



St. Luke's United Church of Christ

727 N Main

Independence, MO

December 24, 2024

7:00 PM

Rev. E. Paul Emily, Pastor

# ST. LUKE'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

727 N. Main St.  
Independence, Missouri 64050  
Church Phone: 816-461-0302  
www.stlukesuccindep.org

Rev. E. Paul Emily, Pastor  
Pastor's Phone: 816-379-5726  
stlukes@stlukesuccindep.org  
Margie Foley, Organist/Pianist  
Matthew Bennett, Conductor/Violinist

Nanette Moore, Administrative Assistant/Director of Christian Education

Pastors Emeriti: Rev. David Lyon & Rev. Ralph Koch

\*If comfortable doing so, you are invited to stand.

**The hymns today come from The Methodist Hymnal.**

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DECEMBER 24, 2024

CHRISTMAS EVE

## GATHERING MUSIC GREETING AND WELCOME

PRELUDE AND PRESENTATION OF THE CHRIST CHILD "Still, Still, Still"

Arr. Dan Goeller

\*CAROL No. 218 "It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

CAROL

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,  
look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold  
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

## \*LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: In the beauty of this hour, we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child.

**All: In the mystery of this hour, we celebrate God's grace that has come to us.**

One: In the quietness of this hour, the frenzy of the world does not and should not touch us here.

**All: In the holiness of this night, we proclaim our hope.**

One: On this night, the angels sing. On this night, heaven and nature sing.

**All: On this night, our hearts also sing.**

One: Tonight, on the night of nights, we light the candle at the center of our Advent Wreath and at the center of our faith. We light it in the name of the One who is the Light of the World. And as Mary did so long ago, we name this light "Jesus".

## \*BLESSING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE (Unison)

Source of all illumination, we celebrate tonight the coming of your Light to dwell among us. Bless these holy flames, that in their glow we may be blessed by the beauty of your abiding presence. May the light of this candle give us hope in times of darkness. Bless us, that we might reflect the Light of Christ in our daily lives. We ask in the name of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. Amen

<b>HANDBELL CHOIR</b>	“Ave Maria”	Bach/Gounod
<b>SCRIPTURE</b>	Luke 2:1-20	
<b>CHANCEL CHOIR</b>	“Silent Night, Silent World”	Antonin Dvorak
<b>REFLECTION</b>	“We Need More Than A Little Christmas”	
<b>*CAROL</b> No. 217 “Away in a Manger”		AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;  
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray;  
bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

## **CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

### **CALL TO OFFERING**

### **OFFERTORY**

"What Child is This"

Arr. Dan Goeller

### **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison)**

**God of Glory, in Jesus Christ being born among us, your light shines and cannot be extinguished. May the light of Christ glow brightly within our lives. Through this offering may all your children know joy and peace as this congregation gives witness to Christ's light. Amen**

## **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

### *Invitation*

### *Prayer of Praise*

One: Let us join the chorus of the angels as we offer God our praise!

**All: Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men.**

### *Prayer of Confession (Unison)*

**O God, we confess that we sometimes we settle for just a Little Christmas. We admit we settle for the gifts we want but ignore the gift of your light which has come to us in the birth of Christ. We ask that you forgive us and let the light of your favor shine upon us. May we more faithfully bear your light in our world. Amen**

### *Assurance of Pardon*

### *Words of Institution*

### *Communion Prayer*

### *Sharing of the Sacrament*

## **SHARING OF THE CHRIST LIGHT**

*Meditate on the instrumental music as the candles are lit for the Sharing of the Christ Light.*

*Please remain seated during the singing of “Silent Night”*

*Verse 1 will be repeated in German as printed below.  
This is a nod to the German founders of St. Luke's congregation.*

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright. Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.  
Holy infant so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht, Alles schläft; einsam wacht  
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar.  
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar, Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh! Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight. Glories stream from heaven afar  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia, Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night! Son of God love's pure light. Radiant beams from  
Thy holy face With dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus Lord, at Thy birth  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light; With the angels let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King. Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born

### **A CHRISTMAS PRAYER AND BENEDICTION**

(Please carefully extinguish your candles before leaving.)

The Liturgist tonight is Julie Sehart.  
Thank you to John Kritos for accompanying the hymns tonight.

### **THANK YOU**

We would like to thank our many musicians this evening for enriching our worship service.  
They give of their time and talent, to all of us, as we remember Christ's birth.

### **NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP AND BREAKFAST**

Let's celebrate the end of 2024 and the beginning of 2025 with breakfast, fellowship and worship at St. Luke's UCC on December 29th. Breakfast is at 9:30 followed by worship at 10:45 AM. All are welcome!

### **CONNECT**

If you are visiting today we would love to connect with you.  
Text CONNECT to 816-312-5053.

### **WINDOWS INTO ST. LUKE'S**

You're invited to the Windows Into St. Luke's Facebook Group. It is a way to stay connected, informed and walk together in virtual community and spiritual nurture.

Text the word Windows to 816-312-5053.

### **GIVING OPTIONS**

Text the word Give to 816-312-5053 and you will be directed to a secure site for giving.

### **FIND US ONLINE**

[www.stlukesuccindep.org](http://www.stlukesuccindep.org)

Facebook ~ St. Luke's United Church of Christ

(The worship services are live streamed and available on the Facebook page)

Instagram ~ St. Luke's United Church of Christ

### **PHOTO/VIDEO POLICY**

May it be understood that any pictures/videos taken during any church event may be used for promotion. Church events, including but not limited to, worship services may be broadcast live on Facebook.

If you are not in agreement with this notify the church office.

# **Poinsettias**

## **Purchased by:**

*Jeff & Marita Ray*

*Chris & Julie Bernard*

*Pat Boeger*

*Carol Lyon*

*Mel & Linda Sehrt*

*Marilyn King & Karen Zuiderhof*

*Paul & Dianne Emily*

*Linda Drown*

*Linda Drown*

*Dan O'Neill*

*Jodie Puhr*

*Mike & Nanette Moore*

*Jane Morman*

*Larry & Mikelette Paul*

*Barry & Teresa Harris*

*John Kritos*

*John Kritos*

*John Kritos & Matt Meeks*

*Jeff & Ginger Ruoff*

*Jan & Bruce Lyon*

*Hyun & Carlos Ramon*

## **Dedication:**

*In Memory of Loved Ones*

*In Memory of Dale & Norma Kesner &  
Dewey, Ann & Loretta Bernard*

*In Memory of Loved Ones*

*In Memory of Dave*

*In Memory of Loved Ones*

*In Memory of Loved Ones*

*In Memory of Our Parents*

*In Memory of Lola Borchers*

*In Memory of Gary Lucas*

*In Memory of Mom & Dad*

*In Memory Karen Puhr & Freda Dobler*

*In Memory of Loved Ones*

*In Memory of Loved Ones*

*In Memory of Loved Ones*

*In Memory of Parents*

*In Memory of Jan Dunstan*

*In Memory of George Kritos*

*In Memory of Juanita Meeks*

*In Memory of Our Parents*

*In Memory of Loved Ones*

*In Memory of Our Parents*

***Please remember to take your poinsettia home tonight.***