

Make Ready



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

For Children: We have trained nursery staff (paid nursery attendant as well as adult volunteers) for ages 0-4. The nursery is located on the first floor outside of the Community Room. (Accessible by the stairs from the Church Street Entrance or via the elevator). Children ages 5 and above are invited to stay and worship with their families. Children's programs, books, and crayons are located in the rear of the sanctuary near the welcome table.



Hymn selections can be found in the black hymnals in the pew racks or printed in the bulletin. If you are visiting and did not stop at the welcome desk in the downstairs lobby, please stop by after the service. Members of the welcome team 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 for offering 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 download the **GivePlus Church** application and
make your donation via the app. Thank you.



Ministers - All the People of Evangelical Reformed Church

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EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH
United Church of Christ
- An Open and Affirming Congregation -

December 5, 2021,	Second Sunday of Advent	10:30
a.m.		

*All who are able may stand

Housing the Holy
A Place at the Table (Peace)

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

Greetings and Announcements

Prelude

Threshold Moment We Open the Door

Peace Waits for Us at Advent

Amanda Udis-Kessler

Choir Sings:

Peace waits for us at Advent

Peace waits for us to trust.

**Peace waits for our commitment
to a land that's kind and just.**

**In this time of preparation
for the work of co-creation,
for the birthing of a world
that heals the ones in pain.**

Peace is born in us again!

Lighting of the Candle of Peace

All sing:

Peace waits for us at Advent...

The Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

*** Call to Confession**

*** Prayer of Confession**

Expansive God, we know that the church is your house, and your house has room for everyone. Yet, too often, instead of setting the table for our neighbors, we block the door. Instead of welcoming all, we judge others by our own standards. Instead of sharing our second coat, we hide it in the attic, holding on to fear instead of letting go with love. Remind us that your home is a home for all, that truth requires hard work, that truth requires uncomfortable justice. Help us to be bold enough to see it and brave enough to live it. With hope we pray, amen.

***Words of Forgiveness**

Thought for the Day

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven
hallowed by 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.

***Hymn** *The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shores*

The Scriptures

Baruch 5: 1-5

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem,
and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God.

Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God;

put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting;
for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven.

For God will give you evermore the name,

‘Righteous Peace, Godly Glory’.

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height;
look towards the east,
and see your children gathered from west and east
at the word of the Holy One,
rejoicing that God has remembered them.

Philippians 1: 3-11

NT 196

Luke 3: 1-6

NT 60

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Prayers of the People

Make of My Heart a Stable

-- Amanda Udis-Kessler

**Make of my heart a stable,
a house for the holy,
a warm and sturdy place
for hope to live and grow.**

Offering: A Story of Innkeeping

Offertory *For Everyone Born*

--B. Mann, arr. T. Trenney
Senior Choir

*Prayer of Dedication

Holy God, You are our home.

You and your goodness are the place we return to, the place we long to lay our head. So today as we offer you these gifts, we pray that you would take this offering and turn it into ministry. Use these gifts to transform the world we live in to better reflect the home you have envisioned for us—a home of peace, a home built on the foundation of love.

Gratefully we pray, amen.

Service of Holy Communion

The Holy One be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to our God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,

always and everywhere to give thanks to you,

Birthing God, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in our mother's womb, house of the holy,

growing us in your image.

Our hearts and lungs became a place of opening and welcoming,

doors for the Spirit of Life that you breathed into us.

We have not always understood ourselves as sacred creation,

a place for the dwelling of the Holy inside of us.

We have not always seen that in others.

When we turn away from each other and from you,

your love remains steadfast.

You deliver us from the captivity of isolation and fear,

make covenant to be our steadfast, indwelling God,

and continue to speak to us through prophetic utterance,

in the Spirit and through the people.

And so, with your people on earth

and all the company of heaven

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy , holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

In the midst of a time of despair, oppression, division, and fear,
your gestation in the house of a holy womb—
through an unlikely midwife of salvific power—
brought Jesus, the Christ, into this world.

Into The Inn of simple means
came a life dedicated and anointed by the Spirit
to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
and to announce that the time had come
when you would save your people.

A common birth for common people,
he healed the sick, fed the hungry,
and sat in houses at table with those who suffer,
and those who perpetuated suffering,
laying bare complicity and compassion.

His baptism, ministry, death, and resurrection
gave the blueprints for the building of church community,
and rejection of slavery to sin and death.

You made a new covenant with us
to be midwives, by water and the Spirit,
birthing more hope, more peace, more joy, more love in this world,
making more room in this house, at this table, for all.

When the Lord Jesus ascended,
he promised to be with us always,
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

In another house, on another night—
the night in which he gave himself up for us—
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ’s offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Open our hearts in and through this act,
stripping away any excuse or fearful hesitation,
so that we will open our doors to the world
as the body of Christ, redeemed by his love.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,
now and forever. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

(This morning communion will be brought to you as you are seated in the pews. Please hold the bread until all have been served and the pastors extend the invitation for all to eat. Please hold the cup of grape juice until all have been served and the pastors extend the invitation for all to drink. In this way, we can commune together.)

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

We give thanks, Holy One, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus the Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***Hymn** *Let There Be Light, O God of Host*

#589

***Benediction**

May God's door of welcome
swing open in your heart and in your life.
May Christ's humble first dwelling
remind you of the plenty you already know.
And may the Spirit lead you into
more possibility and hospitality than you can imagine,
making room in The Inn for all.
May it be so for you.
May it be so for us.
May it be so for this church. **Amen.**

***Sevenfold Amen**

-- No. 814

Postlude (*remain seated*)

Worship Notes: Design, leader parts, liturgy and words for communion © Marcia McFee, www.worshipdesignstudio.com. Used with permission. The Prayer of Confession is from @Sanctified Art, "Close to Home."

The flowers on the altar are in loving memory of my daughter, Janice Durante-Cowan, on the anniversary of her passing.

The yellow rose bud on the stand is placed by Tom and Evie Frazier in memory of Maj. Megan M.L. McClung, USMC – KIA in Al Anbar, Iraq, on December 6, 2006.

If you are interested in sponsoring the yellow rose, please contact the church office.

Attendance Last Sunday: 17 at 8:30 a.m. 117 at 10:30 a.m. and 74 online.



Every Sunday at 10:30

<https://sundaystreams.com/go/ERUCC>

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

Today: December 5, 2021

Next Week: December 12, 2021

Liturgist: Rev. John Shillingburg
Deacons: Mark Ulrich, Darryl Glick
Elders: Starr Schaeberle
Greeters: Anne Hoffman

Welcome: Pat Condo, Ave Barr
Sound: Jeff Schaeberle, Amanda Spencer,
Ethan Kline
Chimers: Saturday: Dick Williams
Sunday: Kelly Esslinger

Dan Smith
Chuck Baldree, Matt Pomeroy
Tyler York
Starr Schaeberle,
Bob and Nancy Manthey
Jeanellen Kallevang
Rodney Martin, Jeff Baker

Suzanne Morris
Robin and David Cooney

Worship Next Week: Third Sunday of Advent “How Much is Enough? (Joy)”

The scriptures for today, observed by some as Rejoice Sunday, invite all to find hope in relationship with God and move with God into another way of living. Luke 3: 7-18 continue John the Baptizer’s exhortation in the wilderness around the Jordan River. He bids us to look forward and re-orient our lives to the radical, justice-seeking ways of God’s reign. In Isaiah 12: 2-6, the prophet declares that joy is to be found in “wells of salvation,” freeing us to “shout and sing for joy.”

The Senior Choir will be sharing the cantata, “Rise Up! A New Light A-Comin.” this morning. Children’s Music and Movement will be ringing bells. New members will be welcomed. Following worship, we will be holding our annual congregational meeting.



**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Sunday, December 12th following the 10:30 service.**



The Consistory hopes that you will be present for the annual meeting at which time the 2022 Mission Spending Plan will be shared. **YOU ARE THE CHURCH, and we need your participation!!**

Copies of the Mission Spending Plan can be found on the tables in the rear of the sanctuary.

Hospital and Prayer List – Your pastor wants to be available when members of ERUCC are in the hospital. Please let us know so that we can visit with you and your family and provide support. We always ask permission before adding a name to be included in the prayer list or in the verbal announcements on a Sunday morning. There are many for whom we pray and visit whose names are not listed in the bulletin by their request.

Prayer List - Please remember the following people in your prayers: Al Peden, Barbara Prescott, Ginny Peters, Bob York (grandfather of Tyler York), Michael Rhoads (son of Barbara Rhoads), Westin (great nephew of Sandy Gray & Danielle Carbone, Peggy Githerman, Jeannette Johnson, Emogene Wyand, Fran Wenner, Nehemiah Castillo (niece of Andrew Beadle) Bonnie Devilbiss, Maria Csiba (mother of Tamara Tamas), Trish Carey, Betsy Fisher, James “Jimmy” Sutphin (friend of Dan Smith), Danielle Hankey (friend of Ben Mercier), The McCarty family, Nikki Keller, Barbara Lee (sister of Milt Crutchley), Tina Prescott (daughter in law of Barbara and Bill Prescott), Mary Remsberg, Susan Matesa (friend of Dan Smith & Austin Byrd), 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), 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)

Patti Patterson extends her appreciation for the prayers, cards, visits, and food she received following her surgery.

FELLOWSHIP AT ERUCC

We do enjoy our time following worship as we gather in the Community Room and share some beverages and a little snack. You make this time possible by sharing the gift of your time. The church provides the snacks, cheese and crackers, and beverages. If you are hosting, you are welcome to add something to the table like a veggie tray or fruit. Starr Schaeberle, Chair of Fellowship, can give you all the details of how to prepare and host fellowship time. Thanks for considering this request.

You can also go and sign up to serve at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b4eabac23aafc1-fellowship>

Make Ready

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. -Luke 3:1-2, NRSV

The list of people whose names begin this chapter of the book of Luke are powerful and important. The emperor Tiberius was not merely the ruler of the whole known world, he was considered an infallible god. Tiberius himself appointed Pontius Pilate, whose powerful name very loosely translated means, Free Person Who Carries a Sharp Spear. Just hearing his name, everyone would know that Pilate was not only master of his own destiny, but also that his military prowess was unrivaled. Herod and Philip were brothers in a politically successful family who ruled with the twin fists of nepotism and corruption. Lysanias is not mentioned elsewhere in scripture, but in his own time he was a big deal, big enough that he came to the attention of Cleopatra who sent Mark Anthony to depose him. Last but certainly not least, the two high priests mentioned shared the most important religious role of their time. Together occupying a role meant for one person, they were constantly jostling for position and power.

John's words fell into this world of the famous and powerful, the politically savvy and the militarily successful. He spoke not in the city, or the temple, not in the palace or the town square, not on social media or television, but in the wilderness. John was a nobody, and he spoke in the middle of nowhere to an audience (at first) of no one.

And yet, all these centuries later, his message is the one that is still heard, still followed. It was John, the voice on the margins, who pointed the way to Christ, rather than those at the center of privilege and popularity.

Somewhere in each community, a voice is crying in the wilderness right now. Somewhere on the margins, a messenger is urgently telling of Christ's way. The voice may be hard to hear over the clamoring of the powerful. But this Advent, may we open our ears to hear.



8-1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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