

United Church of Christ of California ~ California, Missouri
Rev. Lina Eddy **Pastor**
Mrs. Beth Dampf **Organist**
Mrs. Connie Bestgen **God's Singers Director**

December 14, 2025 ~ Third Sunday of Advent

**All those who are able, please stand*

The Bell

The Prelude

Lighting of the Candles Charley Medlin & Max Robertson

Choral Opening

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: JOY *(Please remain seated)*

Advent Reading: JOY - ***Royce Everett and Family***

Leader- Today is the third Sunday of Advent - the Sunday of Joy.

Leader- Our joy is in God and in his son Jesus Christ. Like hope and peace, joy is a gift from God. It overtakes us and fills us when we remember what God has done and what he has promised to do.

Leader - We light this pink candle today to remind us that Christ came, and is coming, so that all people might have a rich and abundant life. We thank God for the hope he gives us, for the peace he bestows, and for the joy he pours into our hearts.

Light the First, Second, and Third Candle

* Hymn 97 “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

*Prayer of the Day

O God of Joy, Emmanuel, send your light into our hearts. Help us to be ready for day and hour of Christ's appearing. Fix our hearts and our minds upon those things you have done and those you have promised to do that we may have the joy you have promised. As we worship you, strengthen us so that we may always do your will and so bless you and the world you have made. Amen.

*Call to Praise

O Lord, open our lips!
And our mouths shall show forth your praise!

*Act of Praise No. 493 “Gloria Patri” (*Glory be to the Father*)

Invitation to Children’s Time

Hymn for Children **“Away in the Manger”**

Children’s Time

Puppets

Anthem “Deck the Halls”

God’s Singers

Prayer for Illumination

Brad Friedrich

God of light and life, as we listen to your Word, open our hearts to joy. Let the promises of Isaiah take root in us, and let good news proclaim to John remind us that your kingdom is already among us. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

Scripture Lessons

First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10 p. 615

Second Lesson: Matthew 11:2-11 p. 844

Sermon “A Time For Joy!”

Hymn No. 134 “There’s a Song in the Air”

Christians, what do you believe?

(Apostles’ Creed) **I believe in God the Father, Almighty...**

(Printed on laminated card in pew or back page of large print bulletin)

Prayer of Intercession

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

(Printed on laminated card in pew or back page of large print bulletin)

The Offering of Our Gifts and Ourselves

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

(Printed on laminated card in pew or back page of large print bulletin)

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn No. 107 “Joy to the World”

*Benediction

*Congregational Response – “**Go Tell It on the Mountain**”

p. 110- Sing twice

*“Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Chris is born!*

*Postlude

Ushers ~ Kris Ingram and Holly Bieri

Greeters ~ Philip and Susan Burger

Activities Calendar: December 14, 2025 ~ December 21, 2025

Sunday, December 14, 2025, Third Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

10:30 a.m. – Worship - R.O.K. - *Christmas Program Practice following worship*

7:00 p.m. – Salem Christmas Program

Monday, December 15, 2025

5:00 p.m. – Brotherhood/MSYF Caroling

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

9:00 a.m. – Prayer Cell

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

12:00 p.m. – Women's Guild

6:00 p.m. – Fellowship Meal and Confirmation

7:30 p.m. – Sr. Choir

Sunday, December 21, 2025, Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School – Cookies and Carols – No classes

10:30 a.m. – Worship-Cantata

Looking ahead.....

Dec. 24th - Christmas Eve Program 7:00 p.m.

Salem Christmas Worship 10:00 p.m.

Dec. 25th - Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Dec. 28th – Rev. Mike Williams – guest pastor

Dec. 29th - Annual Committee Reports Due

Jan. 4th – Epiphany Sunday-Communion

Rev. Steve Buchholz- guest pastor

**Articles for
The Tidings due
Dec. 19th
Thank you!**

Thank you to **Royce Everett and Family** for leading the
Advent Call to Worship this morning.

Wednesday Evening Meal – Dec. 17th, 6:00 p.m.

Pulled Pork, BBQ Beans, Mac and Cheese, Slaw, Rolls

Don't forget to sign up if you are coming!

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

rhonda@calmo-ucc.org

Sunday ROK (Reaching Our Kids)

TODAY, December 14

after children's time till the end of the worship service for Grades K- on up.

All the kids are invited to come down to the Fellowship Hall with Ronda Mortenson. You can pick up your child in the Fellowship Hall at the end of the worship service.

Please pray for these . . .

Love & Justice in God's World

Family and Friends of Robert Zimmerman, and Kevin Borts

Confirmands: Lena Bieri, Megan Carlock, Royce Everett, Logan Milligan and Meredith Wolford

All Those Who Need Our Prayers, including:

Charles Velazquez (Dolores Burger's brother-in-law), Diane (Henry) Jobe, Michael and Tammy Rex, Becky Zuidervaat, Bill Schacht, Jenine Baker, Alan Chambers, Courtney Cassil, Joyce Rohrbach, Jo Suggs, Judy Kilmer, Jaden Perry (*Janice Anderson's grandson*)

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

Martin Knipker (*son of Kenny Knipker*)
Dwight Bowlin (*grandson of the late Jack & 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 (*spouse- Jasmine Ash and son of Lanny & Ellen Ash, Great Lakes Naval Base, North Chicago, IL*)
Derek Meyer (*grandson of Elaine & Eldred Proctor, Army, Italy*)
Blake Street (*grandson of Jenine Baker, Army, Ft. Drum, NY*)

Salem UCC
Christmas Program
TONIGHT, December 14th ~ 7:00 p.m.
Featuring special music and meditations for the Christmas Season
Come celebrate the blessings of Christmas!

Food Pantry Items Needed

Each month the Food Pantry is requesting a different food item. For the **month of December, Cereal and Mac and Cheese** are the food items requested. There is a box in the downstairs foyer to place your food items.

Congregational Survey

Please pick up a survey in the back of the church. The Search Committee is asking for you to complete **before or by TODAY, December 14th**. Any questions, see one of the search committee members. Darles Vernon, Ken Wolken, Toni Kueffer, Larry Rohrbach, Morgan Opie, Steven Burger and Tammy Kilmer.

Dear Lord, we humbly come before You, acknowledging our need for a new pastor to lead us. You know the heart of our congregation and the unique challenges we face. We ask for a shepherd who will boldly proclaim Your truth, with love and compassion for All. Amen

This Sunday is the deadline to turn in your surveys. However, we will accept them for the next week in case you did not get yours submitted.

We want to thank everyone who has responded thus far. Your rankings and comments are very helpful and welcome. The committee is now in the process of going through those surveys and will put together a summary at the Annual Meeting in January. You will notice that we started this letter to the congregation with a prayer. We plan to include a prayer in each Sunday's bulletin to encourage everyone to continue to pray that God will send us the pastor he knows we need.

You, the Congregation, are a big part of our search. We need your active support, prayers, and encouragement. Please keep encouraging us to make this a meaningful and Christ like search.

With Christian Love, The Search Committee

Darles Vernon	Ken Wolken
Morgan Opie	Toni Kueffer
Tammy Kilmer	Steven Burger

**Annual Meeting scheduled for
Sunday, January 25, 2026**

**Annual Reports for Committees & Organizations are due in the
Church Office by December 29, 2025.**

Financial reports are due on or before January 9, 2026.

2026 Offering Envelopes are here.

They can be picked up in the back of the Sanctuary. If there is not a box with your name on it and you would like one, please let the church office know.

Christmas Envelope (in the offering envelopes box)

goes to Sunday School to use for Camp expenses. Those that don't receive offering envelopes anymore can pick up an envelope on the back table in the Sanctuary or downstairs table in the foyer. The Sunday School and children appreciate your support!

A Christmas tree has been put up in the foyer upstairs outside the elevator. We are calling it the “**Memory Tree.**” It is for families to decorate with an ornament in memory of their loved one. You can stop by anytime and put your ornament on the tree. Please leave a note in the church office when you bring in your ornament so we can list your loved one's ornament in the bulletin.

Historical Committee Request

For the Christmas season, the Historical Committee would like to display Christmas ornaments and nativity sets in the cabinet by the Church office. If you have a favorite ornament or nativity set that you would like to provide for display, please drop it off at the Church office anytime during the month of December. Also, if you have a special story or description that goes with your piece, please feel free to share as well. Items will be available for pick-up after January 5th. If you brought a Veteran's picture, it can be picked up anytime.

A **Nursery** is available in the upstairs hallway, just outside the sanctuary. The nursery attendant is **Emma Bestgen**. There are activity bags at the back of the sanctuary for children that stay in the worship service.

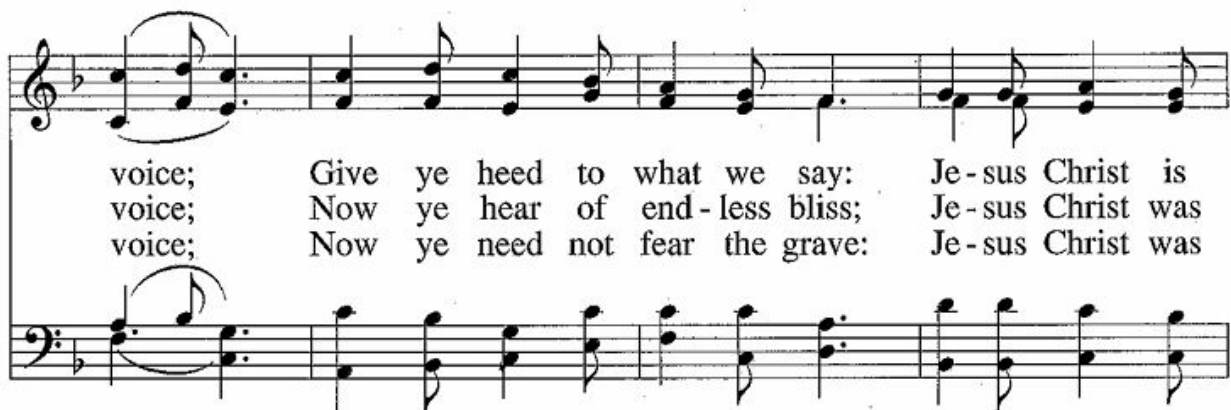
Need some help with hearing? See an usher at the back of the sanctuary to check out a hearing assisted unit for your personal use in the sanctuary and in the Friendship Hall. We have new units available.

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.

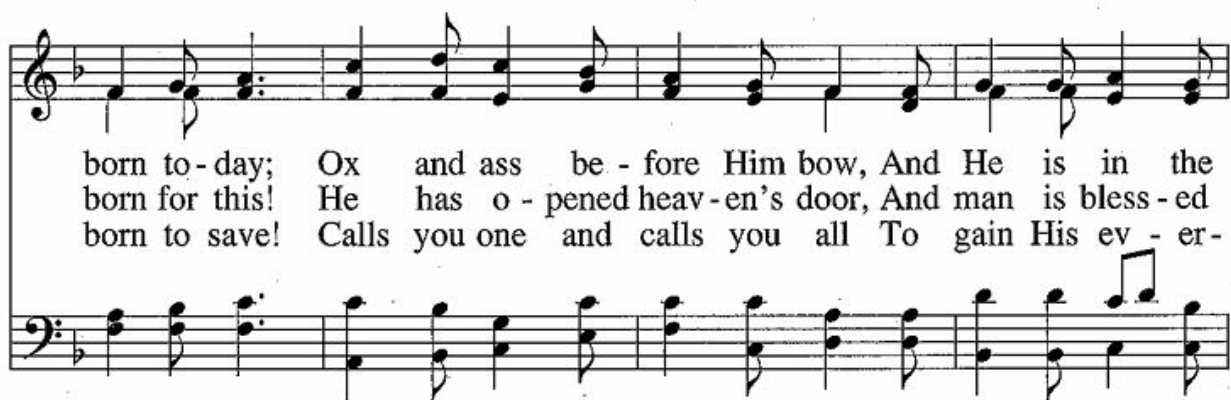
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



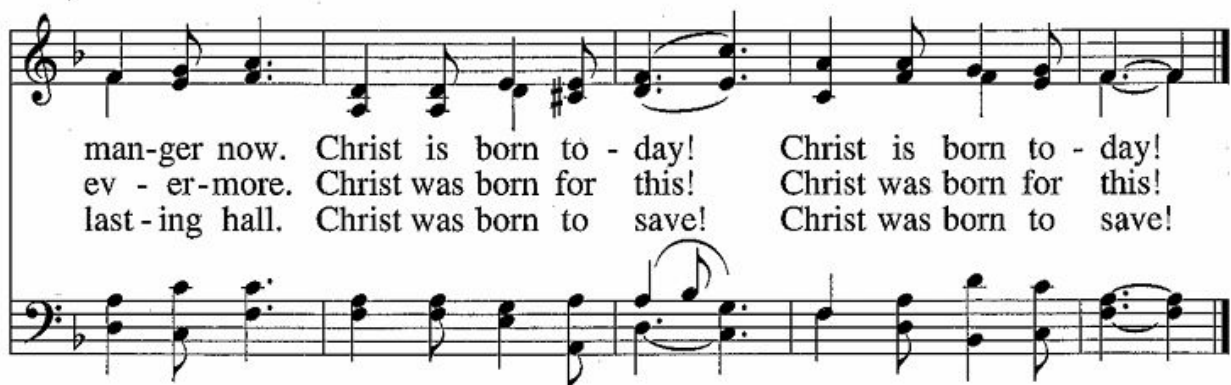
1. Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice With heart and soul and
 2. Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice With heart and soul and
 3. Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice With heart and soul and



voice; Give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is
 voice; Now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was
 voice; Now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was

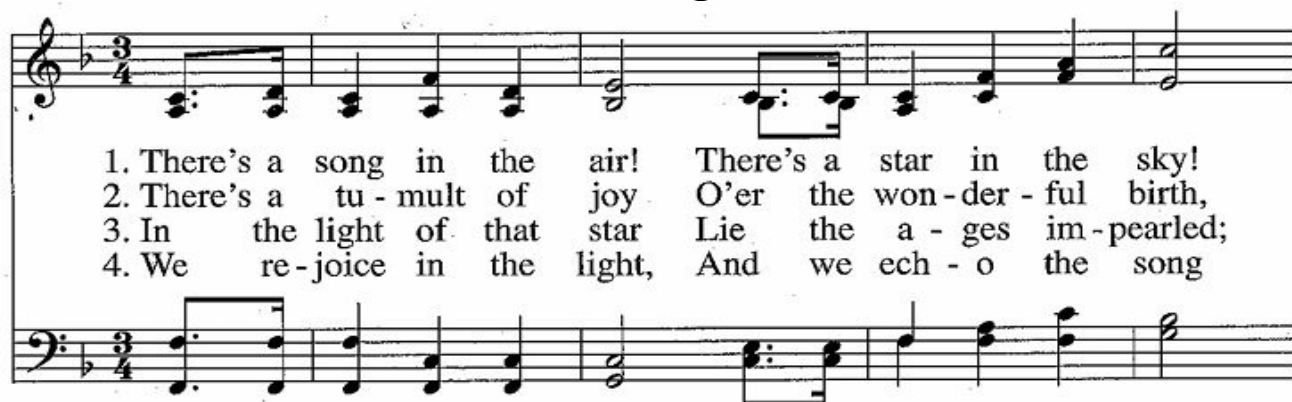


born to - day; Ox and ass be - fore Him bow, And He is in the
 born for this! He has o - pened heav - en's door, And man is bless - ed
 born to save! Calls you one and calls you all To gain His ev - er -

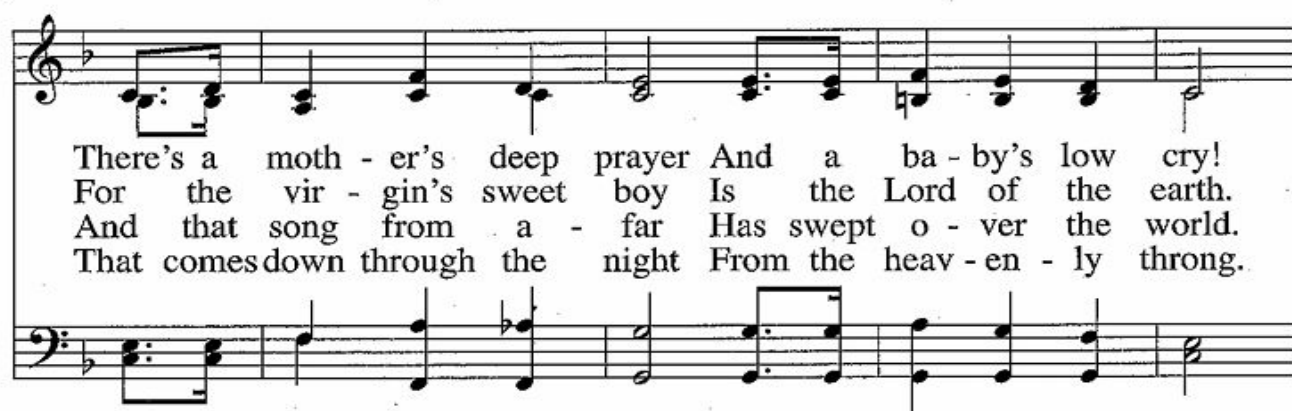


man-ger now. Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 ev - er-more. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 last - ing hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

There's a Song in the Air



1. There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!
2. There's a tu - mult of joy O'er the won - der - ful birth,
3. In the light of that star Lie the a - ges im - pearled;
4. We re - joice in the light, And we ech - o the song



There's a moth - er's deep prayer And a ba - by's low cry!
For the vir - gin's sweet boy Is the Lord of the earth.
And that song from a - far Has swept o - ver the world.
That comes down through the night From the heav - en - ly throng.



And the star rains its fire while the beau - ti - ful sing,
Ay! the star rains its fire while the beau - ti - ful sing,
Ev - 'ry hearth is a - flame, and the beau - ti - ful sing
Ay! we shout to the love - ly e - van - gel they bring,



For the man - ger of Beth - le - hem cra - dles a King!
For the man - ger of Beth - le - hem cra - dles a King!
In the homes of the na - tions that Je - sus is King!
And we greet in His cra - dle our Sav - ior and King!

Joy to the World



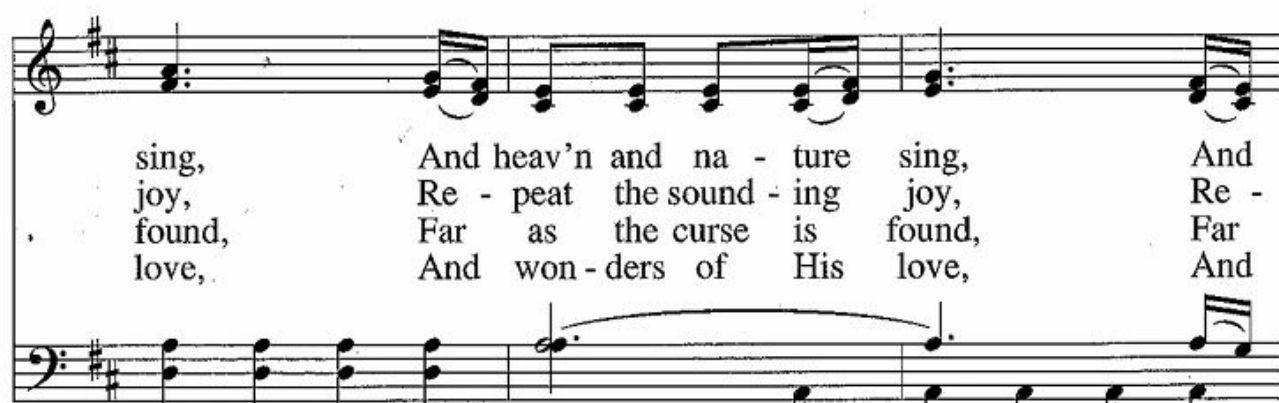
1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re -
 2. Joy to the world! the Sav - ior reigns: Let men their
 3. No more let sin and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in -
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the



ceive her King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks,
 fest the ground; He comes to make His
 na - tions prove The glo - ries of His



pare Him room, And heav'n and na - ture
 hills, and plains Re - peat the sound - ing
 bless - ings flow Far as the curse is
 right - eous - ness, And won - ders of His



sing, joy, found, love, And heav'n and na - ture sing, Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Far as the curse is found, And won - ders of His love, And Re - Far And

heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing. peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy. as, far as the curse is found. won - ders, won - ders of His love. A - men.

sing, and heav'n and na - ture sing. joy, re - peat the sound - ing joy. found, far as the curse is found. love, and won - ders of His love. A - men.

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.***