

# St. John's UCC, Fullerton

575 Grape Street † Whitehall PA 18052  
[www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org](http://www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org) † 610-264-8421



**We Worship, We Love, We Serve  
– No Matter What!**

**December 24, 2025  
Christmas Eve**

**Pre-Service Music ~ 5:30 pm  
Worship Service ~ 6:00 pm**

# We Worship

**Welcome to St. John's UCC, Fullerton!**

*We are proudly an Open & Affirming (ONA) Congregation  
of the Penn NE Conference United Church of Christ!*

*You are WELCOME HERE!*

**\* Those who are comfortably able, please stand**

*Our Offering is received as we gather for worship, with plates located on pedestals at the back. We graciously accept your gifts of praise and gratitude to God, to be presented during the service. While guests are welcome to contribute, please know there is no obligation; the financial support of our church is primarily the responsibility of our congregation members.*

*Our sincere thanks to **Stephani Bell**, our Violinist for this evening, for once again sharing her incredible talent and time with our church community.*

## Preparing our Hearts for Worship in Prayer

*St. John's wishes a very merry and blessed Christmas to all. We welcome all to worship this evening as together we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We welcome the stranger and guest who have joined us this evening. We welcome our students home for a winter's rest. We welcome those who may have been distant in their faith, and through the joy and love of what this day brings, have joined us here this evening. We welcome our faithful, whose compassion and love show the true meaning of Christmas.*

*Though we are many parts, together through the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we are one as we come together this night.*

*In our celebration of his birth with carols, candlelight and holy communion, we rejoice that we are an inclusive community and **ALL are welcome to fully participate**. These are God's gifts for us, one and all. Welcome to the fullness of God's love for us in Christ!*

## Music to Prepare our Hearts for Worship

*Music presented by our Bell and Adult Choirs. Words to the choral pieces can be found beginning on page 12.*

*Still, Still, Still*

*Arranged by Cathy Molkebust*

*Bells of St. John's*

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

*Arranged by Jason Krug*

*Violinist: Stephani Bell*

*Manger Lullaby*

Arranged by Hart Morris

Bells of St. John's and Violinist: Stephani Bell

*This Child Shall Be Our Peace*

by Molly Ijames

*Evermore (of the Father's Love Begotten)*

by Sean Paul

*All Glory Be to God on High*

by Steven Strife

## Chimes

**Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Steven Davis

### **\*Greeting and Sharing the Peace of Christ**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you!

### **\*Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Samantha Kistler

One: In a little town, known for nothing much,  
God's holy child was born.

All: **By the faint light of the moon,  
Mary and Joseph found their way.**

One: Shown by a courtyard fire, the open stable door.

All: **Warm breath of resting beasts,  
kindly sparkle in their eyes.**

One: In the shadowy stable stall, Joseph kindled a lamp.

All: **There Mary gave birth to Jesus, called God-with-us.**

One: Angels opened the doors of heaven and sang,  
"Glory to God in the highest!"

All: **Shepherds saw the sky ablaze,  
left their sheep and came to see.**

One: In the darkest winter night, God set a brilliant star.

All: **Magi from the East divined God's shining sign.**

One: And on this Christmas night, with joy, we greet the Child.

All: **Gloria in Excelsis Deo!**

**Come, let us worship the newborn king!**

### **\*Opening Hymn: # 182**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

*All will sing Verses 1 and 2*

*with an interlude between the refrain and Verse 3*

**We believe in God, the creator and giver of life, who brought all creation to birth, who mothers us and fathers us, protecting, nurturing, and cherishing us.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ: God born among us as a fragile baby, embodying both love and the need for love, and calling us to rest in God as trustingly as a tiny child.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, breathed into us at our birth, always drawing us on to be born again, encouraging, exhorting, comforting, nourishing our growth and inspiring our living.**

**We believe in the reconciliation of the world to God, through Christ. Hunted at birth and humiliated at death, Christ entered our fearful darkness so that we might enter his glorious light and share the life of his resurrection.**

**And we believe that each new child is a glimpse of the face of God, a sign of the life to come, and a call to live in peace and celebrate living together. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Amen.**

**\*Lighting of the Advent Candle**

Kistler Family

One: Now in silence, whisper of joy which comes into every life.  
Now in the comfort of carols, sing of hope which takes away the despair which envelops us.

All: **Now in familiar words heard anew, speak to us of grace which is born into barren lives, of peace which is birthed in war's shadowed fears. Now leaning next to those who have always been a part of us, and those from whom we have been apart, remind us of your heart which always accepts us, always welcomes us.**

One: Now in the love which is ours forever, draw us closer to your heart, so we can be surprised by wonder, swaddled in serenity, now embraced by tenderness. Now touch us once again with Christmas.

**All:** O Holy God, we light the Christ candle. It shines on smiles and tears. It shines on younger and older. It shines and we hear angels. It shines and we see a manger. It shines and we remember the story. It shines on our world, like Bethlehem long ago. It can never be extinguished, because you are the candle tonight, and we promise to be the candle tomorrow. Amen.

## Sung Response

### Emmanuel

*Lighting of the Christ Candle Response*

Bob McGee

♩ = 100

Em-man - u - el Em-man - u - el, his name is called Em-man - u - el.

8 God with us re-vealed in us, his name is called - el.

16 Em - man - - - u - el.

The musical score consists of three staves of music for a single voice. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a common time signature, and a tempo of 100. The lyrics "Em-man - u - el" are written below the staff. The second staff begins with a repeat sign and the lyrics "God with us re-vealed in us, his name is called - el.". The third staff begins with a repeat sign and the lyrics "Em - man - - - u - el.". The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some sustained notes and grace notes.

# We Love

## Our Worship and Love Expressed in Prayer

Rev. Davis

### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in 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

## Offering Our Gifts to God

Thank you for your generosity and  
faithfulness  
in supporting the ministry  
of St. John's UCC!



## \*Doxology

### Christmas Doxology

(tune: *United Methodist Hymnal* no. 229)

WORDS: Brenda J. Heard

MUSIC: Traditional Polish melody

W ZLOBIE LEZY

8.7.8.7.8.8.7.

## \*Prayer of Dedication

Liturgist: Samantha Kistler

All: Almighty God, you have blessed us with the greatest gift ever given -- your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. Receive the gifts of our lives as an offering of gratitude for your grace. Overshadow us with your Holy Spirit and let it be with us according to your word, for nothing is impossible with you. Amen.

## **Song of Praise**

## **Mary Did You Know**

Arranged by Craig Courtney

*Mary, did you know That your baby boy would one day walk on water?  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy Would save our sons and daughters?  
Did you know That your baby boy Has come to make you new? This Child  
that you delivered Will soon deliver you.*

*Mary, did you know That your baby boy Will give sight to the blind man?  
Mary, did you know That your baby boy Would calm a storm with His hand?  
Did you know That your baby boy Has walked where angels trod? And when  
you kiss your little baby You've kissed the face of God? Mary, did you know?  
The blind will see, the deaf will hear; The dead will live again! The lame will  
leap, the dumb will speak, The praises of the Lamb!*

*Mary, did you know That your baby boy Is the Lord of all creation? Mary,  
did you know That your baby boy Will one day rule the nations? Did you  
know That your baby boy Was heaven's perfect Lamb? And the sleeping  
Child you're holding' Is the Great I Am!*

## **\*Scripture Readings**

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Read by Corinna Purdon

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived  
in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.*

*For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his  
shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting  
Father, Prince of Peace.*

*Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of  
David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with  
righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD  
of hosts will do this.*

Luke 2: 1-15

Read by Alex Bach

*In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world  
should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while  
Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be  
registered.*

*Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city  
of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and  
family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was  
engaged and who was expecting a child.*

*While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.*

*Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:*

*to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,*

*"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."*

One: The word of God for the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

Rev. Steven Davis

**Advent through the Movies: Light of Christ**  
**Noelle**

**Song of Praise**

*There is Faint Music*  
Dan Forrest

*There is faint music in the night, And pale wings fanned by silver flight; A frosty hill with tender glow of countless stars that shine on snow.*

*A shelter from the winter storm, A straw-lined manger, safe and warm, And Mary singing lullabies, to hush her baby's sleepy sighs.*

*Her eyes are fixed upon His face, unheeded here is time and space; Her heart is filled with blinding joy, For God's own Son, her baby Boy!*

*There is faint music in the night, and pale wings fanned by silver flight; A frosty hill with tender glow of countless stars shine on snow. For God's own Son, a baby Boy.*

## Sacrament of Holy Communion

Rev. Davis

*Please sign the communion book in the back of the church  
if you have not done so at a service of communion in 2025.*

### We Are an Inclusive Community!

In the United Church of Christ, we observe an  
“Open Communion.” ALL persons are welcome to receive  
the gifts of God’s grace and love with us at the table.  
In the UCC, ALL means ALL!

## The Invitation to Receive

Rev. Davis

One: May the God of silent nights be with you!

**All: May the God of herald angels be with you!**

One: Open your hearts to the One born in the little town of  
Bethlehem.

**All: May Emmanuel come to abide in our hearts.**

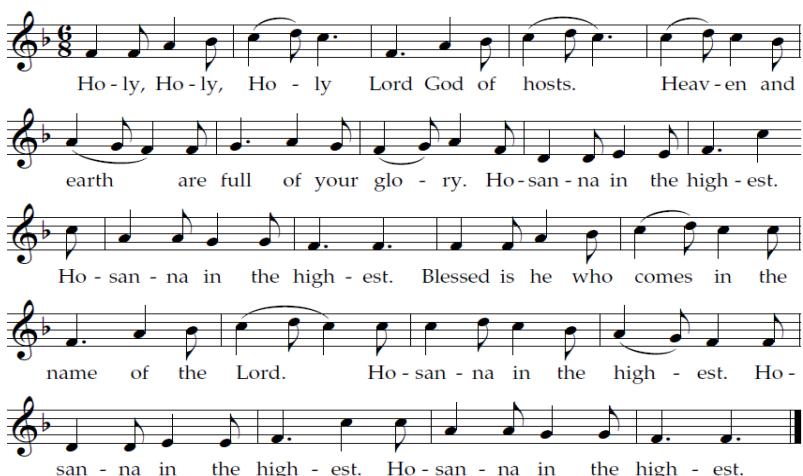
One: Join all believers in singing of our joy this night.

**All: May our voices blend with those of the angels and  
shepherds.**

One: Blessed are you, O Lord our God: When we were living in  
deep darkness, you sent us your Light —

**All: A child called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. All authority in heaven  
and on earth rests upon his shoulders.**

One: And so we join with the voices around us, as together we sing  
praises to you this Christmas night:



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts. Heav - en and  
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

One: Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior:

All: **Born in a stable, he is our Good Shepherd, and your holy Lamb. Lying in a manger, he is the bread of life, food for our souls. Praised by the heavenly host, he is the hope and joy of all the earth.**

One: We remember how Jesus took bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to his friends, saying, “Take, eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.” And after supper, took a cup of wine and blessed and gave it to them, saying: “Drink this, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.” Remembering your goodness and grace, we offer ourselves to you with gratitude as we share this joyful feast.

When we eat this Bread and drink this  
 Cup, we pro-claim your Death, O Lord, un -  
 til you come a - gain, un - til you come a - gain.

Text © 2010, ICEL

IN DULCI JUBILO  
 Arr. by Kevin Keil © 2016, WLP

One: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and cup; make us one in the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Teach us to renounce worldly passions and frivolous pursuits. In this present age, let our lives be godly, upright, and self-controlled, while we await the coming in glory of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ.**

One: Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

## Sung Response

IN DULCI JUBILO  
Arr. by Kevin Keil © 2016, WLP

## Sharing the Meal

*The elements will be passed in the pew, and we will receive the bread and eat at the same time, then the cup passed and all drink together.*

One: The body of Christ, given for us.

**All: Amen**

One: The cup of our salvation, given for us.

**All: Amen**

## Music During Communion

*Epiphany Waltz*

Arranged by Thomas Keeseker

*O Holy Night*

Arranged by Richard Nicholas

Violinist: Stephani Bell

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Davis

**All: We sing a new song to you, Lord. Through this bread and wine we receive your joy. All of creation praises you, joining with glad voices to share the good news of Christ's saving birth. We give thanks for the Word you first sang, Jesus, our Lord. Amen**

## Christmas Eve Candle Lighting

*The Pastor will begin the lighting of candles from the light of the Christ Candle to the ushers, and then the congregation.*

*Please light your candle from your neighbor's to receive the Light, then hold your candle upright and remain in your place as we sing.*

*You may place your used candle in the boxes as we leave the sanctuary. Please do not place them on the pew cushions or floor.*

## \*Hymn

*Silent Night*

*found on page 11*

## Silent Night! Holy Night! 186

\*Prayer

Rev. Steve Davis

## We Serve

\*Hymn: # 185

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

All sing Verses 1 and 2, Interlude, All sing Verse 3

\*The Benediction

Rev. Davis

Choral Postlude

Christmas Gloria

Jay Althouse

All music in this bulletin is copyrighted and reprinted under  
OneLicense #A-735634

## Choral Prelude Music

## *This Child Shall Be our Peace*

Molly Ijames

*This Child, this Child, shall be our peace. A hush upon the stable, a humble manger bed. A weary mother stroking her sleeping baby's head. An echo in her memory of ancient prophecies; this Child of Mary's labor; this Child shall be our peace.*

*A flock of sheep awakened, a flood of glorious light, a band of fearful shepherds illumined in the night. The angel voices swelling, their message to release: The Lamb will be our Shepherd, this child will be our peace.*

*This earth born Child of Heaven, this flesh bound Son of God, This Man who bore our sorrows, this Lamb who shed His blood, He stills our raging anger, He heals our hopeless grief, He calms our frantic worry, He helps our unbelief. Beneath His righteous scepter He makes all war to cease. Come bow the knee before Him. This Christ shall be our peace.*

## Choral Prelude Music

## *Evermore (Of the Father's Love Begotten)*

Arranged by Laura Moorhouse and Sean Paul

*Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He. Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore.*

*O that birth forever blessed, when the Virgin, full of grace, by the Holy Ghost conceiving, born the Savior of our race; and the Babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed His sacred face, evermore and evermore. Evermore and evermore.*

*O ye heights of heav'n, adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing; powers dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore.*

*Evermore.*

## Choir Prelude Music

## *All Glory Be to God on High*

Steven Strife

*While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground, the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shown around and glory shown around.*

*"Fear not," said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind; "glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and humankind, to you and humankind. To you, in David's town is born of David's line. The savior, who is Christ the Lord: and this shall be the sign.*

*The heavenly Babe you there shall find to human view displayed, all meanly wrapped in swathing bands, and in a manger laid, and in a manger laid."*

*Gloria! All Glory be to God on high and to the earth be peace. Good will hence forth from heaven to earth begin and never cease, begin and never cease. Gloria, Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria!*

## **Postlude**

## **Christmas Gloria**

Jay Althouse

*Gloria, gloria deo. Gloria, gloria, Deo. He is born, the Son of God in Bethlehem.*

*For unto us a Child is born in Bethlehem, and He shall be exalted over the earth. Sing alleluia, alleluia, alleluia to the Babe. Sing alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

*For unto us a Child is born in Bethlehem, and He shall be exalted over the earth. Sing alleluia, alleluia, alleluia to the Babe. Sing alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

*Gloria, gloria deo. Gloria, gloria, Deo. He is born in Bethlehem, Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia!*

## **Serving in Worship Leadership**

Liturgist: Samantha Kistler

Scripture Reader: Alex Bach

Worship Tech :Bill Castello

Altar Guild: Cindy Reck

Greeters: Aubrey Funches and Constance Arnold

Ushers: Kirby Hower, Corrina and Jeff Purdon, Kathy Roth,  
Tyler Shankweiler

## OUR STAFF

Senior Pastor	Rev. Steve Davis <a href="mailto:srpastor@sjuccf.org">srpastor@sjuccf.org</a>
Director of Music	Patrick Sandt <a href="mailto:music@sjuccf.org">music@sjuccf.org</a>
Ministry Intern	Samantha “Sam” Kistler <a href="mailto:samanthamkistler@gmail.com">samanthamkistler@gmail.com</a>
Office Administrator	Alison Berger Boor <a href="mailto:officesecretary@sjuccf.org">officesecretary@sjuccf.org</a>
Treasurer	Sue Weldner <a href="mailto:sbweldner@gmail.com">sbweldner@gmail.com</a>
Financial Secretary & Coordinating Custodian	Michelle Gutekunst <a href="mailto:financialsecretary@sjuccf.org">financialsecretary@sjuccf.org</a> <a href="mailto:custodians@sjuccf.org">custodians@sjuccf.org</a>
Worship-Media Tech & Connections Newsletter Editor	Bill Castello <a href="mailto:stars@sjuccf.org">stars@sjuccf.org</a> <a href="mailto:newsletter@sjuccf.org">newsletter@sjuccf.org</a>
Custodian	Christina Bach <a href="mailto:ironton1@verizon.net">ironton1@verizon.net</a>
Custodian	Geoffrey Jackson <a href="mailto:geof.bloomberg24@gmail.com">geof.bloomberg24@gmail.com</a>