



**United Church of Christ of California – California, MO**

**Rev. Russell Cobb**

**Pastor**

**Mrs. Beth Dampf**

**Organist**

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December 25, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Day

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

The Bell

The Prelude

Lighting of the Candles

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Reading: The Christ Child

Leader: This child would bring **hope**. Not just a wish, but the confidence that God would defeat Satan, that good would win over evil.

*Lighting of The Candle of HOPE.*

Leader: This child would bring **peace**, even in the midst of great suffering and trials – a peace that assures his followers that he is in control even when it feels like nobody is.

*Lighting of The Candle of PEACE.*

Leader: This child would bring **joy**, for he would deliver us.

*Lighting of The Candle of JOY.*

Leader: This child would bring **love** – a love that would never be taken away, a love that is beyond our understanding.

*Lighting of The Candle of LOVE.*

Leader: Finally, we light the center candle. This is the CHRIST candle. Jesus is born. Jesus has come. Jesus is our salvation.  
From the book of Galatians:

Congregation:

**“But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law.”**

\*Hymn No. 127 “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”

\*Prayer of the Day

**Great God of love and light, we thank you now for the light of that special star over two thousand years ago that guided humble shepherds and learned wise men to the holy babe. Lead us now, by the light of your love, that we also may follow you to the new life in him. In celebration of the birthday of our King and our Savior, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

\*Call to Praise

O Lord, open our lips!

**And our mouths shall show forth your praise!**

\*Act of Praise “*Gloria Patri*”

Invitation to Children’s Time

Children’s Time

Pastor Cobb

Hymn No. 139 “Sing We Now of Christmas”

Prayer of Illumination

**O Christ, we watch and wait for the warmth and light of your presence. As candlelight overcomes the darkness, so your light radiates within us and warms the wintry seasons of our lives. We live with hope that the good news of your coming will warm and brighten every heart, and the world will fall to its knees in joy. Amen.**

## Scripture Readings

*First Lesson:* Isaiah 53:1-5 p. 633

*Second Lesson:* Ephesians 2:13-19 p.1018

## Christmas Message **What's in a Name- Prince of Peace** **Isaiah 9:6**

Hymn No. 120 "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

Invitation to the Offering

### *Christmas Envelope*

**(in the offering envelopes box) goes to Sunday School to use for  
Vacation Bible School and for Camp expenses.**

The Offering of Our Gifts and Ourselves

\*Response *"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

\*Prayer of Dedication

### The Sacrament of Holy Communion

*This Sacrament is for all Christians who wish to know the presence of Christ  
and share in the community of God's people.*

Invitation

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And with you also.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*As we pray together -*

The Lord's Prayer (*using debts and debtors*)

## Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine

### Sharing the Elements

*During the singing of the Communion hymn, please come forward as invited by the usher. When you receive the bread, intinct [dip] it in the cup, take and eat, and then return to your pew.*

Communion Carol No. 100 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

### \*Prayer of Thanksgiving

**O God, we thank you for uniting us in the body of Christ and by this meal filling us with joy and hope. Grant that in the days ahead:**

**Our lips that have sung your praises  
may speak your truth;**

**Our eyes that have seen your love  
may look with compassion on the needs of the world;**

**Our hands that have held this loaf and cup  
may be active in your service.**

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

\*Hymn No. 110 “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

### \*Blessing

Glory to God in the highest!

**Jesus is born! God has come to us and shared our  
common lot, and so we rejoice!**

Go forth rejoicing in the love of God, the peace of  
Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### \*Postlude

Thank you to the **Andy Burger Family** for leading the Advent Call to Worship this morning.

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

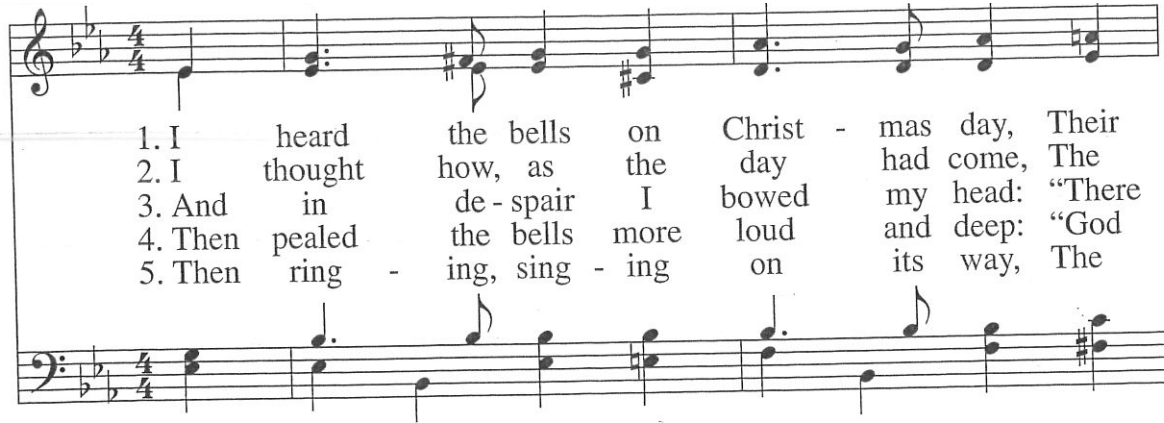
**Offering Envelope Boxes**

Offering envelope boxes for 2024 have arrived. They will be in the back of the Sanctuary or Church office.

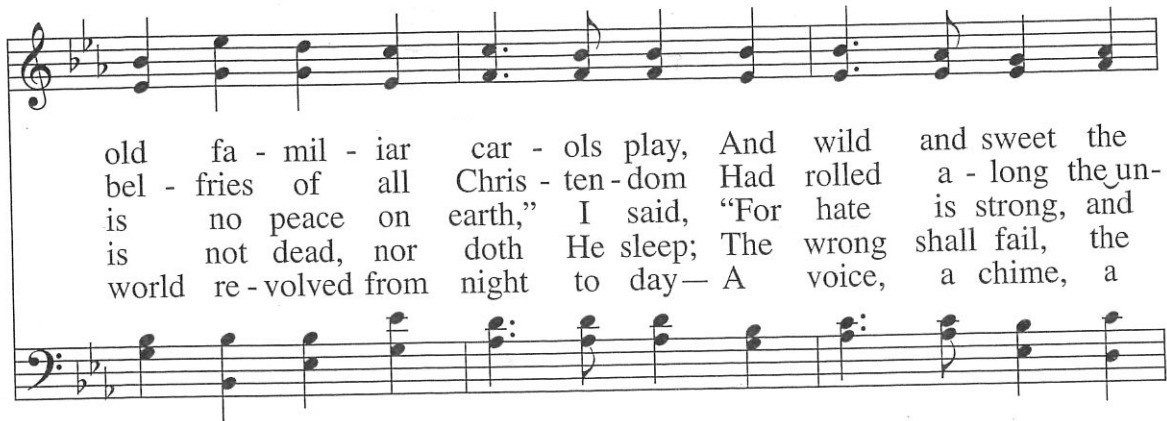
**Feel free to have your picture taken by the Christmas tree.**

**Have a Blessed Christmas Day!**

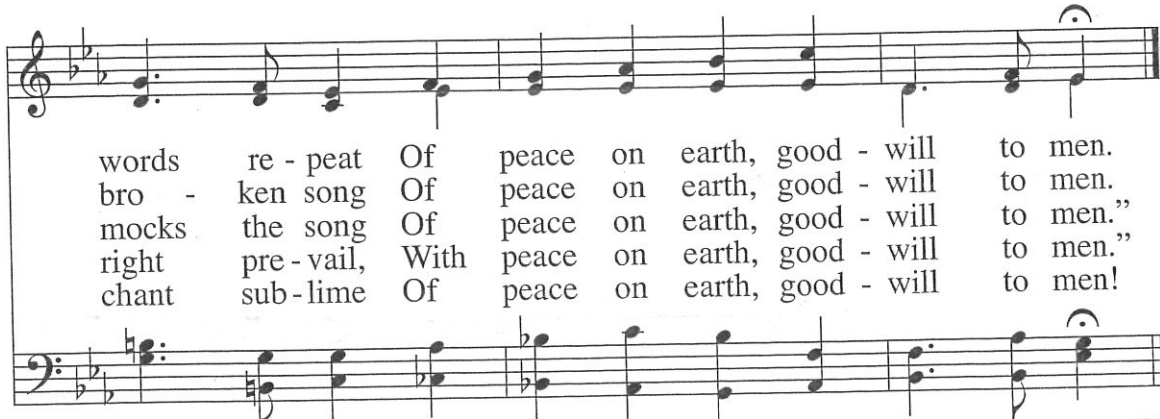
# I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day



1. I heard the bells on Christ - mas day, Their  
2. I thought how, as the day had come, The  
3. And in de - spair I bowed my head: "There  
4. Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God  
5. Then ring - ing, sing - ing on its way, The




old fa - mil - iar car - ols play, And wild and sweet the  
bel - fries of all Chris - ten - dom Had rolled a - long the un -  
is no peace on earth," I said, "For hate is strong, and  
is not dead, nor doth He sleep; The wrong shall fail, the  
world re - volved from night to day - A voice, a chime, a





words re - peat Of peace on earth, good - will to men.  
bro - ken song Of peace on earth, good - will to men.  
mocks the song Of peace on earth, good - will to men."  
right pre - vail, With peace on earth, good - will to men."  
chant sub - lime Of peace on earth, good - will to men!

# Sing We Now of Christmas


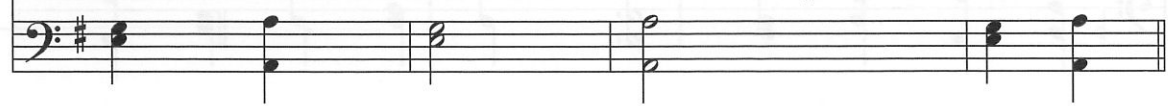
*Unison*





1. Sing we now of Christ-mas, No - el, sing we here!  
2. An - gels called to shep-herds, "Leave your flocks at rest,  
3. In Beth - le - hem they found him; Jo - seph and Mar - y mild,  
4. From the east - ern coun - try came the kings a - far,  
5. Gold and myrrh they took there, gifts of great-est price;




Hear our grate - ful prais - es to the babe so dear.  
Jour - ney forth to Beth - l'hem, find the child so blest."  
Seat - ed by the man - ger, watch - ing the ho - ly child.  
Bear - ing gifts to Beth - l'hem, guid - ed by a star.  
There was ne'er a sta - ble so like par - a - dise.



Sing we No - el for Christ, the new - born King, No - el!



Sing we No - el for Christ, the new - born King.



Sing we now of Christ - mas, let us sing No - el!





# From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

1. From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good news to  
2. To you, this night, is born a child Of Mar - y, cho - sen  
3. Ah, dear - est Je - sus, ho - ly child, Make Thee a bed, soft,  
4. Glo - ry to God in high - est heav'n, Who un - to man His

ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great joy I bring,  
moth - er mild; This lit - tle child, of low - ly birth,  
un - de - filed With - in my heart, that it may be  
Son hath giv'n, While an - gels sing with pi - ous mirth,

Where - of I now will say and sing.  
Shall be the joy of all your earth.  
A qui - et cham - ber kept for Thee.  
A glad new year to all the earth.

# O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
2. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
3. Child for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,  
4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in G major and 4/4 time. The lyrics are arranged in four numbered lines, each corresponding to a different vocal part. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a steady rhythm.

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove!  
We would em - brace Thee, with love and awe;  
Je - sus, to Thee be all glo - ry giv'n;

The second system continues the melody. The lyrics are arranged in four lines. The music includes some longer notes and rests, particularly in the treble staff, which correspond to the phrasing of the lyrics.

Come and be - hold Him, born the King of an - gels;  
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;  
Who would not love Thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

The third system continues the melody. The lyrics are arranged in four lines. The music includes some longer notes and rests, particularly in the treble staff, which correspond to the phrasing of the lyrics.

O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,

The fourth system concludes the piece with the final line of lyrics. The music features a long, sustained note in the treble staff, followed by a final cadence in both staves.

O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ, the Lord!

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. Both staves are in the key of D major, indicated by a sharp sign on the F line. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The music is in 4/4 time. The piece ends with a double bar line.

# Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Go, tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry-where;

The first system of the musical score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written in the treble clef and the bass line in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Go, tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry-where;"

Go, tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!

The second system continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "Go, tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!"

## Verses Harmony

1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night, Be -  
2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When lo! a - bove the earth Rang  
3. Down in a low - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born, And

The 'Verses Harmony' section consists of a single melodic line in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night, Be -  
2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When lo! a - bove the earth Rang  
3. Down in a low - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born, And"

hold through-out the heav - ens There shone a ho - ly light.  
out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
God , sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

D.C.

The final system of the score includes the lyrics: "hold through-out the heav - ens There shone a ho - ly light.  
out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
God , sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ-mas morn." The section concludes with a double bar line and the instruction "D.C." (Da Capo).

## 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.**