

United Church of Christ
California, Missouri

Rev. Russell Cobb
Mrs. Beth Dampf

Pastor
Organist

December 31, 2023 ~ First Sunday after Christmas

** - All those who are able, please stand.*

The Bell

The Prelude

Lighting of the Candles Conner Brockes & Brynna Hall

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Come to Bethlehem to behold God and humanity made one.

Here kneel before a child who brings God close.

O Christ, we come, just as we are, to receive you.

**We come to worship you, we come hoping that you will
bless us with your reconciling peace.**

Let us worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and
of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Hymn No. 140 “God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”

*Prayer of the Day

**Loving Father, you have created us with questioning
hearts and minds. Guide us, we pray, that our questions
will keep us open to your grace. Open our ears that we
may hear and act, living into the answers that you offer
us. For we ask this in the name of our Savior, Jesus
Christ. Amen.**

*Call to Praise

O Lord, open our lips!

And our mouths shall show forth your praise!

*Act of Praise – “Gloria Patri” (*printed on laminated card in hymnal*)

Invitation to Children’s Time

Hymn for Children

“This Little Light of Mine”

p. 466-sing first verse twice

Children’s Time

Pastor Russ

Special Music

David and Cressida Gattermeier

Prayer for Illumination

Alan Chambers

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light will grow in our hearts, and shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Scripture Lessons

First Reading: Matthew 2:1-12 p. 835

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7 p. 1014

Sermon **Everyone has a Story- I Peter 3:8-22**

Hymn No.148 “We Three Kings of Orient Are”

Affirmation of Faith – The Apostles’ Creed

(printed on laminated card in hymnal)

Prayers of Intercession

The Lord’s Prayer (*debts and debtors*)

(printed on laminated card in hymnal)

Activities: December 31, 2023 ~ January 7, 2024

Sunday, December 31, 2023:

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship

Monday, January 1, 2024: New Year's Day – Office Closed

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

9:00 a.m. – Prayer Cell

7:00 p.m.- Sunday School T & O Meeting

Wednesday, January 3, 2024:

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

6:30 p.m. Bell Choir

7:30 p.m. Sr. Choir

Sunday, January 7, 2024: Epiphany

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship – Holy Communion

Looking ahead..... Jan. 8 – Consistory at 6pm

Jan. 11 – Worship Committee Meeting

Jan. 17 – Women's Guild at 1pm

Jan. 22 - Brotherhood at 7 pm

Jan. 28 – Annual Meeting/Youth Lunch fundraiser

Reminder: 2023 Annual Reports for Committees & Organizations are due! Financial Reports are due January 5, 2024.

For those that ordered poinsettias or placed an ornament on the Memory Tree, they can be picked up starting after church today.

Thanks from the Worship Committee.

Community Men's Bible Study
Friday, January 5th at 6:00 am
Crossroads Plaza

Please pray for these . . .

Love & Justice in God's World

Family and Friends of Harley McDaniel

Family and Friends of Dolores Bestgen

Family and Friends of Kenny Burlingame

Confirmands:

**Kalyn Carlock, Aubrey Davis, Emma Kissick, Khloe Mortenson
and Brooks Nichols**

All Those Who Need Our Prayers, including:

Becky Zuidervaart Bill Schacht Beth Rohrbach

Jo Suggs Judy Kilmer

All Those Serving in the U.S. Military, including:

Martin Knipker (*son of Kenny Knipker*)

Dwight Bowlin (*grandson of Jack & the late Carole Bowlin, Fort Campbell,
KY*)

Dakota Meyer (*grandson of Billy Meyer, Ft. Carson, Colorado Springs, CO*)

Madelynn Perry (*granddaughter of Jan Anderson, army - Europe*)

Dylan Ash (*son of Lanny & Ellen Ash, stationed at Oak Harbor, WA*)

Hayden Grant (*grandson of Kathy Grant, Air Force, Okinawa, Japan*)

Derek Meyer (*grandson of Elaine & Eldred Proctor, Army, Monterey, CA*)

Brett Street (*grandson of Jenine Baker, Army, Ft. Elmendorf, AK*)

Damion Street (*grandson of Jenine Baker, Army, Munich, Germany*)

I wish to thank my church family for all the visits, care and concern over the past 6 months. The card I receive each month from the church makes me appreciate each of you. Also thank you to Pastor Russ for his visits and calls. it means so much to me. Wishing you all a very Healthy Happy New Year!

Jerry Coale

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, Let
2. From God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther A
3. "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let
4. Now to the Lord sing prais - es, All

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are arranged in four lines, with the first line starting on the first measure. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, while the bass clef provides a harmonic accompaniment. A dashed oval highlights the final two notes of the first line in both staves.

noth - ing you dis - may, Re - mem - ber Christ our
bless - ed an - gel came, And un - to cer - tain
noth - ing you af - fright; This day is born a
you with - in this place, And with true love and

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are arranged in four lines, with the first line starting on the first measure. A dashed oval highlights the final two notes of the first line in both staves.

Sav - ior Was born on Christ - mas day,
shep - herds Brought tid - ings of the same,
Sav - ior, Of a pure vir - gin bright,
broth - er - hood Each oth - er now em - brace;

The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are arranged in four lines, with the first line starting on the first measure. A dashed oval highlights the final two notes of the first line in both staves.

To save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r When
How that in Beth - le - hem was born The
To free all those who trust in Him From
This ho - ly tide of Christ - mas Doth

The fourth system concludes the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are arranged in four lines, with the first line starting on the first measure. A dashed oval highlights the final two notes of the first line in both staves.

we were gone a - stray.
 Son of God by name.
 Sa - tan's pow'r and might."
 bring re - deem - ing grace.

O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com-fort and

joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!

We Three Kings of Orient Are

1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are, Bear - ing
 2. Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, Gold I
 3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I, In - cense
 4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume Breathes a
 5. Glo - rious now be - hold Him a - rise, King and

gifts we trav - erse a - far Field and foun - tain,
 bring to crown Him a - gain, King for - ev - er,
 owns a De - i - ty nigh; Prayer and prais - ing,
 life of gath - er - ing gloom: Sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
 God and Sac - ri - fice; Al - le - lu - ia,

Moor and moun - tain, Fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 Ceas - ing nev - er O - ver us all to reign.
 All men rais - ing, Wor - ship Him, God on high.
 Bleed - ing, dy - ing, Sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Sounds through the earth and skies.

O star of won - der, star of night, Star with

roy - al beau - ty bright, West - ward lead - ing,

still pro - ceed - ing, Guide us to Thy per - fect light.

Shine, Jesus, Shine

1. Lord, the light of Your love is shin - ing in the
 2. Lord, I come to Your awe - some pres - ence, From the
 3. As we gaze on Your king - ly bright-ness, So our

D/A A E/A D E/D

midst of the dark - ness shin - ing; Je - sus, Light of the
 shad - ows in - to Your ra - diance; By the blood I may
 fac - es dis - play Your like - ness; Ev - er chang - ing from

C#m7 F#m7 D E/D C#m7

World, shine up - on us, set us free by the truth You now
 en - ter Your bright-ness, search me, try me, con - sume all my
 glo - ry to glo - ry, Mir - rored here may our lives tell Your

F#m7 G ESUS4 E G ESUS4 E

bring us, Shine on me, shine on me.
 dark-ness, Shine on me, shine on me.
 sto - ry, Shine on me, shine on me.

Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the

D/E E7 D/E E A E/G# F#m D A/C#

Fa - ther's glo - ry; Blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our

Bm Bm/A G E7SUS4 E7 A E/G#

hearts on fire. Flow, riv - er flow,

F#m D A/C# Bmaj7 D/E E7 D/E E

flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;

A E/G# F#m D A/C# Bm E7 A

Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son,
our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy
Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered
under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead,
and buried; he descended into hell; the
third day he arose again from the dead; he
ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the
right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the
quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the one
Holy universal Christian Church; the
communion of saints; the forgiveness of
sins; the resurrection of the body; and the
life everlasting. Amen.



GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.

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 for ever. Amen.



DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom all blessings
flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.



KYRIE

Minister: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Minister: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Congregation: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Minister: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy upon us.