



December 19th, 2021, at 10 a.m.  
*Fourth Sunday in Advent*

Union Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ

Elk River, Minnesota 763-441-1203

[www.elkriverucc.org /](http://www.elkriverucc.org/)

[churchoffice@elkriverucc.org](mailto: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

# INTROIT

“Advent Hope” by Derek Hakes Handbell Choir

# WORDS OF CENTERING

Mary knows that some things are so outrageous that sometimes we have to talk about them as if they have already happened in order to believe they could ever come about.  
~Jan Richardson

# 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 “Waiting for You”

*♩=110*

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)

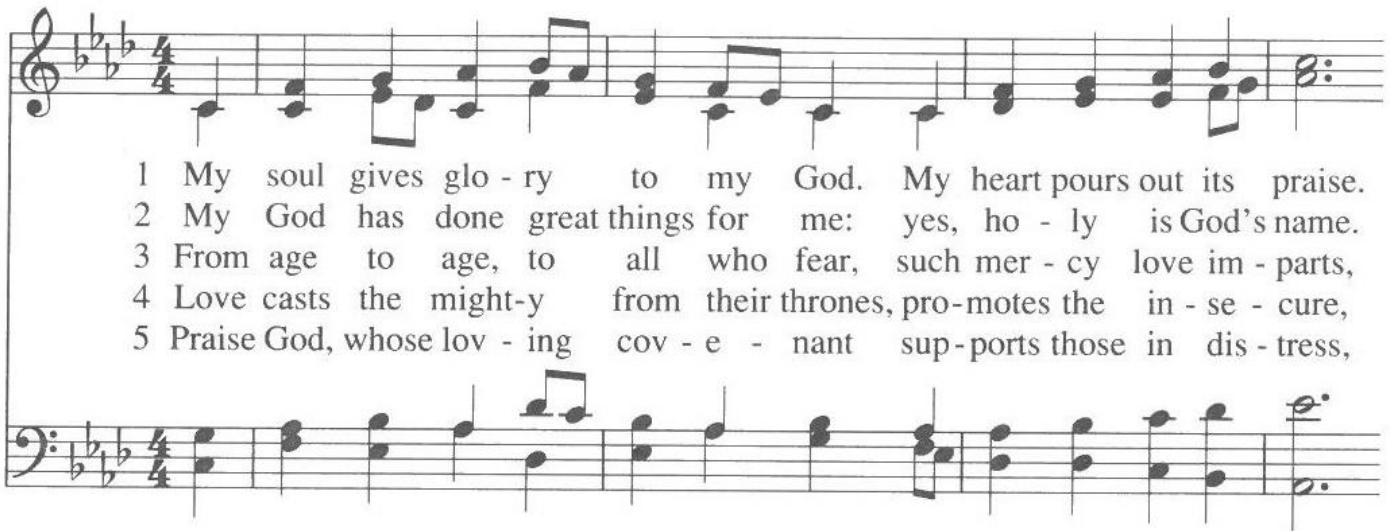
One: Let us rejoice in God our Savior who has done great things for us.

**Many: Who fills the hungry with good things!**

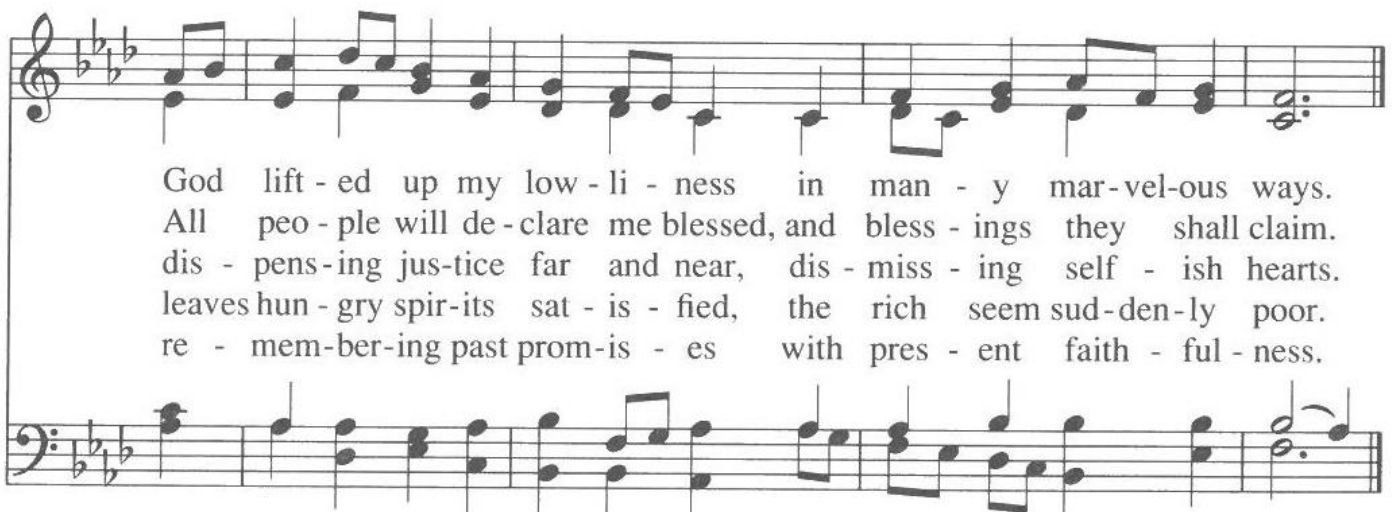
One: Let us open ourselves to the Spirit of life and new birth!

**Many: Let us worship God!**

## HYMN 119 "My Soul Gives Glory to My God"



1 My soul gives glo - ry to my God. My heart pours out its praise.  
2 My God has done great things for me: yes, ho - ly is God's name.  
3 From age to age, to all who fear, such mer - cy love im - parts,  
4 Love casts the might-y from their thrones, pro-motes the in - se - cure,  
5 Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant sup-ports those in dis - tress,



God lift - ed up my low - li - ness in man - y mar-vel-ous ways.  
All peo - ple will de - clare me blessed, and bless - ings they shall claim.  
dis - pens-ing jus-tice far and near, dis - miss - ing self - ish hearts.  
leaves hun - gry spir-its sat - is - fied, the rich seem sud-den-ly poor.  
re - mem-ber-ing past prom-is - es with pres - ent faith - ful - ness.

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Rohs Family

Over the past three Sundays we have lit the candles for Prophets, for Bethlehem, and for the Shepherds. (light two blue and one pink candle)

Today we light the fourth Advent candle, the angel's candle. This candle is offered in honor of the angels who told the good news to the shepherds, "Glory be to God in the highest and on earth, peace and goodwill toward all."

The angels sang with joy so that all who could hear were filled with joy. In honor of all the angels who continue to proclaim the good news of joy, we light this candle. (Light one blue candle)

Prayer:

Dear God, you surround us with your angel of love so that we are able to live lives filled with joy. Thank you for these angels and help us to become angels of love for one another. 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

"Wake, Awake" by Ron Mallory

Handbell Choir

## SCRIPTURE Luke 1:39-45, 46-55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for God has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is God's name.

God's mercy is for those who fear God from generation to generation.

God has shown strength with God's arm; God has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; God has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

God has helped the servant Israel, in remembrance of God's mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to God's descendants forever."

## REFLECTION

And Mary Said

# HYMN 106 "My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise"

1 My heart sings out with joy - ful praise to God who rais - es me,  
2 The arm of God is strong and just to scat - ter all the proud.  
3 The prom - ise made in a - ges past at last has come to be,

Who came to me when I was low and changed my des - ti - ny.  
The ty - rants tum - ble from their thrones and van - ish like a cloud.  
for God has come in power to save, to set all peo - ple free.

The Ho - ly One, the Liv - ing God, is al - ways full of grace  
The hun - gry all are sat - is - fied; the rich are sent a - way.  
Re - mem - bering those who wait to see sal - va - tion's dawn - ing day,

To those who seek their Mak - er's will in ev - ery time and place.  
The poor of earth who suf - fer long will wel - come God's new day.  
Our Sav - ior comes to all who weep to wipe their tears a - way.

## RECOGNITION AND CELEBRATION OF Ken Stueve

### 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*

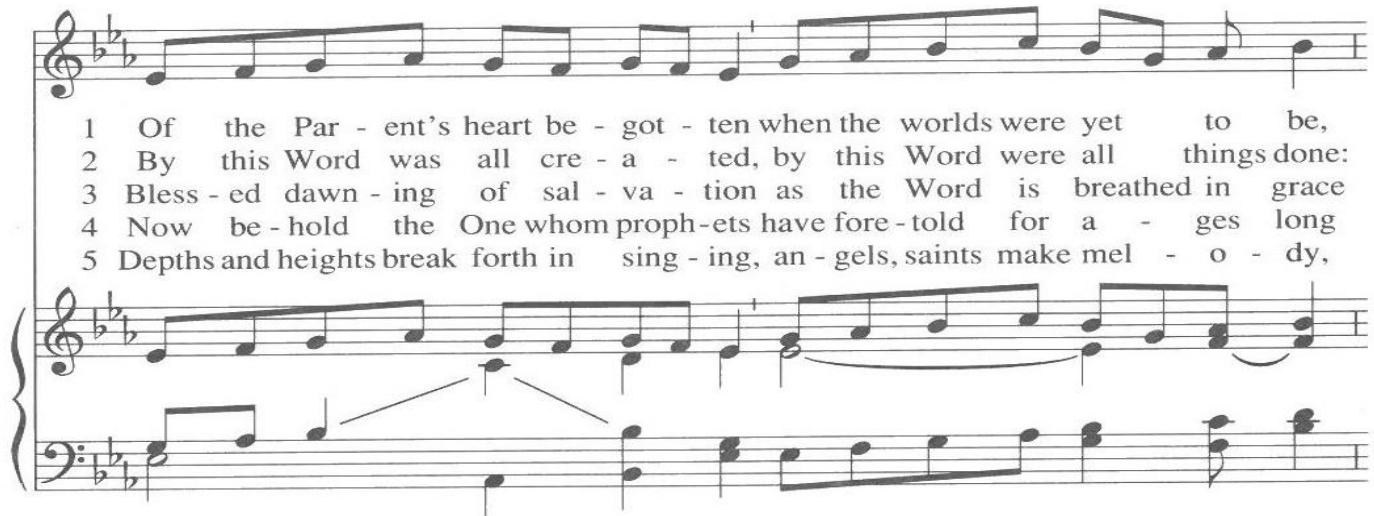
Glo - - - - - ri - a

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (let us pray together)

**God of calendars and candles, God who comes to be with us, we make visible our praise through our offerings. We have not covered these gifts with shiny gift bags. Instead, we find ourselves wrapped up in the giving. As we present these offerings, we open ourselves to you. Amen.**

# HYMN 118 "Of the Parent's Heart Begotten" vs 1-3



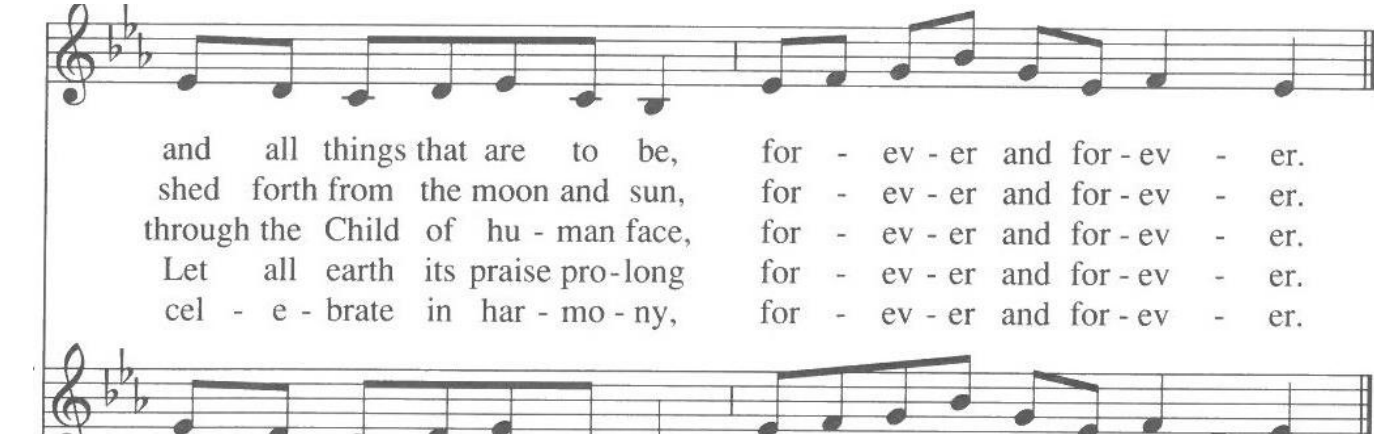
1 Of the Par - ent's heart be - got - ten when the worlds were yet to be,  
 2 By this Word was all cre - a - ted, by this Word were all things done:  
 3 Bless - ed dawn - ing of sal - va - tion as the Word is breathed in grace  
 4 Now be - hold the One whom proph - ets have fore - told for a - ges long  
 5 Depths and heights break forth in sing - ing, an - gels, saints make mel - o - dy,



One there was with no be - gin - ning, One who is e - ter - nal - ly—  
 Land and air and deep - est o - cean, har - mo - ny of three in one,  
 In - to earth - ly flesh re - ceiv - ing— God in - car - nate tak - ing place;  
 On the faith - ful page of scrip - ture, seers and sag - es in their song;  
 All do - min - ions, ev - ery power sing, make new psalms of ec - sta - sy,



Source and End - ing of all things that have been,  
 And all grow - ing in the lu - - - mi - nance  
 Now the light of God re - vealed . . . . .  
 Now the Prom - ised One shines forth! . . . . .  
 Let no heart re - frain from prais - - - ing God,



and all things that are to be, for - ev - er and for - ev - er.  
 shed forth from the moon and sun, for - ev - er and for - ev - er.  
 through the Child of hu - man face, for - ev - er and for - ev - er.  
 Let all earth its praise pro - long for - ev - er and for - ev - er.  
 cel - e - brate in har - mo - ny, for - ev - er and for - ev - er.

## 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**

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**Pastor:** Rev. Robin Raudabaugh

**Deacon:** Dave Foley

**Office Administrator:** Giuliana Beckwith

**Greeters:** Judy and Dave Halgren

**Senior Choir and Handbell Director:**

**Ushers:** Peterson Family

Gigi Nauer

**Hospitality:** Trustees

**Piano & Organ:** Carson Schneider

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## **Announcements**

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### **Office Hours**

Office hours for the church this week are Sunday 8:00am-1:00pm, Monday through Wednesday, 8:00am to 12:00pm. Call the church at (763) 441-1203 if you have general questions or need a pastor. Office email -

[churchoffice@elkriverucc.org](mailto: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](mailto: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).

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## **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 19th, 2021**

10:00 a.m. Hybrid Worship Service

In-Person & Live via Facebook

11:00 a.m. Hospitality: Trustees

11:00 a.m. Recognition of  
Custodian, Ken Stueve

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

6:30 p.m. Longest Night Service  
(Blue Christmas)

### **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

### **Sunday, December 26th, 2021**

10:00 a.m. Hybrid Worship Service

In-Person & Live via Facebook

11:00 a.m. Hospitality: Staff

### **Tuesday, Dec. 28th, 2021**

5:00 p.m. Congregational Life

6:30 p.m. Virtual Bible Study

### **Wednesday, Dec. 29th, 2021**

3:30 p.m. SARI Demonstration  
Sherburne County Gov't center

5:00 p.m. NO Staff Meeting

6:00 p.m. NO Handbells

7:00 p.m. NO Senior Choir

7:00 p.m. NO Confirmation

### **Thursday, Dec. 30th, 2021**

6:00 pm. Outside Group (Girl Scouts)

### **Friday, Dec. 31st, 2021**

6:00 pm. Girl Scouts Troop