

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

Christmas Eve 9:00pm December 24, 2025

** All who are able please stand* *L: Leader; P: People*
Prelude Accompanists: Terri Wilke

Words of Welcome and Good News.

ADVENT VISUAL REFLECTION: Christmas Eve pt. 5 From the Skit Guys

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

L: Tonight, we light the Christ candle. Many of us consider this to be the most holy moment of the season. As we watch the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love be lit, a familiar wonder fills our hearts. There is a lifting tonight, a gentleness of spirit making space for each of us to bring our inner children before God. These children within might be damaged, lonely, unsafe. They might be hungry and crying, bewildered and afraid. None of us arrives tonight unscathed. We are all touched by the hardships of the world, which is why this moment is so sacred. Just as Jesus comes to us in the manger, we stand here together, rapt with the miracle of this season.

God sent to us a son, a human being born of a vulnerable young woman with no rights, no healthcare - not even a woman by her side as she gave birth to the Christ child. Yet she survived. Mary did what so many of us cannot - she allowed her faith to become everything when she was afraid. She conceived her child, confessed to her husband that the child she carried was not his, then gave birth to a son, who two millennia later, is still changing our lives. As we light our Christ candle tonight and spread the flame to each person here, let us hold the courage of Mary in our hearts. (Christ candle is lit)

***CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Isaiah 9 and Psalm 96)**

L: Sing to the Holy One, a new song. Sing praises to the Creator, Maker, and Sustainer of all things seen and unseen.

P: From the depth of deep hope, a great light shines. We shine the light of hope.

L: For a child has been born named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

P: From the depth of deep peace, a great light shines. We shine the light of peace.

L: Honor and majesty are before the Glorious God; strength and beauty are in God's sanctuary.

P: From the depth of deep joy, a great light shines. We shine the light of

joy.

L: For great is the Righteous and Just God. Declare the marvelous works and wondrous ways of God with Us!

P: From the depth of deep love, a great light shines. We shine the light of love. We shine the light of Christ! Glory to God!

*HYMN: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

R89/Projected

*INVOCATION

ALL: Emmanuel, we enter your Holy Presence to be with you, to delight in your goodness, to celebrate and honor your name, to witness to the world that love, joy, peace, and hope have a home with you. May our worship reach your heart with praise and thanksgiving for the gifts that you continually give. May our songs and prayers reflect faith, trust, and commitment for your way is our path, your power is our strength, and your rest is our sanctuary. Kindle all the embers of energy within us that our collective light may ignite our lives, illuminate this world, and reflect your glory. Amen.

WITNESS OF FAITH: Isaiah 62:6-12

SPECIAL MUSIC: "I Just Heard Some Good News"

The Senior Choir

WITNESS OF FAITH: Psalm 97

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Rise Up Shepherd, And Follow!"

The Senior Choir

WITNESS OF FAITH: Titus 3:4-7

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Still, Still, Still"

The Senior Choir

CALL TO CONFESSION

L: God loves this world of flesh and blood, stone and tree, sheep and oxen, star and field. God loves the world so much that God comes to us in Jesus. Yet we are careless with God's creation. Let us confess our sin.

*CONFESSION OF SIN

ALL: How amazing is your love, great God! You are not distant from us in some faraway heaven, you have come close to us in a child born of simple parents and cradled in a borrowed bed of straw. We confess we abuse this created world. When we stand by while the earth is despoiled and its destruction threatened, God, forgive.

When we inflict physical or emotional pain on those with whom we share our lives, God, forgive. When we abuse or neglect our own bodies, God, forgive. By your great love, God, draw us into new ways of living. Teach us to cherish and nurture life in this fragile world, in the manner of Jesus the Christ, whose birth we celebrate today. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

L: Hear the good news: In compassion, God forgives us, enabling us to turn from the ways of violence and death; God shows us how to choose and cherish life. I say to you in the name of Jesus: Our sins are forgiven.

P: Rejoice and Sing! (blessing one another with the peace of Christ)

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 2:1-14

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Mary Did You Know" with the B-Attitudes Trio

MEDITATION: "Who God Works With" Rev. Mundell

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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

L: Glory to God in the highest! Let us give today with the joy of salvation in our hearts. Let us give today good gifts for the benefit and nurture of God's beloved, our neighbors in creation. Let us give with the compassionate care for our community implanted in us by the Generous One!

***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: Generous God, thank you for every good and perfect gift that we have received from you. We offer our gratitude that you invite, enable, and empower us to bless others through these gifts. Amen.

HYMN: "Let Us Break Bread Together" 1&2 R210/Projected

HOLY COMMUNION

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*HYMN: "Silent Night" R/95 Projected

Our Saviour's Verse

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!

Alles schlaft, eisam wacht

Nur das heilige Elternpaar,

Das im Stelle zu Bethlehem war,

Bei dem himmlischen Kind,

Bei dem himmlischen Kind.

***BENEDICTION**

*Postlude: Exit singing the first verse to "Joy to the World"

2025 Red Poinsettias

In Memory of:

Berndt Family
Bill Zinecker, Len Quinn
Clarence & Edna Schwandt
David Gittens, Mabel & Erv Boese
Don Retzlaff
Doreen Badtke
Floyd & Dorothy Baird
Jim & Sandy Badtke
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Marvin & Marilyn Stark, Emil & Alma
Stark, Marilyn A Stark
Melvin & Lucille Miller, Merwin & Ruth
Stellmacher
Parents
Paul & Elsie Brady, Jean Brady Moeller
Peter Theisen, Louis & Loretta Albright,
Frank & Mille Albrecht, Herman & Minnie
Huth, Elda Huth, Wilbur Huth
Ralph & Mae Schaefer

Given By:

The Family
Kay Quinn and Family
Their Family
Pat Gittens
Caroline Retzlaff & Family
Tom Badtke & Family
Their Family
Tom Badtke & Caroline Retzlaff
Linda Neuenfeldt
Tom & Tammy Widlake
The Miller Family
Patti Schaalma
Bob & Judy Lueck
Pete & Kathy Schieler
Philip & Susan Manthei
The Stark Family

Tom & Julie Stellmacher

Rick & Barb Stracy
Jane Brady & Family
Nancy Thiesen

The Bebel & Moessner Families



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP TEAMS

4PM Service:

- Audio/Visual: Keith Mulder/Judy Lueck
- Liturgist: Rick Stracy
- Musician: Terri Wilke

9PM Service:

- Audio/Visual: Kelly Mundell/Phil Wepner
- Liturgist: Jeremy Schouten
- Musician: Terri Wilke

BULLETIN SPONSOR

The Christmas Eve bulletin is given in Memory of Donald and Beth Walters by their Family.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Thank you to all who purchased the lovely red Poinsettias adorning our altar! Please don't forget to pick your plant up at the end of whichever of the two Christmas Eve services you may be attending.

Those not picked up will be kept in the East Narthex for you to pick up next week at your convenience. We are not able to donate plants to nursing homes, etc. any longer. Thank you!