Columbiana First United Methodist
210 S Main St. • Columbiana, Ohio 44408
(330) 482-2382

December 7th, 2025 2nd Sunday of Advent

Prelude:

***Enter the Light of Christ**

Pastor's Welcome
Announcements:

- **Soup Sale Pre-orders are due today. Soup pick-up will be Thursday Dec. 11th, between 3:30-4:30. The soups available for order are: Chicken Noodle, Stuffed Pepper, Chili, Vegetable, Potato, and Ham and Bean. The cost is $9.00 a quart.**
- **We are seeking Advent Readers to participate in our service by reading and lighting the corresponding candle. If you are interested, please inform the church secretary, Miranda, who will provide the reading material in advance. Thank you for your consideration.**
- **Fellowship Breakfast at the Dutch House will be on Dec. 10th @ 10 am. Come and join us, all are welcome, no reservations needed.**

Opening Prayer:
Merciful God, who sent Your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Advent Reading and Lighting of the Advent Wreath.

***Opening Hymn: "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" 1,3,4 #203**

Call to Worship:
L: "We're waiting for One who is coming."
P: "Why wait for someone when we don't know how long to wait?"
L: "We wait in anticipation for the Coming One Who is filled with God's Spirit."
P: "A spirit of wisdom and understanding in a confusing world."
All: "For the whole earth will be brimming, knowing God is ALIVE with us."

Pastoral Prayer
The Lord's Prayer
Offertory:
*Doxology #95

*Prayer of Dedication
Eternal God, as we wait for the fulfillment of Your reign, use these gifts and the gifts of our lives to bring justice to those who are oppressed, to set free those who are in prison, to lift up those who are bowed down, and to uphold those who are vulnerable. Amen

Hymn of Preparation:
"It Came upon the Midnight Clear" 1,2,4 #218

Celebration of Communion
Prayer after Communion:
We thank You, God of hope, for letting us experience a glimpse of the justice, righteousness, and peace that Your new creation will bring. As we strive to serve Your holy kingdom, may this heavenly nourishment make us stronger. Guide us to live with joyful hope for the return of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, in His glory. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10
Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:1-12
Gloria Patri #70

Message: "Looking Below the Surface" Pastor Cyndi

***Closing Hymn: "Let There Be Peace on Earth" #431**
*Benediction
***Sending: "God Be with You"**
*Postlude
**Indicates for the congregation to stand if you are able*

Dear Heavenly Father,

We gather before You today, offering our heartfelt praises and lifting up Your name in worship. Through song and prayer, we honor You, acknowledging Your greatness and love. We humbly present all that we have to You, knowing that You are worthy of much more than we could ever give. Please accept this as a sign of our devotion and gratitude.

Lord, we confess that we are not always as grateful as we should be, and we do not always dedicate all of our time and energy to You. We ask that You would stir within us, placing upon our hearts a deeper desire to offer You more of ourselves each day.

Help us to live our lives in a way that honors You. Guide us to turn away from the temptations and distractions of this world that pull us from Your presence. Strengthen our resolve to remain close to You.

As we gather here, may we be edified and uplifted. We pray that Your Word would educate and transform us, so that our hearts are mended and our minds are renewed according to Your will.

Gracious Lord, we come before You with hearts full of gratitude for all You have done for us during this past week. In times of sorrow, You have been our source of joy, lifting our spirits and reminding us of Your unfailing love. When we felt the chill of hardship, You brought warmth and comfort, surrounding us with Your caring presence.

Where there was brokenness, You provided healing, mending what was wounded and restoring hope within us. In moments of loneliness, You brought companionship, reminding us that we are never truly alone because You are always with us.

Praise the Lord for Becky Roller's new grandson Ryker. We lift Susan as she prepares for testing. Be with her medical team, give them Your wisdom so they see what You see, and know what You know. Praise the Lord for being with Stephanie, allowing her to know something was not quite right, and allowing her medical team to listen and find the very thing that was causing an issue. May Your healing fall upon her, and allow her to return to normal life. All for Your glory.

For all these blessings, we thank You, Lord. Thank You, Jesus, for Your constant care and compassion.

We lift to You today, all that weighs us down. We bring before You our burdens, worries, and the cares that fill our hearts. We lay these at Your feet, trusting in Your infinite wisdom and compassion to lighten our load. Lord, grant us Your peace and strength in place of our anxieties, and help us to rest in the assurance that You are always with us, carrying us through every trial and hardship.

May we leave Your House this morning with a greater desire to be Your hands and feet in the world that You have placed us in. Let us step out, not merely as individuals, but as instruments of Your love and service, ready to fulfill Your calling wherever we go.

Empower us, Lord, to be Your beacon of Light, shining brightly amid the darkness that surrounds us. Through our actions, words, and presence, may we reflect Your goodness so that the shadows of despair and hopelessness are driven away. Let our lives be a testimony to Your transformative power.

Our prayer is that, through our witness, many will see You, be drawn to Your love, and come to desire You and the kingdom that You have promised. May we inspire others to seek the hope and salvation found in You, so that together we may journey toward the fulfillment of Your eternal promises. All this we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.