

Welcome to **OUR SAVIOUR'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
343 Scott Street, Ripon Wisconsin (920) 748-2544
www.OurSavioursUCCRipon.com

Advent Two Year A

December 11, 2025

** All who are able please stand*

L: Leader; P: People

Prelude

Accompanists: Terri Wilke

Words of Welcome and Good News.

ADVENT VISUAL REFLECTION: Advent Story pt. 3

From the Skit Guys

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Joy

L: Today we light the Candle of Joy. Joy is often considered the easiest of these four weeks before Christ's holy birth. We may cling to hope, and pray for peace, but in joy, we delight. In joy, our struggles are released. In joy, we find relief and comfort, a connection to friends and family and God. In joy, we find innocence within that has not been ground out. The lighting of this candle is joy, and it reminds us of candles lit in our lives. No matter the size or color of the wax, no matter what room it is lit in, the act itself is exquisite. While the flame dances, we are one in the miracle and beauty of its light.

(Third candle is lit)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Joy is the gift God gives us upon waking in the morning to see beams of sun dance in dusty corners or hear much needed rain, even on a leaky roof.

P: Joy is in the delight of tiny precious things.

L: Joy is the magnificence of the Redeemer when the tests come back clear, or when a school test is finally passed, or when the spirit is tested and chooses faith over fear.

P: Joy is in the hands that hold our own while we sit silently and wait.

L: Joy is the patience of Emmanuel when petty disagreement turns into great injustice and change is slow to bend towards what is right and good.

P: Joy is in the small actions we take each day to help righteousness and peace abound.

***HYMN:** "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

R88/Projected

***INVOCATION**

ALL: Beloved, we come now seeking to recognize moments of delight when we feel connected to you. We bring our fragmented hearts filled with good cheer, gentle reverence, and utter amazement; we share our secret hopes, dependable comforts, and cozy moments of advent peace. Rise up within us as we cherish the divinity of all that is good. Amen.

*RESPONSE & INVITATION: “Alleluia”

by Jerry Sinclair

Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia,
Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia.

WITNESS OF FAITH: Isaiah 35:1-10

WITNESS OF FAITH: Psalm 146:5-10

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: Great Redeemer, too often we allow the idea of absolute happiness to block the existence of joy from our daily lives. Our hopes are crushed under the weight of the world’s sorrows, and our peace is disturbed by the agonies of an interconnected existence. We race toward solutions without pausing to meditate on the greater good. We lay bare the sorrows we carry without acknowledging the small delights that make the fight against injustice worthwhile. Relieve us of the pain we wear as a badge of honor, ignoring your love, even as it surrounds us.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

L: Our loving God does not spare us from pain, as empathy is born from suffering; but neither does God remove joy from our lives as a punishment for our indiscretions. We are bound together with a sacred braid of hope, peace, and joy designed to hold fast against the greatest adversities. In faith, no anguish can take hold completely; no sorrow completely outweighs the possibility of joy. I say to you in the name of Jesus the Christ, our sins are forgiven.

P: Thanks be to God. Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

*Passing of the Peace [Let us bless one another as we are comfortable.]

WITNESS OF FAITH: James 5:7-10

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 11:2-11

A TIME OF LEARNING: “Third Sunday of Advent”

Projected

*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

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.**

HYMN: “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

R305/Projected

MEDITATION: “Everlasting Joy”

HYMN: “Joy to the World”

R313/Projected

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

[Offering options by the sanctuary entrances/social media/mail/office.]

L: There is a simple joy to be found in sharing what we have. Regardless of how much or how little that may be, a portion belongs to God. What God desires is not an altar of sacrifices, but an outstretched hand. Give what you can, and delight in the joy your gift will bring.

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: Precious God, take these gifts in the spirit they were given, with joy and love for our siblings around the world. Let us remember that we all have times of trouble. We will each stand before you, hands clasped in prayer, begging for relief. Use what we have here to bring that relief where it is needed most. 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**



OUR SAVIOUR'S
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 FAITH FAMILY FRIENDSHIP

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

Large print bulletins and regular bulletins are available in the vestibule and online.

Join us for worship on Sunday at 9:00 am and Thursday at 6:30 pm

Our Sunday Service is broadcast via radio at 10:50 am on WRPN, AM station 1600. If there is a problem with the broadcast, please let the Church Office know on Monday morning.

All worship services are livestreamed on our Social Media Platforms and are available to watch at your convenience. If you are viewing from one of our Social Media Platforms, please make sure to leave a comment or like our post to know you are worshipping with us! If there is an issue with the stream, or you have any feedback, please let the Church Office know.



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Staff Contact Information

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OFFICE HOURS

Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 AM till Noon. There is a drop box adjacent to the office door if you need to drop off items when the office is not open, or you can use the mail slot in the North Narthex if the building doors are all locked.

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Jane Coats, Joel Hahn, and Jean Schuster Dec 11, Kyle Turner Dec 12, Ron Badtke and Jeremy Schouten Dec 13, Karen Kanneman Dec 14, Cory Klettke and Geraldine Schure Dec 15, Cordelia Thiel and Christine Wittchow Dec 16, Ricky Prellwitz and Don Walters Jr Dec 17

ATTENDANCE AND CONTRIBUTIONS FOR LAST WEEK

Thursday:	In-Person: 8	Livestream: 121	Total: 129
Sunday :	In-Person: 72	Livestream: 173	Total: 245

General Fund: \$2,960.00 OCWM: \$131.00 Capital Improvements: \$171.00

Thank you so much for your continued support of in-person, mailed in, and online contributions.

SUNDAY WORSHIP TEAM

A/V: Kelly Mundell/Judy Lueck **Liturgist:** Jaime Prellwitz **Musician:** Terri Wilke/Nicole Burdick

MISSION BAKE SALE

Our Mission Bake sale is Sunday, December 14th, same as the Children’s Pageant. The money raised goes to help fund the mission work done by the committee, for example, the cost of shipping all the pill bottles to Matthew:25 Ministries.

For those who enjoy baking holiday treats, we’d truly appreciate it if you’d consider donating some for the bake sale. We have a sign-up sheet in the East Narthex by the door. We’d like to have all donations at the church by 10:00 AM on Saturday, December 13th so we can prepare them for the bake sale. Thank you!

MESSENGER CLARIFICATION

We’d like to clarify some information about the Ripon Christmas Fund that was in the Missions Committee section of the December Messenger. How the miscommunication happened is kind of a funny story about programs with similar names colliding with a senior moment. Apologies!

What we meant to share is that if you are interested in donating to The Christmas Fund, managed by the UCC’s Pension Board, there will be an opportunity to do so on Sunday, December 21st. We’ll have special offering envelopes available in the bulletin that day.

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our denomination’s lower-income retirees.

BLUE CHRISTMAS

Our special ecumenical service of healing for anyone struggling with the holiday season is on Thursday, December 18th at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary here at Our Saviour's. The service will be livestreamed as well. This service is open to everyone in the community and is a collaborative effort between churches.

Please note there will not be a regular 6:30 PM worship service held in the Chapel that evening.

PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY



Are you in need of special prayers? Feel free to use our prayer chain ministry by contacting Caroline Retzlaff, 920-748-2367.

IN OUR PRAYERS: *Sharri Dailey, Tara Koller, Emily McGuire, Bonnie Mundell, Ron Prellwitz, Mark Sabel, Barb Schultz, and 16 Unspoken.*

HOLIDAY MEAL BAGS

We are still supporting contributions to the Ripon Community Food Pantry's Holiday Meal Bag program for the Christmas meal if you are interested in helping. We'd like to be able to deliver a check to the pantry on December 23rd. Thank you!

WWW REGISTRATIONS

Women's Wild Winter Weekend is Friday, February 20 through Sunday, February 22nd, with an option to go up Thursday, February 19th for an additional fee. Don't forget that OSUCC offers scholarships to all of our members, which covers the cost of this camp!

Registration opens at 9:00 AM on December 15th. Call Jackie at 715-479-8255 to register rather than going online. Make sure to tell her that you are a member of OSUCC so that she includes you on the single invoice they send directly to us. Registration fills up super fast so don't delay!

MISSIONS FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

We provide donations to both the Ripon Area Food Pantry and the Ripon Community Food Pantry. The items you donate are divided between the two.



Suggested items for December are: Canned tuna, chicken, salmon; peanut butter; oatmeal; rice; pasta; single serve cereals, apple sauce, etc. (used in emergency food bags); boxed cereals; protein bars; breakfast shakes; canned vegetables, fruit, stew, chili; Hamburger Helper; Mac & Cheese; stuffing mix; shelf stable milk; flour; brown and white sugar; mayonnaise; mustard; ketchup; salad dressing. Thank you for your support of our local area food pantries!

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

- Thur. Dec 11 9:00 am - Mind, Body, and Soul Clinic with Nurse Emily
5:15 pm - Sr. Choir Practice
6:30 pm - Worship Service in the Chapel
- Fri. Dec 12 9:00 am - Salvation Army Bell Ringing at Hy-Vee.
- Sat. Dec 13 10:00 am - Please have donated baked goods in the East Narthex
- Sun. Dec 14 9:00 am - Worship Service in the Sanctuary with Children's Pageant
10:00 am - Missions Committee Bake Sale
10:15 am - Sunday School
10:30 am - Adult Christian Ed
6:30 pm - Lego Multiverse Team
- Mon. Dec 15 4:00 pm - Worship Committee Meeting and candle prep
6:15 pm - Puppet Practice
- Tues. Dec 16 5:00 pm - Sharing Table Community Meal, Immanuel UM Church
6:00 pm - Pack 3735 Den Meeting

NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS

- Thur. Dec 18 9:00 am - Mind, Body, and Soul Clinic with Nurse Emily
5:15 pm - Sr. Choir Practice
6:30 pm - Blue Christmas Worship Service
- Sun. Dec 21 9:00 am - Worship Service in the Sanctuary
10:15 am - Sunday School
10:30 am - Adult Christian Ed
6:30 pm - Lego Multiverse Team
- Wed. Dec 24 4:00 pm - Candlelight Christmas Eve worship service with communion. All are welcome.
9:00 pm - Candlelight Christmas Eve worship service with communion. All are welcome.
- Thur. Dec 25 **Merry Christmas!** *The church and church office are closed.*



QR CODES FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

Please feel free to use either of these two scannable QR codes with your Smart Phone.

