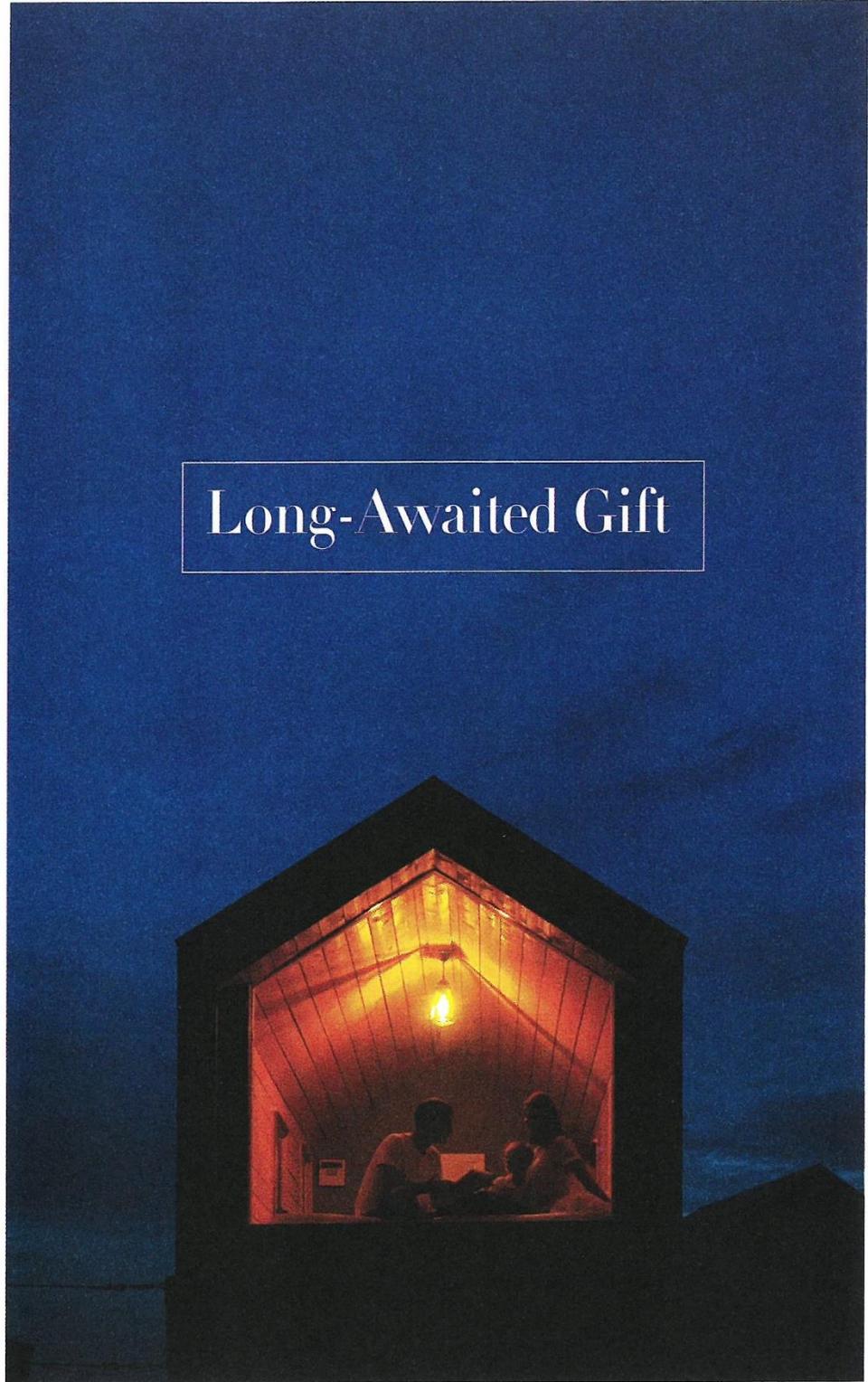


Long-Awaited Gift



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



**F**or 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.

**W**e 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.

**W**e 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.

**T**here is much information about the church in this bulletin and our website: [www.erucc.org](http://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 27, 2020

First Sunday After Christmas

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

**Chimes Concert** at 10:00 a.m. from Trinity Chapel's steeple

### Greetings and Announcements

**Prelude** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

- arr. B. Ingram  
*ERUCC Handbells*

### \*Call to Worship (based on Psalm 148)

From the heavens, praise God –  
all the angels, sun, moon, and stars!  
Let them praise God's name  
for they were created at God's command,  
and established for ever and ever!

**From the earth, praise God –  
sea monsters, fire and hail,  
snow and frost, and stormy winds,  
all fulfilling God's command.**

**Mountains and hills, fruit trees and cedars,  
wild animals, cattle, creeping things, and flying birds.**

Rulers of the earth and all peoples,  
young men and women, old and young together,  
let them praise the name of God.

**Let us praise the name of God.**

### \*Opening Prayer (in unison)

**God of this new day,  
we open ourselves to hear your call to new life.  
As we anticipate the new year and all its possibilities,  
help us to always remember that nothing is ever finished,  
God is not done with us. Indeed, God is ever making our lives, our  
families, our communities, and our world a brighter place.**

### \*Opening Hymn *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

#129  
*See back of bulletin*

## **\*Call to Confession**

### **\*Prayer of Confession**

When we want to put Christmas away with the decorations,  
**forgive us, God.**

When we do not trust you to lead us into a new year filled with unknown  
tomorrows,  
**forgive us, God.**

When we cannot let go of yesterday, and want to hang on to old ideas that do  
not serve us anymore,  
**forgive us, God.**

When we panic because things are not turning out the way we want or expect,  
and when we cannot trust your surprises,  
**forgive us, God. Amen.**

### **\*Assurance of Pardon**

God loves the world so much that God sent Jesus to be among us, as one of us,  
not to judge us but to offer us forgiveness and everlasting life. Thanks be to God!  
Amen.

## **Sacrament of Baptism**

*page 31*

## **Thought For the Day**

### **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.**

### **The Scripture**

Isaiah 61: 10 – 62:3

Luke 2: 22-40

Reader: The Word of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **Meditation**

## The Letting Go and Letting God Ritual

*On this last Sunday in 2020, the congregation will observe an ancient European tradition, originally done on Christmas Eve, or, in some churches in America, on New Year's Eve. It is observed by each person present in worship, writing on a piece of paper provided, a trait or behavioral pattern you want to let go of as you enter the New Year. This item, known only to you, will be dropped in the reflecting bowl in the front of the church where it will dissolve, thereby symbolically letting go, so that it will never bother or harm you or someone else again.*

## Offering of Tithes, Gifts and Lives to Christ's Service

Offertory *Hodie*

- arr. Hughes/Galante  
ERUCC Singers

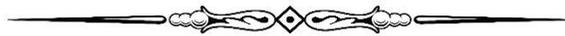
\*Closing Hymn *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

#154  
See back of bulletin

\*Benediction

\*Postlude *Joy to the World*

- arr. S. Eithun  
ERUCC Handbells



Today we welcome Chase Thomas Riley through the Sacrament of Baptism. Chase is the son of Thomas and Molly Riley (Marsh) born on November 19, 2019. Chase is the grandson of Suzanne and Robert Marsh.



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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9_hGBb5tBHeZuvqBvSbX5w)**

You can get to the link on our homepage at [www.erucc.org](http://www.erucc.org)

**The flowers on the altar this morning** are placed in remembrance of the wedding anniversary of my parents, Barbara D. and William B. Kreh, by Susan Kreh.

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

**Worship Next Week:      January 3      Epiphany Sunday**

On this day our church will celebrate Epiphany, a name that comes from a Greek word meaning “to make manifest” or “to display.” During the season of Epiphany, Christians rejoice in the gift of saving love and the unfolding vision of wholeness that God has made manifest for all people in Jesus the Christ. Our call is to participate in proclaiming this good news.

We will read from Isaiah 60:1–6 as the prophet declares that “nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.” The Gospel lesson describes the story of the arrival of the magi to pay homage to Jesus, Matthew 2: 1-12.      We will be sharing in Holy Communion.

# Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

*German and Latin, 14th century  
Transl. John Mason Neale, 1855; alt.*

*Descant*

3 Good Chris - tian friends, re-joice with heart and soul and voice;

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

now you need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born, to save!

now give heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
 now you know of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
 now you need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er -

Ox and ass be - fore him bow, a - sleep with - in the  
 God has o - pened heav - en's door, and you are blessed for -  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er -

last - ing hall. Christ was born, Christ was born to save!

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!

# Go Tell It on the Mountain

154

African-American spiritual  
Arr. John W. Work II, 1907

Luke 2:8-20; Isa. 18:3; 52:7

*Refrain*

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hill and ev - ery - where.

*Last time, end*

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

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

*to Refrain*

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



## Ministers - All the People of Evangelical Reformed Church

Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel, Senior Pastor ([bkdaniel@erucc.org](mailto:bkdaniel@erucc.org))

Rev. Fred Wenner, Pastor Emeritus ([faw500@msn.com](mailto:faw500@msn.com))

Kim Sexton, Associate for Children's Ministry ([ksexton@erucc.org](mailto: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](mailto:erucc@erucc.org)) • Jenna Duranko, Social Media Coordinator

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## FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 27, 2020

Luke 2:22-40

### Long-Awaited Gift

#### A Litany

Holy One, Like Anna and Simeon, we have waited.

*And, like Anna and Simeon we rejoice now at the young ones who have appeared.*

In an age of climate change, the seas rise along with the temperature. While her elders posture to protect resources, or argue about who is at fault, a single young woman dares to speak truth to power. As our youth are empowered, empower us at all ages to listen and then to act.

*We give thanks for the energy, vitality, and leadership of the youth in our church, community, and world. Like Anna and Simeon, we rejoice!*

The scourge of gun violence has affected no group so horribly as the young. Children who cannot yet read know how to hide in the event of an active shooter in their classrooms. And so, it is the young who lead the way in calling for reasonable gun controls and an end to gun violence.

*We give thanks for the energy, vitality, and leadership of the youth in our church, community, and world. Like Anna and Simeon, we rejoice!*

The cries of Black Lives Matter that has spilled from hearts into the streets is a rallying cry that gives voice to generations of oppression and violence. As the youth lead the way in making the social change that must come, help us to uplift their leadership. Give us the grace to get behind them, instead of standing in their way.

*We give thanks for the energy, vitality, and leadership of the youth in our church, community, and world. Like Anna and Simeon, we rejoice!*

(Lift up the gifts of local youth who have shown energy, vitality, and leadership in calling for social change and justice in Christ's name.)

*We give thanks for the energy, vitality, and leadership of the youth in our church, community, and world. Like Anna and Simeon, we rejoice! Amen.*



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