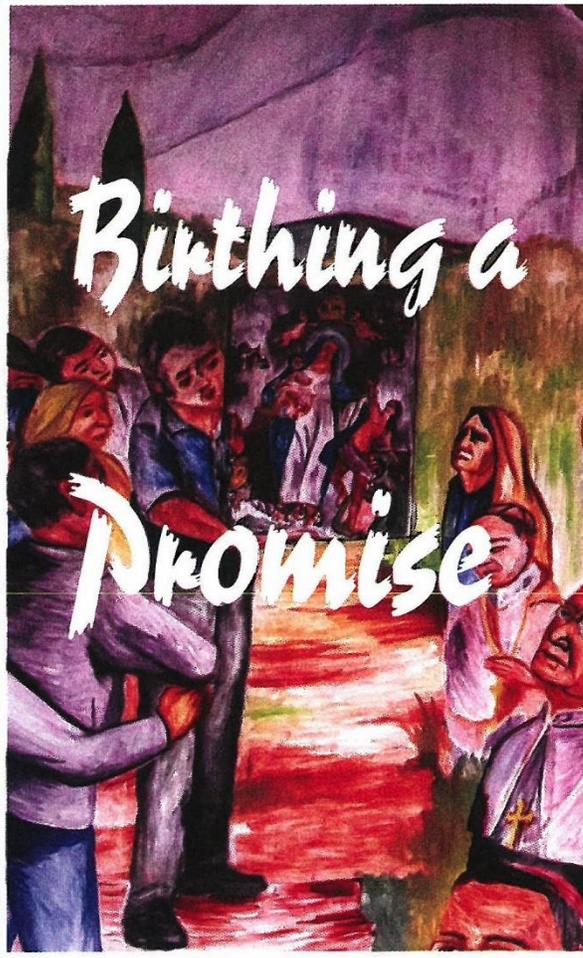


Birth of a

Promise



Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. We extend a special welcome to our guests.

For Children: Please feel free to attend services with your children. For the safety of the children, staff and volunteers ERUCC will not be providing childcare during services until further notice. Your children are welcome to bring their own quiet activities, no materials will be provided. Please take ALL personal items with you after the service.



We have removed all items from the pew racks for your safety. Music selections will be provided within this bulletin. If you are visiting and did not stop at the welcome desk in the downstairs lobby please stop by after the service they would love to meet you or, please feel free to reach out to someone sitting near you and ask them questions about the service or church. Many of our visitors ask us about the time of offering. This is a time in our service when we respond to God's gifts of love by offering the gifts of our lives. For many of us, this is when we make a financial gift towards the ministries and programs of our church. We also use this time to ask God how we might use the gifts of our hands and hearts in sharing God's love. If you are visiting, there is no obligation to give a financial gift. We are just glad you are worshipping with us. At this time we are taking offering at the end of the service. Plates will be placed at the doors as you exit the sanctuary, Thank you.

We ask that you please silence your cell phones during our worship service. We also ask that you refrain from applause after our choirs sing and allow the music to resonate in the quiet of the sanctuary and in your hearts. Our musicians are playing and singing for the glory of God. They know you appreciate their efforts and their gift.

Rest rooms (equipped with changing stations) are located on the first floor of the church building and outside the Community Room and the Nursery.

There is much information about the church in this bulletin and our website: www.erucc.org.

Donate online by scanning this code:

or you may use our new texting donation system. Send a donation amount to 301-804-2933 . You will receive a text back within minutes with a link. Click the secure link and provide your method of payment and a receipt will be sent to you! Or, download the GivePlus Church application and make your donation via the app.



Thank you.

EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH

United Church of Christ

- An Open and Affirming Congregation -

December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m.

*All who are able may stand. **Bold** print indicates responses by all
Hymns are printed at the end of the bulletin

Greetings and Announcements

Prelude *O Come, Little Children*

- arr. Gilliam/McCaskill
Fran Davis, flute

Lighting of the Advent Candle – Love

Tom and Rachel Ford

Advent is a season of waiting; waiting for the hope, peace, joy, and love of God to break into our lives anew through the story of the birth of Jesus, through acts of hope, peace, joy, and love.

Today we light the fourth candle, the candle of love.

We wait.

We wait –

not because we do not know the story of Jesus, and
not because you are not already and always here.

We wait

because to wait

is to expect something more.

To wait is to expect that the story

might enter our hearts

and our world

in new ways,

to bring the change we long for.

As we light the candle of love

we remember the stories

of your faithfulness and steadfast love

which surrounds us

and will not be contained.

We trust that you

are with us always.

As love that bursts forth from all your people,

love is born again and again in all creation.

FIRST LESSON: The prophet Isaiah foresees the coming of the Lord

Isaiah 60: 1-3, Isaiah 9: 2-7

***Carol** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strike and discord cease; Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. Amen.**

SECOND LESSON: The peace that Christ will bring is fore-shown

Jeremiah 23: 5-6; Isaiah 11: 1-2, 4, 6-9

THIRD LESSON: John the Baptist heralds the coming of the Messiah

Matthew 3: 1-6, 11-12

FOURTH LESSON: The angel Gabriel salutes the blessed Virgin Mary

Luke 1: 26-35, 38

As Joseph Was A-Walking

*- arr. Gilliam/McCaskill
Fran Davis, flute*

FIFTH LESSON: The evangelists tell of the birth of Jesus

Matthew 1: 19-23; Luke 2:1, 3-7

Carol *On Christmas Night All Christians Sing*

**On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring;
On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring
News of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our gracious Ruler's birth.**

**Then why should we on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad;
Then why should we on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad,
When from our sin Christ set us free, all for to gain our liberty.**

**From out of mystery came the Light, which made the angels sing this night;
From out of mystery came the Light, which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God and peace to all, forever more, Alleluia!"**

SIXTH LESSON: The shepherds go to the manger

Luke 2: 8-16

Carol *The First Nowell*

The first Nowell, the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;

In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: **Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born in a manger, Emmanuel.**

**They looked above and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. Refrain**

Meditation

In the Bleak Midwinter

- arr. D. Wagner
ERUCC Handbells

SEVENTH LESSON: The wise men are led by the star to Jesus

Matthew 2: 1-11

Carol *The First Nowell*

And by the light of that same star three sages came from country far;

To seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. Refrain

Refrain: **Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born in a manger, Emmanuel.**

**This star shone bright in the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it seemed to rest,
And there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay. Refrain**

**Then entered in those magi three, and bending low upon their knee,
They offered there, in great reverence, their gold and myrrh and frankincense.**

EIGHTH LESSON: St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation

John 1: 1-14

The Morning Offering

Anthem *Jesus, What a Wonderful Child*

- arr. J. Raney
ERUCC Singers

***Carol** *Angels, We Have Heard on High*

**Angels we have heard on high,
Singing sweetly through the night,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their brave delight.**

Refrain: **Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear? *Refrain*

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*

***The Blessing**

Postlude *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

- arr. D. Wagner
ERUCC Handbells



Every Sunday at 10:30

<https://boxcast.tv/channel/bzloh0xyyacgq5fmjnoi>

Want to listen to the sermon again? Visit our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9_hGBb5tBHeZuvqBvSbX5w

You can get to the link on our homepage at www.erucc.org

The flowers on the altar this morning are placed in memory of my father, Dale Schaeberle and my brother, John Schaeberle, from the Schaeberle family

The **yellow rose bud** on the stand is in honor of those currently serving in the military by Jack Day and Peter Brehm.

Prayer List - Please remember the following people in your prayers this week: Cathie Duncan, Starr Schaeberle, Anne Hoffmann, Lauren Jenkins (niece of Donna Logee), Ro Higinbotham, The McCarty family, Nikki Keller, Tamara Tamas, Barbara Lee (sister of Milt Crutchley), Alyce Schimd (sister of Dennie Schmid), Lois Wilson (Dan Smith's aunt), Jerry Cassell (brother of Ave Barr), Tina Prescott (daughter in law of Barbara and Bill Prescott), Mary Remsberg, Susan Matesa (friend of Dan Smith & Austin Byrd), Larry Maples, Jane Doll, Susan McCauley (niece of Jack Stush), Heleen (sister of Karin Mens), Kathy Blue Shores (friend of Jean Fish and Barb Biser), Terry Smiley (uncle of Scott Smiley), Shawn Smiley (cousin of Scott Smiley), Joe Jahoda (Kim Jahoda's dad), Gretchen Manuel (niece of Audrey Rayfield), Ann and Cal Theiss (parents of Katharine Alley), Frank Tymczyszyn (brother in law of Nancy Jones), Debra Reedy (friend of Jean Fish and Barb Biser), Jess Pautz (friend of Sean Sexton).

We ask you to remember all of those currently serving in the Armed Forces. Your prayers and cards are welcomed and appreciated by those on our prayer list.

Thursday, December 24

Christmas Eve Services

5:30 p.m. Children's Service in the main sanctuary (also live streamed)

7:30 p.m. Candlelight & Carol Service in the main sanctuary (also live streamed)

10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion Service (Trinity Chapel)

Worship Next Week: [Ctrl + Click HERE to join worship Sunday 10:30 a.m.](#)

Sunday, December 27 First Sunday After Christmas

Our first reading is from Isaiah 61:10—62:3. In this portion of the long book of Isaiah, we read of the people's return from exile, and encounter recurring themes of justice and righteousness, as well as the overarching theme of salvation. The prophet emphasizes God's message of forgiveness, consolation, and hope, revealing God's plan of blessing and salvation. The Gospel lesson from Luke 2:22—40 resounds with the salvation theme as the righteous and devout man Simeon encounters the newborn Christ child and breaks into his song of praise.

The service will conclude with the "Letting Go and Letting God" ceremony. This is a time when the congregation will be invited to write down on a piece of paper those things which each person wants to let go of from the old year of 2020, receive God's grace and move into the new year with divine blessing and hope. The dissolving pieces of paper will be placed in a bowl of water at the front of the chancel.

Wednesday Advent Services Via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83151572425?pwd=emJjL25DV2dtSVBLOWI3WIFkRTdtZz09>

Meeting ID: 831 5157 2425

Passcode: 812725

12 noon – 12:15 p.m. Service of Prayer followed by lunch and reflection

Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas

December 23 Light of the World, Word of God and Lord

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR DANIEL

INCARNATION: REDISCOVERING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CHRISTMAS

Tuesdays at 11 am Via Zoom.

December 22 Session 4 Light of the World, Word of God and Lord

Stay Connected and Get Informed!

There are many ways to receive information about what is happening at church each week. The weekly bulletin, the weekly informational email, and our monthly newsletter, The Trinity Chimes, Facebook, and Instagram. @eruccfred

Thursday Thoughts—A weekly emailed message that shares updates, highlights the upcoming service's scripture and focus, and includes announcements about Sunday School. To sign up to receive Thursday Thoughts, contact Amy Aguilar at 301-662-2762 or aaguilar@erucc.org and share your preferred email address.

Trinity Chimes—ERUCC's monthly newsletter. A more in-depth look on what's happening with the congregation. How we're reaching out, learning and volunteer opportunities, member and social program updates. Receive Trinity Chimes by email! Contact Amy Aguilar at 301-662-2762 or aaguilar@erucc.org to request to be added. (Paper copies also available upon request.)



Ministers - All the People of Evangelical Reformed Church

Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel, Senior Pastor (bkdaniel@erucc.org)

Rev. Fred Wenner, Pastor Emeritus (faw500@msn.com)

Kim Sexton, Associate for Children's Ministry (ksexton@erucc.org)

Alison E. Shafer, Music Director • Tricia Coffey, Head Chimer & Children & Youth Choir Director

Sherry Murray, Nursery • Jaci Clayton, Facilities Mgr.

Amy Aguilar, Office Administrator (erucc@erucc.org) • Jenna Duranko, Social Media Coordinator

15 West Church Street, Frederick, MD 21701 • (ph) 301-662-2762 • www.erucc.org

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 20, 2020

Luke 1:26-38

Birthing a Promise *Christmas Fund Offering*

Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent, the season of watchful waiting for the coming of the Christ Child. If you have practiced a ritual of lighting Advent candles, either in community or in your own home, then this Sunday you will light all four candles. As we do, we celebrate and acknowledge the gifts of this season - Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we are also invited to receive the Christmas Fund Offering. As the promise of God's light and presence shines through the advent candles, we can bring hope, peace, joy, and love to those we honor with our special offering. Soon it will be time to put the advent wreath away for another year. But through your gift to the Christmas Fund Offering, you can keep hope, peace, joy, and love alive all year long for those who have served the church.

The Christmas Fund funds four programs: Christmas Thank You Checks, Pension Supplementation, Health Benefits, and Emergency Grants.

Christmas Thank You Checks are for retired United Church of Christ clergy and lay employees. Retirees with limited financial resources receive a gift at Christmas time as a way of saying "thank you" for years of service to the UCC. Last year, more than a quarter million dollars was given to 521 individuals, and the number of those helped increases every year.

Pension Supplementation is for lower-income retired United Church of Christ clergy and lay employees. These are monthly payments designed to bring household incomes up to a basic level to be able to afford basic needs like food, utilities, and medical expenses.

Health Benefits supplementation is for lower-income retired UCC clergy and lay employees who may receive assistance in paying Medicare premiums.

Emergency Grants are for currently active or retired clergy or lay employees who are facing unforeseen circumstances that create financial need.

Give to the Christmas Fund:

<https://www.pbucc.org/index.php/christmas-fund-home>.



BUL0203

8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE
Bulletin artwork and backpage stories copyright © 2020 United Church of Christ