

United Church of Christ of California ~ California, Missouri
Rev. Russell Cobb Pastor
Mrs. Beth Dampf Organist

December 24, 2023 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent

**All those who are able, please stand*

The Bell

The Prelude

Lighting of the Candles Rylan Robertson & Brenyn Robertson

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Reading: LOVE

Leader: Today we relight the first three candles of the Advent wreath. The candle of HOPE, PEACE and JOY.

Lighting of The Candles of HOPE, PEACE, and JOY

Leader: Now we light the fourth candle of Advent. This is the candle of LOVE.

Lighting of The Candle of LOVE.

Leader: Jesus demonstrated self-giving love in his ministry as the Good Shepherd. Advent is a time for kindness, thinking of others, and sharing with others. It is a time to love as God loved us by giving us his most precious gift. As God is love, let us be love also. From the Gospel of John, we hear:

Congregation: **“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”**

*Hymn No. 113 “O Holy Night”

*Prayer of the Day:

Teach us to love, O Lord. May we always remember to put you first as we follow Christ’s footsteps, that we may know your love and show it in our lives. As we prepare for our celebration of Jesus’ birth, also fill our hearts with love for the world, that all may know your love and the one whom you have sent, your son, our Savior. 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 pew rack*)

Invitation to Children’s Time

Hymn for Children **“This Little Light of Mine”**

p. 466-sing first verse twice

Children’s Time

Puppets

Special Music

Stacy Friedrich

Prayer for Illumination

Carla Clennin

Loving God, by the gift of your Spirit, teach us, like Mary, to treasure your words and ponder them in our hearts; through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh. Amen.

Scripture Lessons

First Reading: Psalm 103:11-18 p. 522

Second Reading: Matthew 7:7-12 p. 840

Sermon **What’s in a Name-Everlasting Father**
Isaiah 9:6

Hymn No. 96 “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

Affirmation of Faith – The Apostles’ Creed

(printed on laminated card in pew rack)

Prayers of Intercession

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

(printed on laminated card in pew rack)

Invitation to the Offering

The Offering of Our Gifts and Ourselves

Offertory

*Response “*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*”

(printed on laminated card in hymnal)

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn No. 132 “Away In a Manger”

*Benediction

*Extinguishing of the Candles

*Congregational Response – “**Go in Love**”

Go in love, have no fear.

God will guide you, He is always near.

Go in love, take His hand.

God will hear you, He will understand.

May His light forever shine upon you;

May His peace be always in your heart.

Go in love, face each day.

God will lead you, He will show the way.

Go in love, and live in faith. Amen.

*Postlude

Thank you to **Aubrey Davis and Family** for leading the
Advent Call to Worship this morning.

Feel free to have your family picture taken in front of the Christmas Tree!

Activities Calendar: December 24, 2023 ~ December 31, 2023

Sunday, December 24, 2023, Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School – Cookies and Carols

10:30 a.m. – Worship

4:30 p.m. – Salem UCC Christmas Eve Service

7:00 p.m.- California UCC Christmas Eve Program

Monday, December 25, 2023 Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service-Communion

Sunday, December 31, 2023

9:30 a.m.- Sunday School

10:00 a.m. – Worship

Looking ahead.....January 1, church office closed

January 2, Sunday School T & O Meeting 7 pm

**Annual Reports for Committees & Organizations are due
in the Church Office by December 29, 2023.
Financial reports are due by January 5, 2024.**

A **Nursery** is available just outside the sanctuary. The nursery volunteer is **Courtney Cassil**. There are activity bags at the back of the sanctuary for children that stay in the worship service.

Need some help with hearing? See an usher at the back of the sanctuary to check out a hearing assisted unit for your personal use in the sanctuary and in the Friendship Hall. We have new units available.

Notice the “Connection Cards” in the pews. They are for our guests or anyone that has a prayer request or needs more information about the church. Please place it in the offering plate.

Rev. Cobb: rev.cobb@calmo-ucc.org; 573-489-7891 (cell phone)

Church office 573-796-4885 / Website: www.calmo-ucc.org

rhonda@calmo-ucc.org

Please pray for these . . .

Love & Justice in God's World

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*)
Cory Friedmeyer (*grandson of Charles Goode, Reserves, VA*)
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*)

rightnow MEDIA

To get access to Right Now Media for you and your family
use the link or text to the number listed below.

Custom Registration Link – <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/CALUCC>

Text Registration Code – UCOC to 49775

The flower on the altar is in celebration of the birth of
Braelynn Dawn Wilson, born December 11, 2023.

Braelynn is the daughter of
Quinten Wilson and Tara Cummings.

Congratulations to parents, grandparents and great-grandparents!

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS HAVE BEEN
PLACED IN MEMORY OF ~**

Betty Lindsay, by Dyan Ingram

Bob Keil, by Mary Keil & Family

Wayne Bueker, by Mary Bueker & Family

Walter & Maxine Bueker
by Mary Bueker & Family

Ed & Mary Lou Hert, by their Daughters and Families

J.E. & Charlene Ford, by Jimmy Ford and Family

Dick & Jane Spieler, by the Family

Nick & Trella Clennin
Harold & Ruth Clennin
by Carla Clennin

Carole Beth Bowlin, Wayne Howard & Ruby Lee Smith
by Kent, Gerri and Caleb Howard

Danny Rohrbach, by the Family

Herman & Juanita Wolfrum, & Gail L. Wolfrum
by Betty Swillum, Carol Wolfrum, & Beth Peeper

Bill Burger
Fred & Lucy Burger
Donald & Eva Mae Switzer
by Judy, Jeremy, and Andy Burger & Families

Carl A. & Alice Meisenheimer
by the Meisenheimer Family

Rollie and Mary Lee Brizendine
by the Meisenheimer Family

William F. Schlup, by the Schlup Family

Billy Schlup, by the Schlup Family

Rev. Richard Ferris, by Carmen Ferris

Richard Nicholas Ferris, by Carmen Ferris

Ed & Ella Kueffer, by the Bob Kueffer Family

Martin & Florence Burger
Irvin & Vernie Stegner
by Mary Burger

Robert (Bob) Burger
Fred and Ralph Stegner
Ruth Berroth
by Mary Burger

Rollie & Mary Lee Brizendine, by Bob & Ruth Brizendine

Cletus & Geneva Kueffer
by Rhonda & Duane Huhmann,
Amy & Tom Huhmann

Juanita Meisenheimer, by Carl Meisenheimer & Family

**Wilbur & Marie Kobel
Albert and Rosa Zimmerman,
by John Kobel**

Kueffer Family, by the Kueffer Family

**Jerry McCarty, by Family
Kevin E. Bird, by Family
Herbert and Ruby Kusgen, by Family**

Richard Meisenheimer, by the Meisenheimer Family

**Bob Burger, Ralph Stegner, Fred Stegner, & Ruth Berroth
by Jim & Roberta Pate
& Lisa Burger**

Walter Pate, by Jim & Roberta Pate

Robert S. "Bob" Bruce, by Patty Bruce & Family

Rick Thompson, by Jess Medlin Family

**Justin Trimble,
by Amanda, Macie and Chase Trimble**

**Morris Burger,
by Dolores Burger**

**Edwin & Natalia Burger and
Anna Margaret Bueker,
by Dolores Burger**

**ORNAMENTS ON THE MEMORY TREE HAVE
BEEN PLACED IN MEMORY OF . . .**

**“Papa” Wayne Howard, by Caleb, Gerri and Kent Howard
Maw Maw (Carole Beth Bowlin), by Caleb, Gerri and Kent
Howard**

Ruby Coale, by the Jerry Coale Family

**Gene, Daryl, & David Ash
by Judy Ash**

Justin Trimble, by Amanda, Macie & Chase Trimble

**Martin and Florence Burger
Irvin and Vernie Stegner
by Mary Burger**

**Bob Burger, Fred and Ralph Stegner & Ruth Berroth,
by Mary Burger**

**Herman & Juanita Wolfrum, & Gail L. Wolfrum
by Carol Wolfrum**

**Logan Cary & Caroline Wolfrum
by Carol Wolfrum**

O Holy Night

1. O ho - ly
2. Led by the
3. Tru - ly He

night! the stars are bright - ly shin - ing; It is the
light of faith se - rene - ly beam - ing, With glow - ing
taught us to love one an - oth - er; His law is

night of the dear Sav - ior's birth.
hearts by His cra - dle we stand.
love and His gos - pel is peace.

Long lay the world in sin and er - ror
So led by light of a star sweet - ly
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our

pin - ing, Till He ap-peared and the soul felt its
gleam - ing, Here came the Wise Men from O - ri - ent
broth - er, And in His name all op-pres - sion shall

worth. A thrill of hope— the
land. The King of kings lay
cease. Sweet hymns of joy in

wea - ry world re-joic - es, For yon - der breaks a
thus in low - ly man - ger, In all our tri - als
grate - ful cho - rus raise we; Let all with - in us

new and glo - rious morn! Fall on your knees! O
born to be our Friend. He knows our need— to our
praise His ho - ly name. Christ is the Lord! O

hear the an - gel voic - es! O night di -
weak - ness is no stran - ger. Be - hold your
praise His name for - ev - er! His pow'r and

vine,
King,
glo -

O be ry

night fore ev

when Christ was
Him low ly pro -

born!
bend!
claim!

O night,
Be - hold
*His pow'r

O your and

ho ly be - ry

night,
fore ev - er - more pro -

O night di - vine!
Him low - ly bend!
claim!

1., 2. 3.

**Optional extended or choral ending*

His pow'r and glo - ry

ev - er - more pro - claim!

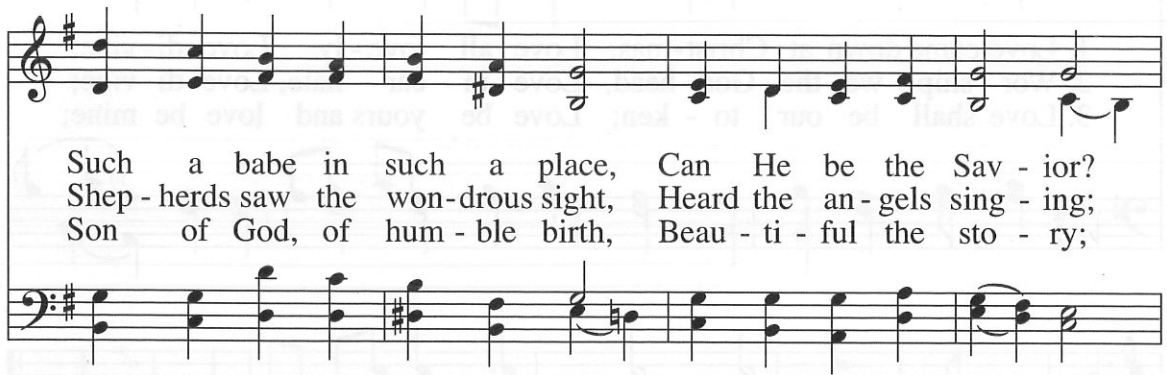
Gentle Mary Laid Her Child



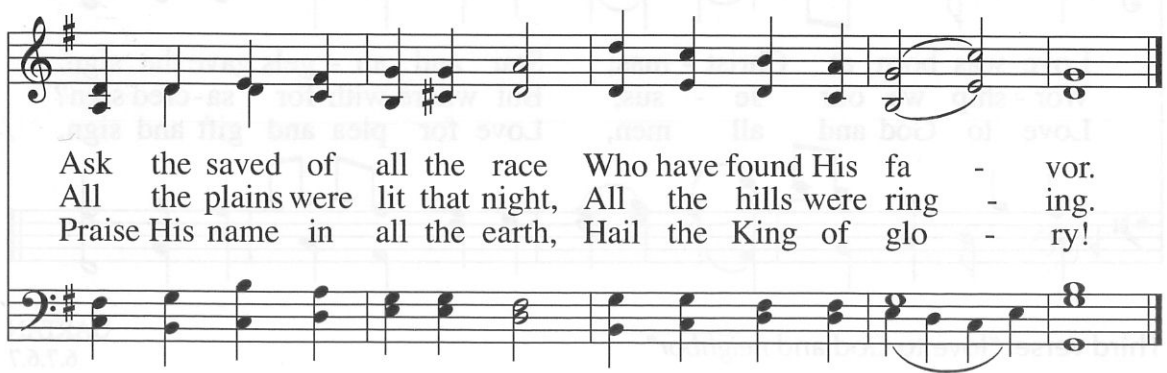
1. Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
2. An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise men sought and found Him;
3. Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the un - de - filed, To the world a stran - ger.
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth, Glo - ry all a - round Him.
He is still the un - de - filed, But no more a stran - ger.



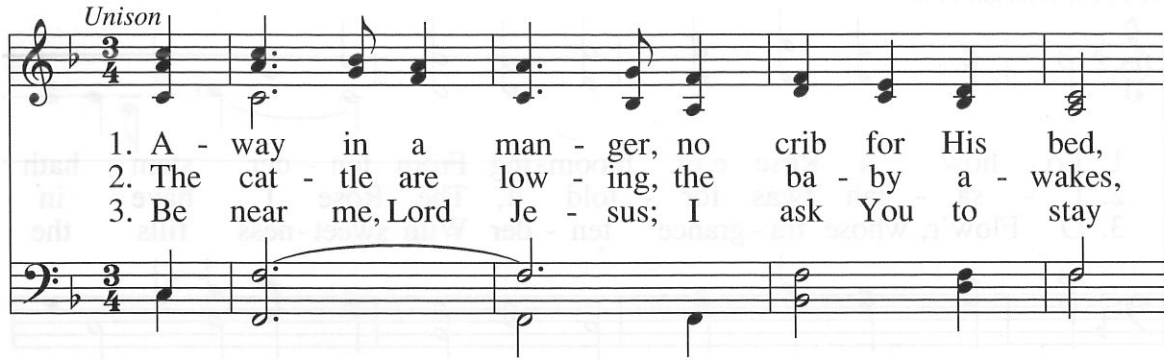
Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
Son of God, of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
Praise His name in all the earth, Hail the King of glo - ry!

Away in a Manager

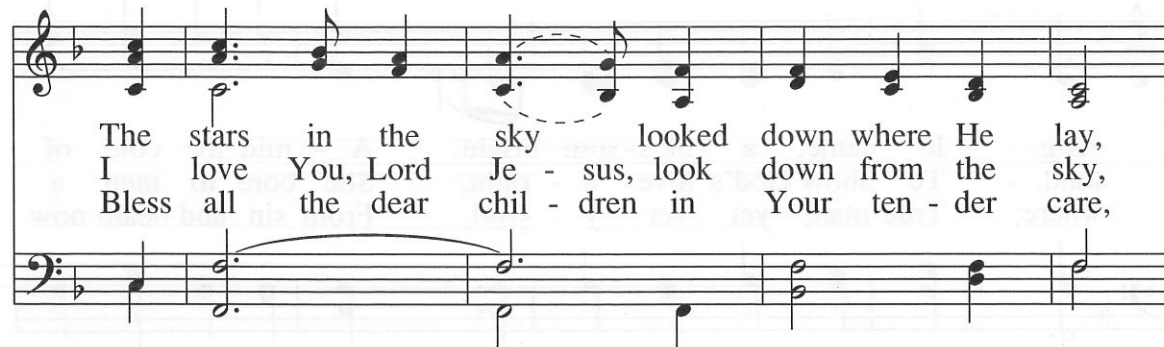
Unison



1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for His bed,
2. The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask You to stay



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
Close by me for - ev - er, and love me, I pray.



The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
I love You, Lord Je - sus, look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in Your ten - der care,



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
And fit us for heav - en to live with You there.

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.