



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 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 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

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

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

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

December 26, 2021

First Sunday after Christmas

10:30 a.m.

*All who are able may stand

Housing the Holy
Dwelling

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

Greetings and Announcements

Prelude

Threshold Moment We Open the Door

Love Waits for Us at Christmas

Amanda Udis-Kessler

Choir Sings:

Love comes to us at Christmas

Love comes to heal our souls.

**Love brings an invitation
that our hearts might be made whole.**

**As we gather at the stable
in the darkness, glad and grateful
for the sacred in our midst,
for wonder and delight,
Christ is born in us this day.**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

All sing:

Love waits for us at Christmas...

The Peace

The Love of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

***Prayer of Illumination**

Author God,

**Scripture tells us that when Jesus taught in the temple,
all who heard were amazed.**

We want to be amazed too.

We want to hear your word with new ears.

**We want to be unraveled and transformed
by the truth tucked between those sentences.**

We want to be opened up by the hope in these holy pages.

We want to be amazed.

So as we read today, transport us to those early days in the temple.

Open our hearts so we can hear your word like never before.

We are listening.

We are grateful. Amen.

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** *Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child*

The Scriptures

Colossians 3: 12-17

NT 201

Luke 2: 41-52

NT 59

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.**

The Letting Go and Letting God Ritual

(On this last Sunday in 2021, 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: A Story of Innkeeping

Offertory *Hodie*

--arr. Galante, Hughes
Senior Choir

***Prayer of Dedication**

**Gracious God,
Your story is one that forever invites us
to be our full selves,
to take up space,
to go where we feel called,
and to allow this community to feel like home.
So use these gifts to keep building your home here.
With gratitude as tall as the ceiling, we pray. Amen.**

***Hymn** *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

#129

*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 and liturgy from © Marcia McFee, www.worshipdesignstudio.com. Used with permission. The Prayer of Illumination and Prayer of Dedication are from @Sanctified Art, "Close to Home."

The flowers on the altar are presented in memory of my father, Dale Schaeberle and my brother, John Schaeberle, from the Schaeberle Family.

The yellow rose bud is presented by Peter Brehm and Jack Day.

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

Attendance Last Sunday: 21 at 8:30 a.m. 135 at 10:30 a.m. and 77 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



We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Tina Baker who died on December 20th. Services for Tina will be held sometime in the spring.

Today: December 26, 2021

Liturgist: Glenn Wallace
 Deacons: Betsy Selby, Andrew Beadle
 Elders: Marc Kline
 Greeters: Rob Peters, Felecia Bishop, Jo Ann Fritz

Welcome: Pat Condo
 Sound: Ethan Kline, Jeff Schaeberle, Jack Day

Chimers: Saturday:
 Sunday: Trish Coffey

Next Week: January 2, 2022

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Daniel
 Mark Ulrich, Darryl Glick
 Peter Brehm
 Anne Hoffmann,
 Robin & David Cooney
 Ave Barr
 Tadd Clarkson, Ethan Kline,
 Jack Day
 Nancy Doll
 Kelly Esslinger

Worship Next Week: January 2, 2021 Epiphany Sunday

The traditional reading for this week is Matthew's story of the visit of the wise ones in Matthew 2: 1-12. It is a story unique to Matthew's gospel, and sits in stark contrast to Luke's infancy narrative. Isaiah 60:1-6 uses the image of light as a show of God's glory. That light, says Isaiah, will attract people from far and near. They will bask in the radiance, be filled with rejoicing, and will offer gifts to proclaim God's praise.

Communion will be brought to you in the pews this morning. Please hold the bread and cup until we can all commune together. We will be receiving our star words for the coming year. The Senior Choir will be singing.

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: Mack Johnson, Ken Hoffmann, Paige Coffey, Al Peden, Barbara Prescott, Patti Patterson, 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, Neremiah 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)

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 26, 2021

Luke 2:41-52

Who is This Child?

Today's scripture reading gives us a short glimpse into the life of the boy Jesus, at the moment that he ceases being a child and begins to be a young adult. His parents, after a frantic search, discover him in the temple in a sort of self-directed impromptu confirmation class of one - a class in which he is both student and teacher.

By beautiful happenstance, this day also begins the celebration of Kwanzaa, a day for teaching and learning. The Rev. Calvin Jones of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago tells the story of this holiday* which was introduced in 1966 as a celebration of people of African descent in the United States.

While Kwanzaa is not religious, its values of anti-consumerism, strong families, and cultural tradition resonate strongly with our Christmas celebrations in the progressive church. Each day of Kwanzaa is marked by a principle, which is named both in Swahili and English. Why do you think these principles are important markers for those of African descent? Whether you celebrate Kwanzaa or not, how might these principles inform and enrich your understanding of the Christ story?

December 26: Umoja or Unity

December 27: Kujichagulia or Self-Determination

December 28: Ujima or Collective Work and Responsibility

December 29: Ujamaa or Cooperative Economics

December 30: Nia or Purpose

December 31: Kuumba or Creativity

January 1: Imani or Faith

**Learn more about Kwanzaa in this stirring video from Rev. Calvin Jones at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNPdfl9b4k>.*



8.5" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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