

HOPE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

First Sunday after Christmas

December 29, 2024 10:30 a.m.



JESUS MAFA. Jesus among the teachers, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr>

RINGING THE BELL

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

PRELUDE "Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella" French Carol; Arr. Paul Laubengayer

*CALL TO WORSHIP (1)

One: Praise the Christ-child, the newborn Prince of Peace!

All: We have been redeemed. We are no longer afraid.

One: Praise to the God who has come to us in the flesh!

All: We are being created anew. We are no longer afraid.

One: Praise to the Spirit who calls us together to serve!

All: We will be sustained. We are no longer afraid.

One: Go, tell it on the mountain: Jesus Christ is born!

*GATHERING HYMN “Go, Tell It On The Mountain” #154 *New Century Hymnal*
(For full music, the *New Century Hymnal* is located in each pew rack)

Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hill and everywhere.

Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

**While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain***

**The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth. *Refrain***

**Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain***

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (2)

Holy God, we want to linger in the warmth of this Christmas season.

Forgive us when we don't seem to feel your warmth in our lives all the time.

Forgive us when we assign warmth only to Christmas, and then to Easter and seem to dwell on the mundane the rest of the time.

**Give us courage to live as people of the Light, those who find your comforting,
encouraging presence in our lives at all times. (*moment of silent confession*)**

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

People of God, feel the presence of God right now, in this place, warming your hearts, forgiving your fears and preparing you for joyful service.

Thanks be to God!

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE: “Angels We Have Heard on High” #125 *refrain*

(For full music, the *New Century Hymnal* is located in each pew rack)

Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo!

*PASSING THE PEACE

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2: 41-52

Pew Bible pp.833-834

A Word of God that is still speaking, **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN OF REFLECTION "O Sing a Song of Bethlehem" #51 *New Century Hymnal*
(For full music, the *New Century Hymnal* is located in each pew rack)

**O sing a song of Bethlehem, of shepherds watching there,
And of the news that came to them from angels in the air:
The light that shone on Bethlehem fills all the world today;
Of Jesus' birth and peace on earth the angels sing always.**

**O sing a song of Nazareth, of days of joy and sun,
O sing of fragrant flowers' breath, and of the sinless One:
For now the flowers of Nazareth in every heart may grow;
Now spread the fame of Jesus' name on all the winds that blow.**

**O sing a song of Galilee, of lake and woods and hill,
Of One who walked upon the sea and bade its waves be still:
For though, like waves on Galilee, rough seas of trouble roll,
When faith has heard the Savior's word, falls peace upon the soul.**

**O sing a song of Calvary, its glory and dismay,
Of One who hung upon the tree, and took our sins away:
For Christ who died on Calvary is risen from the grave;
God's sovereign Child, who reconciled, is mighty now to save.**

NAMING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

OFFERTORY "Away In a Manger" (Cradle Song) Richard Lloyd
(A QR code at the end of the bulletin is available for online giving.)

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE #782 *New Century Hymnal*

**To God, all glorious heavenly Light, to Christ revealed in earthly night,
To God the Spirit now we raise our joyful songs of thankful praise.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*COMMISSIONING HYMN “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” #129 *New Century Hymnal*
(For full music, the *New Century Hymnal* is located in each pew rack)

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now give heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow, asleep within the manger now,
Christ is born today, Christ is born today!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now you know of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
God has opened heaven’s door, and you are blessed forevermore.
Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now you need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!**

*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Sing We Now of Christmas” Based on a French Carol; Gordon Young

SENDING

With God’s blessing, we are sent forth to follow Christ in the world.

Worship Endnotes:

1. Adapted from www.pcwoodbury.com
2. Adapted from www.ministrymatters.com

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Worship Leaders December 29, 2024

Pastor: Sarah McCann

Organist: Jim Threlkeld

Liturgist: Kristine Wentzien

Ushers: Members of the Open and Affirming Ministry Team

YouTube: Andy Karcher

Tech team: Jim Richmann, Ron Geisel, Kristine Wentzien, Kathleen Mees

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ministries of Hope UCC!*