





## Welcoming and Leading Us This Morning

Preaching Today: Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Liturgist: Paige Barber

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dobin Park

Cantor: Jean Nutgrass

Candle Bearers:

Jisoo Bae

Isabel Lee

Diana Stamm

Katheryn Jones

Sound Technician: Robert Pettus

Greeters: Darlene Knepshield

Ushers: Steve Twehues, Ralph Schoulthies & Mike Hanson

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### This Week

**Sunday, December 24:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service/Fourth Sunday of Advent  
7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candle Light Service

**Monday, December 25:** **Christmas Day-Church Office Closed**  
7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon Meeting

**Tuesday, December 26:** 7:00 p.m. NA Meeting

**Saturday, December 30:** 9:00 a.m. AA Meeting

**Sunday, December 31:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service  
**New Year's Eve**


### **\*Assurance of Pardon (responsive)**

All who honestly seek forgiveness will receive vindication from the God of their salvation. All who are open to the grace that comes with faith will receive the blessing of God. Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the Ruler of glory may come in.

**Our sins are forgiven because this great God loves us. Nothing in all creation can separate us from that love. Praise be to God! Amen!**

Please be seated

### **Lighting the Advent Candle of Love**



*Cantor:* 1. O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong-hwa - ũi - im - gŭm,  
2. Come now, O God of hope, make us one bod - y.  
3. Come now, O God of peace, make us one bod - y.  
4. Come now, O God of joy, make us one bod - y.  
5. Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.



u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.  
Come, O Lord Je - sus, re - con-cile your peo - ple.  
Come, O Lord Je - sus, re - con-cile your peo - ple.  
Come, O Lord Je - sus, re - con-cile your peo - ple.  
Come, O Lord Je - sus, re - con-cile your peo - ple.

(congregation sings verse 5 as directed)

### **Prayer (unison)**

**Come, O Holy One, as the beloved child, Emmanuel! Soften our hearts and open our arms for your coming that we may make this a place worthy and warm, kindly and safe for all your children, in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

### **Scripture Lesson: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16**

Now when the king was settled in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind, for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, "Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel, and I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place and be disturbed no more, and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel, and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.

Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever."

### **Children's Chat**

Vickie Kennedy

### **Scripture Lesson: Romans 16:25-27**

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

### **Anthem**

*"Glory In the Highest"*

*(Lloyd Larson)*

Gloria! We sing glory in the highest! Peace to all the earth.  
We sing glory in the highest! Celebrate the holy savior's birth.

There were shepherds in the lonely fields guarding flocks  
of sheep by night, when suddenly the darkened sky was  
ablaze with heaven's light.

An angel of the Lord appeared saying "do not be afraid,  
I bring you news of greatest joy! For the Lord is born this day.

Go to Bethlehem you'll find the Child in a lowly cattle stall.  
In swaddling clothes, a bed of hay, the King the Lord of all!!

The shepherds marveled at the news as the angels filled the sky. They hurried off to Bethlehem showing  
praise to God on high.

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply, echo back their joyous strains.

### **Hearing Assistance**

We have wireless receivers for the hearing impaired which you may obtain from an usher.

### **Pastoral Care Notice**

If a pastoral care need arises, please contact the church office at (859) 431-1818 and we will get a message to Pastor Marty or Pastor John Robson to contact you.

### **In Our Prayers**

Joan Berkemeyer, Norma Biery, Flo Grey, Betty Jo Haas, Family of Mary Haas, Donna & Phil Hamilton, Marilyn Hanson, Melvin Hanson, Carol & Henry Marksberry, Family of Barbara Runge, Bill Seibert, Family of Bruce Shay, Ed Von Strohe, Bonnie Walter, Wendy Watts & Betty Webster

### **Continued Prayerful Support**

Homebound members.  
Those in assisted living and nursing homes.  
Church Leadership Team, Ministry Teams, and all our church leaders.  
Designated Pastor Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer  
Pastor of Visitation John Robson

### **Homebound Member of the Week**

Our homebound member of the week is Robert Hasse. Take a moment this week to send him a card or give him a call as we celebrate Robert as our member of the week!

His address is:

Robert Hasse  
500 Lakeview Drive #103  
Wilder, KY 41071

### **Children's Activity Bags**

Activity bags for the children are located at each entrance of the church. Feel free to pick up a bag for your child (children) to work on during the worship service. When the service is done just drop the bags off at each exit so that we may replenish the bags for the following week.

### **Audio Recordings of Our Sunday Services**

Did you miss a Sunday service or would like to hear one over again? You can get a CD audio recording of any service each week down on the table located at the North Lobby entrance. The recordings are separated by date so just look for the service you want to hear and take it home.

## CHRISTMAS FUND

**The Christmas Fund** has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

This year’s Christmas Fund theme is “Grace upon grace,” from John 1:16:

*“From Christ’s fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.”*

Join with others in the United Church of Christ to help return “Grace upon grace” to those who have given so much to each of us and to our churches by giving generously to the Christmas Fund this year.

This special offering will be collected today during the offering.

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## CHRISTMAS SEASON

The Christmas Season begins on Sunday, December 24th when we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. Join us at 7:00 pm for our candle light Christmas Eve Service with communion.

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## 2024 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES AND CHURCH DIRECTORIES

The 2024 church offering envelopes and church directories are available to be picked up in the hallway by the church office. You can pick them up on Sunday morning or during church office hours which are Monday & Wednesday 9:00 am-3:00pm and Friday 9:00am-1:00pm. If you do not have offering envelopes and would like a set, please contact Kelli in the church office.

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## CHURCH BOOK CLUB - ALL ARE WELCOME!

Saturday January 27, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.-church parlor  
The Hiding Place by Corrie ten Boom

## **Scripture Lesson: Luke 1:26-38**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

**Sermon**

“Let It Be”

Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

**\*Statement of Faith** written by Rev. Diane Wendorf

**I believe it is a matter of faith**

**to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves.**

**I believe it is a matter of faith**

**to equally recognize and love all members of God's human family  
whatever their race, creed, color, gender, marital status,  
physical or mental capacity.**

**I believe God's creation is good, beautiful, sacred,  
and therefore to condemn any portion of God's creation  
is to condemn a portion of God.**

**I believe Jesus Christ came to us to free all people from sin  
and to make disciples; people willing to live Christ's discipline of  
love and justice for all.**

**I believe the Holy Spirit is that power within us  
that gives us courage and stamina to face the truth and to live it  
even to die for it, as Jesus died.**

**I believe in the resurrection, the victory over death,  
the truth that is life for all in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #208**

*“Oh, How Joyfully”*

*(Sicilian Mariners)*

