**Welcome to OUR SAVIOUR’S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

343 Scott Street, Ripon Wisconsin *(920) 748-2544*

[*www.OurSavioursUCCRipon.com*](http://www.OurSavioursUCCRipon.com)

Advent Three Dec. 10&13, 2020

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*\* All who are able please stand L: Leader; P: People*

Prelude Accompanist: Craig Bowden

Words of Welcome and Good News

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

L: O Holy One, we light this third candle, and delight in the sparkle of its outrageous reminder to “rejoice”! Let its flame cast light into shadowy places
and show where work is to be done. Let a community of builders be formed in
the Light of Joy. Let Joy find home in our hearts, and make space for your presence there, as we work for justice and peace in the service of Love.

**People: God be with us in this Light of Joy.**

ADVENT VISUAL REFLECTION: “Joy” by BlueFish TV

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Rejoice! The spirit of God is sending us:
**P: to bring good news to the oppressed, to comfort the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, to proclaim the year of favor among God’s people.**L: Rejoice! The work of the Spirit is calling us:
**P: To rebuild ancient relationships ruined by injustice, to repair the cities as places of hope, to restore land devastated across generations, to proclaim the year of favor among God’s people.**L: Rejoice! The Glory of the Spirit is leading us:
**P: To cast off any faint spirit and put on the mantle of praise, to take root as the plantings of the HOLY ONE, to display God’s glory.**
L: Come, let us worship in Joy!

\*HYMN: “My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise” B106/Projected

\*INVOCATION

**ALL: Holy One, Builder who delights in making spaces of safety and beauty, Matchmaker who rejoices in presenting new spouses with a future of hope,
fill us today with the gifts we need to join you in your life-sustaining, hope-giving work in the world; let us share your joyful vision of beauty and justice in this world you have created and loved. In the name of the One who is coming, Amen.**

RESPONSE & INVITATION: “Spirit of the Living God”

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

WITNESS OF FAITH: Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11

WITNESS OF FAITH: Psalm 126

CALL TO CONFESSION

L: John the Baptist called people to repentance, to prepare them for the coming of God’s reign. Let us, too, repent, that we may be ready for God who comes to us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**ALL: God, we confess that it is not easy to wait for you. Our world worships the power that acts quickly through force; how difficult it is for us to wait for the power of your rule which comes slowly through love. We admit, that while claiming to desire your reign of peace and justice, we take part in the ways of war, hatred, and injustice. We leave little room for you to act in our lives. We turn now to you in repentance and openness to your Spirit.**

**Forgive us, and show us how to clear a path for you. Come to us in your Christ, and reveal your reign on earth. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

L: God says: Remember these things, O Israel, for you are my servant; you will not be forgotten by me. I have swept away your transgressions like a cloud, and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you. I say to you in the name of Jesus the Christ, our sins are forgiven.

**P: Thanks be to God!**

Passing of the Peace [Due to safety issues, Rev. Mundell will give a blessing]

WITNESS OF FAITH: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

GOSPEL LESSON: John 1:6-8,19-28

LEARNING WITH OUR CHILDREN (From our Christmas Program in 2019)

 Bell Rockers: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

 Sunday School Singers: “I Believe in Christmas”

\*STATEMENT OF FAITH: “Nicene Creed” Projected

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place**

**I can feel God’s mighty power and God’s Grace**

 **I can hear the brush of angel’s wings**

 **I see glory on each face**

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place**

SPECIAL MUSIC FROM OUR 2019 CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

 Senior Choir: “Tiny Boy Child, God's Own Son”  Johann Schessler

 Handbell Choir: “He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child”

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Prayer of Our Savior:

**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, forever. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC: “Look to the Light” by Joseph Martin Dir. David Thompson

(Kathy Lang, Barb Schouten, Pat Gittens, Deb Stark)

MEDITATION: “Rejoice Always” Rev. Kevin Mundell

HYMN: “O How Shall I Rejoice in You” B102/Projected

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

[Offering plates are located near the sanctuary entrances.]

L: In struggle and in joy, God is faithful to us. We bring forth our offerings – our tithes, our treasures, our least coins – to demonstrate our faithfulness to God.

OFFERTORY

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, you heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**ALL: O Faithful One, accept these gifts of our hearts and hands. May they be multiplied and magnified as the living presence of Christ in the world. Amen.**

\*BENEDICTION: “Go Now In Peace”

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day. Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true. Know he will guide you in all you do. Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see. God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

\*Postlude

**WELCOME TO OUR SERVICE TODAY!**

We welcome all visitors and guests, and we are glad you can join us for our services.

**Large print bulletins and regular bulletins are available in the vestibule and online, if you would like one mailed to you, please let us know. Weekly hymns are being printed and some are available in the vestibule by the bulletins.**

9:00 am Worship: Podcasted and video at [www.oursavioursuccripon.com](http://www.oursavioursuccripon.com/) & airs at 11:00 am on 1600 WRPN. Also available on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

**Pastor** Rev. Dr. Kevin Mundell revdrmundell@me.com 920-385-8990

**Parish Nurse** Jessica Geisthardt Jessica.geisthardt@ssmhealth.com 920 904-2583

**Admin. Assistant** To be Determined osuccripon1@gmail.com 920-748-2544

**Custodian** Rick Stracy rlstracy@gmail.com 920-229-1367

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**  The office hours are: Mon-Thurs. 10-noon. If you need to get into church at an unopen time, please call the church office and leave a message.

**PARISH NURSE HOURS:** Nurse Jess is able to see members by appointment on Tuesdays & Thursdays in the church office. Call 920-904-2583 to leave a message for an appointment time.

**Sunday Worship Team 9:00 am**

**Audio Operator:** John Kwiatkoske **Liturgist:** Phil Manthei

**Acolyte:**  **Organist:** Craig Bowden

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**CONTRIBUTIONS & ATTENDANCE FOR LAST WEEK**: Attendance: Thurs: 16 Sunday: 29

General Fund: $ 3,613 Capital Improvements: $177.00 OCWM: $218.00

Thank you so much for your continued support of mailed in and online contributions. It means so much to us during this time.

**JAN. MESSENGER:** The deadline is Dec. 18, please drop it off in the office in written format or send it to osuccripon1@gmail.com in written email. Thank You.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** If any of your contact information changes, please let the office know as soon as possible. Thank you.

***Birthday Greetings to our Young at Heart (age 50+)***

***December 13, 2020 - December 19, 2020***

***Karen Kanneman,*** *Dec.14* ***Eugene Reinke,****Dec. 14* ***Geraldine Schure,*** *Dec. 15* ***Cordilla Thiel,*** *Dec.16* ***Christine Wittchow,*** *Dec. 16* ***Ricky Prellwitz,*** *&* ***Donald Walters, Jr.****, Dec.17* ***Rodney Sommer,*** *Dec. 19*

**GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**ALTAR & ORGAN FLOWERS; RADIO BROADCAST; BULLETIN SIGN-UP:** 2020 & 2021 Sign-up is available on the stand outside of the office! This sign-up is for ALL SPONSORSHIPS! Altar flowers are $25 and Organ flowers are $16 each. Radio Broadcasts are $50 per sponsor & $25 per sponsor per bulletin. You can also send a letter with payment into the office or call the office to sign up. Please remember to send payment in for your signed-up slots.

**NOTE:** Due to the pandemic, we will not have poinsettias available to purchase for Christmas.

**MISSIONS COMMITTEE NOTES:** Russell Manor Bake Sale cancelled due to COVID-19. Smoke Alarm Install. – rescheduled for hopefully next spring. Due to COVID, we will not be doing Operation Christmas Child this year. Please watch bulletins and messengers to stay up to date. Thank you.

**NURSE JESS NOTE:**

**Nurse Jess Note**

On Thursday December 17th we’re dropping the usual merry and bright, cheery carols, and cozy thoughts and we’re focusing on the hard stuff. Living in Christ does not mean we will have an easy life. In fact, every one of us has grieved *something* in 2020. Lost a loved one? Check. Lost a job or had a loss in hours because of COVID? Check. Had to cancel vacations or plans? Check. Missing loved ones due to quarantines? Check. It has been one tough year. The Blue Christmas service is designed for us to acknowledge our losses and have healing through our sorrows. Sometimes we need to make space for our sadness. Join us on 12/17/20 at 6:30pm for a service of healing.

*Turn to me and have mercy, for I am alone and in deep distress. Psalm 25:16*

**NEW Covid-19 info:** The CDC and local counties have updated their quarantine guidelines as of 12/7/20. If you have been exposed to someone that tested positive (non-household), the new guidelines instruct you to quarantine for 10 days instead of 14. If you receive a negative test on day 6 or 7 of your quarantine, you can end your quarantine at that time. Continue to monitor symptoms up until day 14 after exposure.

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** If you are interested in contributing to worship with some form of special music, please talk to Craig Bowen or David Thompson. We can even record the piece in the sanctuary and insert the recording into our services for safety if need be.

**PARISH NURSE ANNOUNCEMENT:** Nurse Jess will be ending her time with us on Dec 31, 2020. Copies of the change and discernment process are all around the church, and in the Messenger. We ask that people get one, pick it up, and read it. We can also email it to anyone that would like it.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:** Volunteers will be filling-in at the church office, until we hire a replacement for the position. The Council has placed an advertisement in local shoppers and newspapers to find a new person for the position. If you are interested in volunteering to help out, please let any of our church council members know. Thank you.

**2020 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL:** Booklets have been created by the Ripon Area Ministerial Association (RAMA) and printed at no cost to RAMA, through a grant from the Webster Foundation. Please feel free to pick up a copy in the Scott street vestibule entry, or in the church office.

**2020 Salvation Army Bell Ringing:** Thanks to volunteer bell-ringers at Walgreens on Sat. Dec 12.

**Blue Christmas Service:** The “Blue Christmas” service will be held here at OSUCC on Thursday Dec. 17th 6:30 – 7:30 pm, with Grace Evangelical Lutheran, First Congregational UCC, Our Saviour’s UCC, and SSM Health participating. No soup supper this year due to COVID-19.

**PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY:** Feel free to use our prayer chain ministry by contacting Caroline Retzlaff at 920-748-2367.

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Barb Schultz, Billi Kaufman, Ed Vande Brink, Bill Waltenberry, Roger Fenner, Lorraine Fischer, Len Quinn, Robert Chikowski, Steve McSorley, Bob Schouten, Caroline Sowersby, Christine Krueger, 12 unspoken, and all others.

**THIS WEEK’S COMING EVENTS**

**Sun. Dec. 13 9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary - 3rd Sunday of Advent**

 **10:15 am Adult Ed & Sunday School**

**Mon. Dec. 14 Office open 10-Noon.**

 **~~6:30 pm Council~~ *(NOTE: Council has been moved to Tues. 6:30 pm)***

**Tues.**  **Dec. 15 Office open 10-Noon.**

**Wed. Dec. 16 Office open 10-Noon.**

 **5:15 pm Confirmation**

**Thurs. Dec. 17 Office open 10-Noon.**

 **6:30 pm Worship in Sanctuary – Blue Christmas Service**

**Friday Dec. 12 Office Closed.**

**Sun. Dec. 20 9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary - 4th Sunday of Advent**

 **10:15 am Adult Ed & Sunday School**

**FUTURE COMING EVENTS**

**Thurs. Dec. 24 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship & Communion**

 **10:30 pm Christmas Eve Worship & Communion**

**Thurs. Dec 31 6:30 pm New Year’s Eve Worship & Communion**

**LOOSE COIN UPDATE:** We are still using the loose coins in the offering plate for special projects. You can still give by specifying on the envelope that it is for Stewardship loose coin offering. Thanks to all for your continued support.

**DRIVE THRU COMMUNION:** First Sunday of each month from 10:30 am- 11:00 am. The next drive-thru communion will take place this Sunday January 3rd. December we had 29 participants.

**WORSHIP & COMMUNION:** We will continue with 2-worship services/week and offer communion both in the “sanctuary” and via “drive-thru”. Through January for sure and longer, if helpful.

**STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE REMINDER:** Please bring to worship or send in your pledge card to the church office. Thank you for your continued support of Our Saviour’s UCC.

**2021 ENVELOPE BOXES READY FOR PICK-UP:** “Contribution Envelope Boxes” are located in the East Narthex, near the carport entry door. You can access them safely, without interacting with another person, anytime the church office is open. Also, you can pick-up your box if you come to a worship service. The boxes are in alphabetical order by last name. NOTE: Envelope Numbers have all been changed to allow reducing the number of boxes we need to order. Revising numbers will save cost of 120 boxes next year.