

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

December 14th, 2025

3rd Sunday of Advent

Prelude:

***Enter the Light of Christ**

Pastor's Welcome

Announcements:

- **One Board Meeting Dec. 17th @ 5:30 pm**
- **Chef Brad's Brunch, Dec. 21st after Worship Service. Come join us for an extended fellowship and a great meal.**
- **Poinsettia's can be ordered in honor of, or in memory of loved ones. They will be displayed at our Christmas Eve service, and can be taken home, after the service.**
- **Christmas Eve service will be held at 4 pm this year. Come and join us, invite your family and friends.**

Opening Prayer:

Holy God of Joy, we rejoice in the reality of who You are. We live within the joy of Your love for us. Our contentment comes and goes. Our happiness ebbs and flows. Our feelings depend upon our circumstances, our physical health, our brain chemistry. But our joy is deeply rooted in our identity as Your beloved children. And we give You thanks. Amen.

Advent Reading and Lighting of the Advent Wreath.

***Opening Hymn:" Joy to the World" 1,2,4 #246**

Call to Worship:

L: Beloved, we gather to rejoice in God who does wondrous things, who promises that someday all manner of things shall be well.

P: We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

L: We worship with joy now, confident that God will not stop until all creation is at peace.

P: We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

L: We lift our voices in song and story, in prayer and praise, as we remember and rejoice in all that God has done and will do among us.

P: We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

L: Come! Let us worship God with joy as we work with God toward the day when all of creation lives in everlasting joy.

P: Come! Let us rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Offertory:

***Doxology #95**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious God of deep joy, even when storms rage and doubts rise, You call us to see with kingdom eyes—to look for healing, hope, and signs of Your grace breaking in. In this Advent season of expectation and weariness, we bring these gifts as expressions of joy, rooted not in ease but in trust. May our giving bear witness to Your good news: that the blind still see, the lame still walk, and the poor still receive care. Use these offerings and us as signs of Your coming reign, lights in the storm, and carriers of joy. In the name of Jesus, our hope and our Redeemer. Amen.

Hymn of Preparation: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" 1,3,4 #234

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:2-11

Gloria Patri #70

Message: "Expect the Unexpected" Pastor Cyndi

***Closing Hymn: "Angels We Have Heard on High" 1,2,3 #238**

***Benediction**

***Sending: "God Be with You"**

***Postlude**

**Indicates for the congregation to stand if you are able*

Dear Heavenly Father,

We are grateful to You for granting us the opportunity to gather in Your house this morning. It is within these walls that we experience a warm welcome and a deep sense of love from You and from one another.

Lord, You are truly an awesome God. Over the years, You have continually revealed Your compassion, kindness, and everlasting love to us in countless ways. When we pause and reflect, even on just this past week, we can clearly see the moments where Your presence was with us and how Your hand was at work, guiding us and keeping us safe. For these blessings and Your faithfulness, we thank You.

Father, we recognize that we have not always been as faithful to You as You have been to us. At times, we have allowed ourselves to become distracted by the things of this world. Our minds have been occupied with frustrations and worries that, instead of carrying alone, we should have entrusted to You. We confess these moments of weakness and ask for Your forgiveness, knowing that Your grace is always available to us when we turn back to You.

Lord, we gratefully acknowledge the healing that You have brought to many among us. You have touched my heart, restoring and renewing it so that I may continue to lead in the way You have designed for me. Your hand has strengthened my mind, empowering me to fulfill the responsibilities and calling You have given.

We see Your healing in the life of Catlynn, and we are thankful for the ongoing work You continue in her. Your peace has been given to those who have faced difficult decisions, granting clarity and comfort as they navigate life's challenges.

Lord, we lift up our voices in praise for Your faithfulness to Marge. We thank You for Your presence with her throughout her recent health challenges. We are especially grateful that You have guided her medical team to discover a treatment that is beginning to show positive results in her eye. This progress is a testament to Your goodness and attentive care.

We humbly ask that You continue to direct her doctors with wisdom and discernment as they oversee her treatment. We pray that Your healing hand remains upon Marge, bringing about the restoration that is in accordance with Your will. May she continue to experience Your peace and strength during this time of recovery.

Thank You for all that You have already done for Cory, this coming Monday, he will be having a scan to see where he is at. We ask that You continue to be with him and all all those that see and hear the results, know without a doubt that You have brought healing to him.

Lord, we thank You for all that You have already done for Cory. Your presence and healing have been evident in his life, and we are deeply grateful for Your continual care. As Cory prepares for his scan this coming Monday, we ask that You remain close to him throughout this process. Surround him with Your peace and assurance as he awaits the results.

We also pray for all those who will be involved in reviewing and sharing the results of the scan. Grant them clarity and discernment, so that when they see and hear the outcome, they will know without a doubt that You have brought healing to Cory. May Your hand be recognized in every aspect of this journey, offering hope and encouragement to all who witness it.

Together with Jeff, we lift his son-in-law Brett before You as he prepares for surgery this coming week. We pray that You would surround Brett with Your perfect peace—a peace that surpasses all understanding and is unlike anything this world can offer. May Your presence bring comfort and assurance to his heart, calming any fears or anxieties he may face. Grant wisdom and skill to the medical team entrusted with his care, and let Your healing hand be upon him throughout the entire process. We trust in Your goodness and ask that Your peace would rest upon Brett, guiding him and his loved ones through this time.

We lift up Karen to You as she endures pain following her recent tooth extraction. We ask that You extend Your healing hand upon her, bringing comfort and relief from the pain she is experiencing. May Your presence be felt in her body, allowing the discomfort to dissipate and restoring her well-being. Grant her patience and peace during this time of recovery and let her know that she is surrounded by Your love and care.

Through Your generosity and care, You have kept us warm, fed, and sheltered. For these provisions and for Your constant presence, we offer our thanks and praise.

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the gift of this church family. We are grateful for the fellowship, support, and love that bind us together as one body in Christ. As we journey through this season of Advent and approach Christmas, we seek Your guidance. Fill us with Your Words and Wisdom, so that we may be instruments of Your grace and truth.

Lord, we ask that You use us during this special time to reach out to those who may harbor doubts or who have not yet come to know You. We pray that through our actions, words, and love, they will be drawn closer to You. May they come to experience the true joy, unconditional love, and abundant life that You so freely offer to all who believe. It is in Jesus' name that we pray. Amen