellowship pad. If you have a prayer request, please complete a blue prayer card. Place both in the offering plate when it is passed.

Hymn 85 (v.1,2)

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

TIF IN VELDELE

Lighting of the Hope Candle

*Call to Worship

Children of God, lay down your defenses
and find peace in the community of faith.

Let the Church be a safe refuge where peace reigns over fear and violence.

Children of God, examine your ways
and prepare to yield to the gentle way of Christ.

**We let go of the harshness and pettiness
keeping us from peace with God and neighbor.**

Children of God, come to worship and proclaim this peace to all the world.

We gather in the spirit of Christ himself. Let us worship in peace together.

***Hymn 88 (v.1,2)**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

Prayer of Praise

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of peaceful presence, we confess we often choose discord instead of peace, choosing to prove a point instead of listening with empathy. Sometimes we settle for a shallow peace, keeping our feelings buried and avoiding painful truths. But your way is the narrow path, the path of telling the truth, feeling our emotions, and listening with empathy. Forgive us, God, and help us strive for real peace with ourselves and our neighbors.
(Silent prayers of confession)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Take heart, children of God, and know God's grace and forgiveness are vast enough to cover our conflict, anxiety, and even war. Receive God's pardon and be at peace. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*Sharing Christ's Peace

Peace lives within and among us. When we pass the peace of Christ, we create peace between us and share the peace within us. Share the peace of Christ with your neighbors, family, and friends. May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Hymn #460

Children 5th grade and younger are invited to come to the chancel steps.



Scan QR code to give electronically from your phone

Engage

Song for Illumination *Break Thou the Bread of Life*

BREAD OF LIFE

Children's Message

Scripture Reading Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 1:26-38 (Pew Bible NT pg.4, 76)
Hear what God's Spirit is saying to us. This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ!

Message *Peace that Passes All Understanding* Rev. Lisa Stenner

***Hymn 100** *Canticle of the Turning* STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

Respond

Offering of Our Time, Talent and Treasure

Financial offerings support the Body of Christ through the life and mission of Union Presbyterian Church. You may give online www.unionpresby.org automated giving through your bank, via Venmo @UnionPresby and through snail mail.

*Doxology

Prayers of the People

The People Share Communion with God and with Each Other

Affirmation of Peace

Siblings in Christ, let us proclaim the peace of our faith:

Jesus came as a helpless baby to bring down the powerful from their thrones and lift up the lowly.

We are made strong, even in our weakness. This is our peace.

Jesus grew to be a curious child, trading wisdom with teachers at the temple.

We are welcome in God's house, even with all of our questions.

This is our peace.

Jesus was baptized and called God's Son,

even before he had done any ministry or had any disciples.

We are children of God, no matter from where we come or what we have done. This is our peace.

Jesus worked hard, felt tired, rested, and spent time alone.

We listen to the rhythms of our bodies. We take time to rest.

This is our peace.

Jesus was challenged, confronted, accused, and condemned.

We are not alone in our suffering or oppression. This is our peace.

Jesus promised a kingdom of justice, where he has built everyone a home and where there is no more pain.

Our sins, struggles, and sorrows will cease,

and we will be at home with Jesus. This is the peace of our faith.

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and Cup *(The lighter cup is juice. The darker cup is wine.)*

Closing Prayer

***Hymn #765**

May the God of Hope Go with Us

ARGENTINA

***Charge and Benediction**

***Postlude**

Worship Leaders

Cheryl Martinez, Accompanist

Mary Lu Funyak, Liturgist

Our worship does not end with the postlude, but continues out into the world, where we are sent to love and care for God's people

Announcements

Welcome to worship at UPC this morning!

Please help us get to know you by signing the fellowship pad. If you are a first time visitor, please leave your email address or phone number so that we can continue to welcome you. Also, stop by the Welcome Center in the narthex to pick up your welcome gift after the service!

We value children in worship! There are children's materials and crayons available as you enter the Sanctuary, a play area in the north window of the sanctuary, and a nursery area down the hall to the right of the narthex.

Intergenerational Sunday School throughout Advent is in the Family Room from 9:15 am to 9:50am. God's children of ALL ages are invited to come and ponder God's love this holy season. Have a snack. Make some new friends.

Angel Tree for Gallatin County CAC

Please return your UNWRAPPED angel gifts by Sunday, December 18th. We will deliver the gifts at 9:15am on Monday, December 19th. If you'd like to help with the delivery, please sign up in the narthex or contact the church office.

Directory Info due now. Please return the form or email the church office with your correct directory info and communication preferences. You may also update your photo by emailing a picture or dropping off a hard copy to be scanned and returned to you.

◆ Other Activities this Week

Saturday: B'fast with Santa 8:30m – 10:30a
UPSeniors Christmas Party 11am

Adult Activities

Florence Women's Club

3rd Tuesday 12:30pm – 2:30pm

Info: Sharon Price 859-391-3984

Iglesia Pentecostales Palabra de Vida

Sunday at 4pm

Thursday at 6:30pm

Info: (513) 728-5343

UPS (Union Presbyterian Seniors)

3rd Thursday Lunch at local restaurants

Info: Elaine Johnson

Alcoholics Anonymous

Wednesdays at 8pm

◆ Youth Activities

Middle School Youth

TODAY: Hang out with your family

Next week: NKY Youth @ UPC 4:45p – 7:15p

Senior High Youth

TODAY: Hang out with your family

Next week: NKY Youth @ UPC 4:45p – 7:15p

Boy Scouts, Troop 805

Monday at 7pm

◆ Children's Activities

Cub Scouts, Troop 805

Tuesday at 7pm

Girl Scouts Troop 2146

Every Other Friday at 6pm

◆ Abraham's Pantry

Mondays & Thursdays

Volunteer through website for time of your choice

Birthdays

December 7 Elaine Johnson
December 8 Debbie Forney, Jessica Wood
December 9 Amy Scott, Joe VonLehman

Prayers

Karen Kemp, The Clouses, Neva Martin,
The Brownsteads, Sue Kozlowski, Anita Merkel,
Jan Lawson

Christmas Eve Poinsettias

Help beautify the sanctuary on Christmas Eve by purchasing a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone or to the glory of God. You may purchase these beautiful flowers by signing up on the sheet in the Narthex or by emailing the church office. Poinsettias cost \$15 each and can be taken home after the Christmas Eve service. A dedication page will appear in the Christmas Eve bulletin. The proceeds help support our summer youth conferences.



Union Breakfast with Santa Saturday, December 10th 8:30am – 10:30am

UPC will once again be providing hot chocolate for the City of Union's Breakfast. This holly, jolly time of community fellowship is held at the Union Fire Station. If you'd like to help, please sign up in the narthex or contact the church office.



Community Christmas ~ Sunday, December 18th at 6pm Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Stake Center 144 Buttermilk Pike, Lakeside Park, KY

Enjoy a casual evening of worship filled with congregational singing, scriptural reflections, and musical offerings from various congregations as well as the chance to fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ from various denominations. In this holy season, what better way can we witness to our unity in Christ than by worshiping the Lord together? Want to carpool? Sign up in the narthex

Abraham's Pantry is this year's highlighted ministry. A love offering of supplies and financial donations will be received.

SESSION

Moderator: Reverend Lisa Stenner

Class of 2023

Kim Fry 678-641-4060
John Seibert 859-760-4712

Class of 2024

Robert Brown 859-669-6008
Jessica Wood 859-462-8995

Class of 2025

Bob Janes 859-322-5709
Nancy Shupe 859-750-2817

DEACONS

Class of 2023

Beverly Johnson
Holly VonLehman

Class of 2024

Genesis Tinslee
Peggy Schadler
Bob Sherwood

Class of 2025

Julie Bailey
Lisa Denham
Ollie Seidman