



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 /](http://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.

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN 20 Waiting for You

♩=110

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 110. The lyrics are: "We are wait - ing for you, know - ing that you_ al - ways a - bide,___ we are wak - ing_ to your pres - ence and our hearts are___ o - pen wide, o - pen_ wide... o - pen_ wide." The guitar chords are: D, A/D, Gadd9, D, A/D, Gadd9, D, A/D, Gadd9, A7sus, D, A/D, Gadd9, A7sus, D.

We are wait - ing for you, know - ing that you_

al - ways a - bide,___ we are wak - ing_ to your pres - ence

and our hearts are___ o - pen wide,

o - pen_ wide... o - pen_ wide.

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.

HYMN 121 "All Earth Is Waiting" vs 1-2

1 To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor y el sur - co a - bier - to, la
 2 Di - ce el pro - fe - ta al pue - blo de Is - ra - el: "De ma - dre vir - gen ya
 1 All earth is wait - ing to see the Prom - ised One, and o - pen fur - rows, the
 2 Thus says the proph - et to those of Is - ra - el, "A vir - gin moth - er will

o - bra del Crea - dor; es el mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad,
 vie - ne Em - ma - nuel," se - rá "Dios con no - so - tros," se - mi - lla se - rá,
 sow - ing of our God. All the world, bound and strug - gling, seeks true lib - er - ty;
 bear Em - man - u - el": One whose name is "God with us," our Sav - ior shall be,

re - cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. (4 dar - nos li - ber - tad.)
 con él la es - pe - ran - za al mun - do vol - ve - rá. (4 brings us lib - er - ty.)
 it cries out for jus - tice and search - es for the truth.
 through whom hope will blos - som once more with - in our hearts.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Francis Family

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

1 The first Now - ell, the an - gel did say,
2 They looked a - bove and saw a star
3 And by the light of that same star
4 This star shone bright in the north - west,
5 Then en - tered in those ma - gi three,

was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
shin - ing in the east, be - yond them far,
three sag - es came from coun - try far;
o'er Beth - le - hem it seemed to rest,
and bend - ing low up - on their knee,

In fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep,
And to the earth it gave great light,
To seek for a king was their in - tent,
And there it did both stop and stay,
They of - fered there, in great rev - erence,

on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
 their gold and myrrh and frank - in - cense.

Refrain

Refrain

Now - ell, now - ell, now - ell, now -

ell, born in a man - ger, Em - man - u - el.

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

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - - - -

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



1 We hail you God's a - noint - ed, the long - a - wait - ed One!
2 You shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;
3 The wise shall bow be - fore you and gold and in - cense bring;
4 O'er ev - ery foe vic - to - rious, you on your throne shall rest;



Hail in the time ap - point - ed, your reign on earth be - gun!
and joy and hope, like flow - ers, spring in your path to birth.
all na - tions shall a - dore you, and praise all peo - ples sing;
from age to age more glo - rious, all - bless - ing and all - blessed:



You come to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free;
Be - fore you on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald, go,
To you shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows be said,
The tide of time shall nev - er your cov - e - nant re - move;



to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
and righ - teous - ness, in foun - tains, from hill to val - ley flow.
your realm is still in - creas - ing, with you, O Christ, as head.
your name shall stand for - ev - er, your change - less name of Love.



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

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: Gigi Nauer *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, Donna Church, 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