

December 12th, 2021, at 10 a.m. *Third Sunday of Advent*

Union Congregational Church United Church of Christ

Elk River, Minnesota 763-441-1203 www.elkriverucc.org / churchoffice@elkriverucc.org

Welcome!

Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ welcomes everyone, no matter who you are or where you are on your faith journey.

We offer worship via Facebook Live broadcasts every Sunday at 10am. You can be here in person or participate virtually during, or any time after the service. Every Sunday, the service is recorded and broadcast on Facebook.

Please SILENCE cell phones during the service.

The wi-fi password is: stillspeaking1203

You can contact the church at any time. See office hours below.

Grace and Peace to all.



VISION

God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

(Micah 6:8, (NIV))

Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ Mission Statement



God calls us to minister to each other. This ministry goes beyond our congregation into the community, wider world, and to the earth itself. We seek to reach those in the margins of society, to empower the powerless, and to leave this earth a better place than when we each arrived.

PRELUDE

WORDS OF CENTERING

There is not one blade of grass, there is no color in this world that is not intended to make us rejoice.

~John Calvin

LIGHTING THE CANDLES and WELCOME

If you are in-person, we invite you to fill out the friendship pad to let us know you are here.

If you are worshipping virtually, we invite you to click a reaction button on Facebook to let us know you are with us.



CALL TO WORSHIP (PLEASE JOIN IN CALL AND RESPONSE)

One: We come together in these dark days.

Many: We must look to you now to light our mornings and our

evenings.

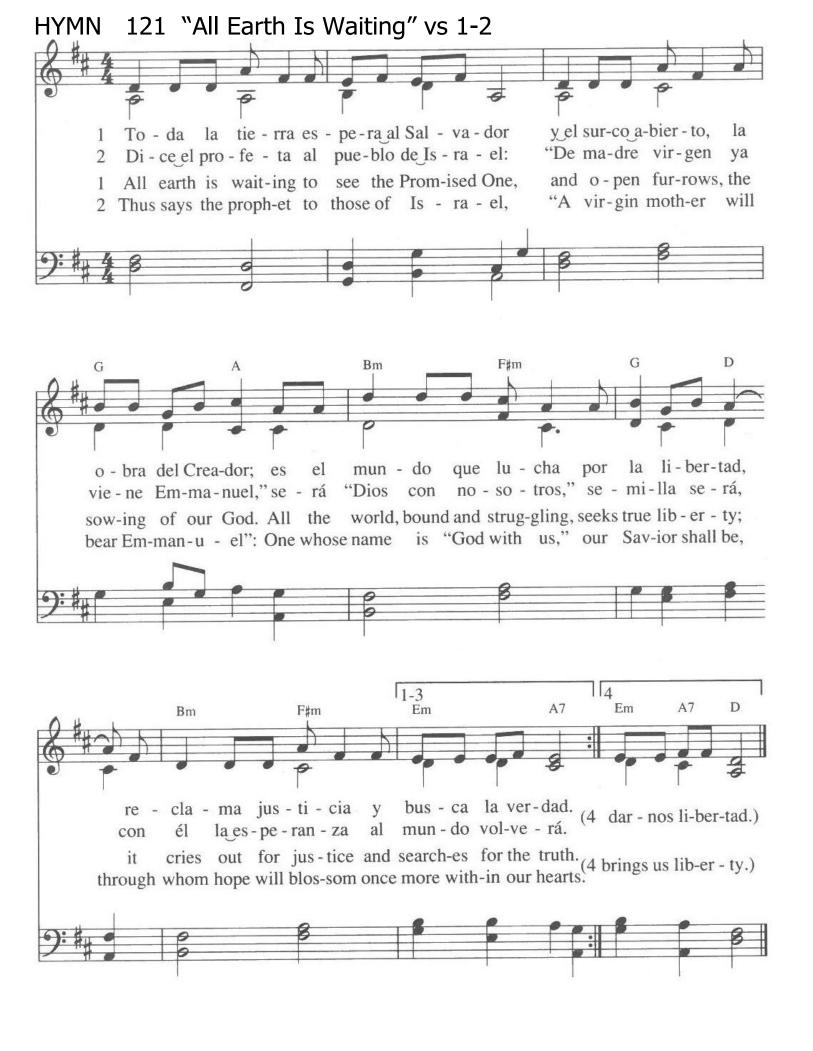
One: We come seeking renewed joy.

Many: We must look now to each other for our spirits to be

improved.

One: We come carrying gifts along with the burdens of the year.

Many: We now look within to bring tidings of great joy.



The first Sunday of Advent we lit the Prophet's candle, and last week we lit the Bethlehem candle. (Light two blue candles)

Today we light the third Advent candle, the shepherd's candle. This candle is offered in honor of the shepherds whose love and care for their sheep become the example of God's love for us.

We remember that the shepherds were the first witnesses of Jesus' birth. In honor of all good shepherds and especially Jesus the Christ, we light this candle. (light pink candle)

Prayer:

Dear God, our Good Shepherd, empower our lives to be filled with love, that in loving others we might bear witness to your love for us. We give you thanks for shepherds, especially Jesus. Amen.

GREETING OF PEACE

In the same spirit in which we receive the unconditional love of God in Jesus Christ, let us offer to one another our own sign of peace.

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also, with you.

ANTHEM Advent Hope

Senior Choir

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE Philippians 4:4-7

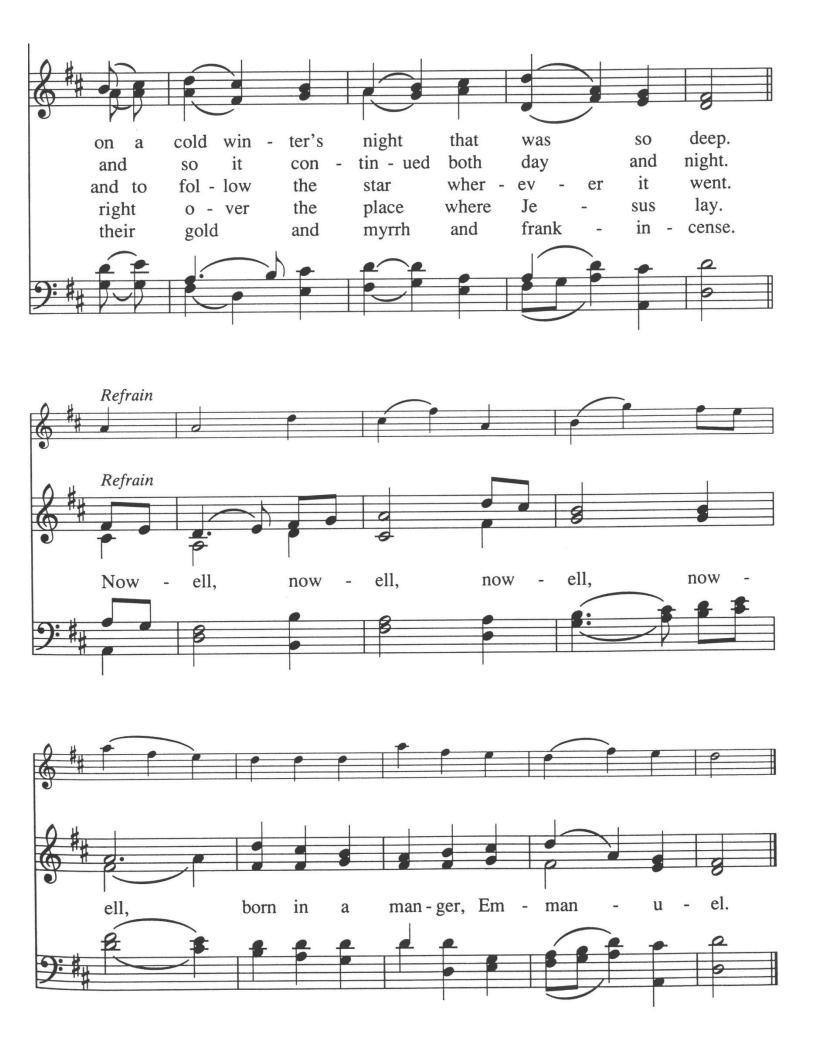
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

REFLECTION

REJOICE

HYMN 139 The First Nowell vs 1-2





OUR TIME OF SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TAUGHT (let us pray together)

Our Creator in Heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO GIVE/RECEIVING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

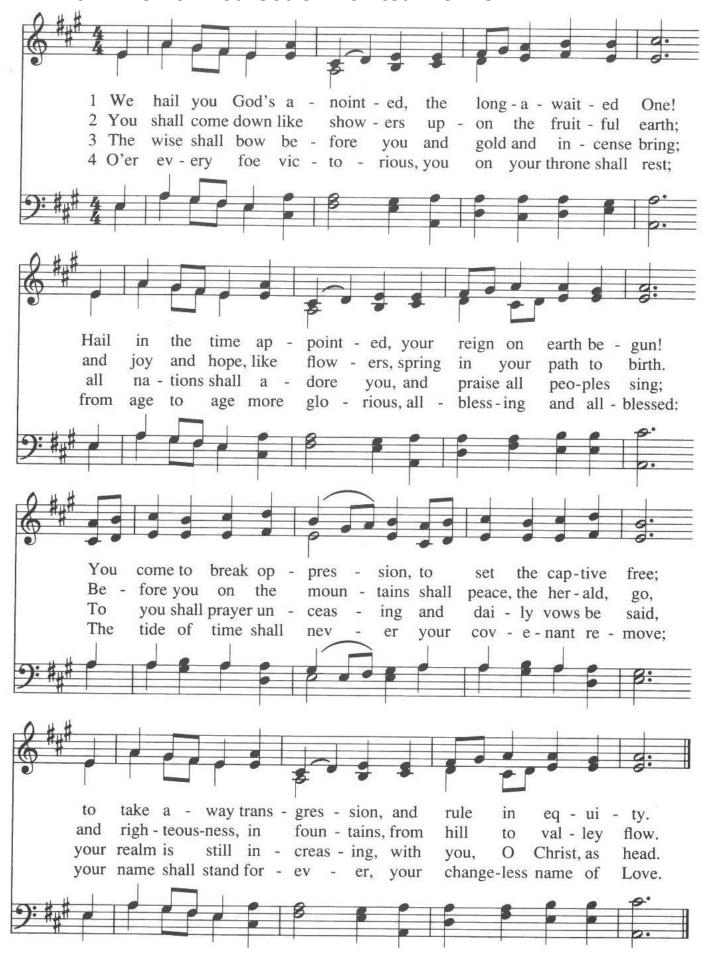
DOXOLOGY 125 "Angels We Have Heard on High" Refrain only



PRAYER OF DEDICATION (let us pray together)

There are many ways we can offer our thanks for the gifts we receive. We choose to show our gratitude, for when we are lost, God returns us to the fold, and when we have given up all hope, we are redeemed. Bless us and the gifts we share. Amen.

HYMN 104 "We Hail You God's Anointed" vs 1-3



BENEDICTION

One: May our faith be as daring as dreams.

Many: May our hope be as bright as Bethlehem's star.

One: May our courage be as great as an angel's bidding.

Many: May the coming of Jesus the Christ find a welcome and

a home in our hearts.

One: As we wait and prepare with joy. Amen.

POSTLUDE

All re-printed music is licensed under CCLI 11010370

Elk River Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

Pastor: Rev. Robin Raudabaugh Deacon: Lisa Cawthra

Office Administrator: Giuliana Beckwith Greeters: Jan and Larry Wick

Senior Choir and Handbell Director: Ushers: Paula & Ron Benfer

Gigi Nauer Hospitality: Memorial

Piano & Organ: Carson Schneider

Announcements

Office Hours

Office hours for the church this week are Sunday through Wednesday, 9:00am to 1:00pm. Call the church at (763) 441-1203 if you have general questions or need a pastor. Office email - churchoffice@elkriverucc.org. Pastor Robin is generally in the office M, T, W mornings. If you would like to meet with her in person, it is a good idea to call ahead.

Pastoral Emergencies

In the event of an emergency, an accident, or a death, even while Pastor Robin is on vacation, please contact her directly via **text** at 651.216.9012, **phone** or **email** revrobin@elkriverucc.org. You may also contact the church office though the response may take longer.

Church Materials

Copies of the Sunday sermon and bulletin are available in person or via Facebook, our website, and the UCC Squared Newsletter (email).

KEPT IN OUR PRAYERS

Please keep in your prayers our congregation members: Jeanette Leland, Ella Rivers, DonnaChurch, Musz Bailey, Jim Babcock, Shelley Sherper, Bobbie Berg, Susan Olsen, Jackie Schuelein, Joanne Burdick, Ruby Cawthra, Jane Houlton, Marion Marcott, Cheryl Wold, Judy Halgren, Amy Britt, Bailey Rosdahl, Jimmy Stevens, Dee & Jim Stevens (Jimmy's parents), John Olson, Linda Fenton, Dave Halgren, Diane Narr, Joan Axen and Nancy Andersen.

SCHEDULE FOR THE COMING WEEKS

Sunday, December 12th, 2021

8:30 a.m. Family Promise Meeting

10:00 a.m. Hybrid Worship Service

In-Person & Live via Facebook

11:00 a.m. Hospitality: Memorial

11:20 a.m. Trustees Budget Info

Monday, Dec. 13th, 2021

6:30 p.m. Stewardship Meeting

Tuesday, Dec. 14th, 2021

6:30 p.m. Virtual Bible Study

Wednesday, Dec. 15th, 2021

3:30 p.m. SARI Demonstration

Sherburne County Gov't center

6:00 p.m. Handbells

7:00 p.m. Senior Choir

7:00 p.m. Confirmation

Thursday, Dec. 16th, 2021

1:00 p.m. Outreach & Justice

6:00 p.m. Outside Group (Girl Scouts)

Friday, Dec. 17th, 2021

6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop

Sunday, December 19th, 2021

10:00 a.m. Hybrid Worship Service

In-Person & Live via Facebook

11:00 a.m. Hospitality: Trustees

3:30 p.m. Busy Bees 4-H

Tuesday, Dec. 21st, 2021

6:30 p.m. Virtual Bible Study

Wednesday, Dec. 22nd, 2021

3:30 p.m. SARI Demonstration

Sherburne County Gov't center

5:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

6:00 p.m. Handbells

7:00 p.m. Senior Choir

7:00 p.m. NO Confirmation

Thursday, Dec. 23rd, 2021

6:00 pm. Outside Group (Girl Scouts)

Friday, Dec. 24th, 2021

4:00 p.m. Hybrid Christmas Eve Service 10:00 p.m. In-person Christmas Eve

Service