

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

Advent Three Year C

December 12, 2024

** All who are able please stand*

L: Leader; P: People

Prelude

Accompanists: Terri Wilke

Words of Welcome and Good News.

ADVENT VISUAL REFLECTION: The Anticipation of Joy

From The Skit Guys

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Joy

L: No matter what troubles overwhelm us today, Isaiah reminds us that in all of our preparation and passionate pursuit of God's coming kingdom, we must not forget that God's salvation has come and is coming. "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3). With joy you will remember that God's salvation is already present among us.

P: Faced with the troubles and the suffering of the world, we choose to live in joyful presence to God and one another. We will not turn away from the pain and the hurt in our world, and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose salvation fills us to overflowing that God's love might flow through us and flood our troubled world with hope, peace, and joy.

L: We light this candle of joy as a sign of our commitment to be present to ourselves, our friends, our families, and our neighbors that in sharing our vulnerable lives we might share in the glorious joy of God's salvation together. (Third candle is lit)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Rejoice, my friends, rejoice!

P: We seek time to embrace the joy.

L: Rejoice, my friends, rejoice!

P: We Create opportunities to embody joy.

L: Rejoice, my friends, rejoice!

P: Singing songs that announce joy.

***HYMN: "Rejoice, Rejoice Believers"**

R87/Projected

***INVOCATION**

ALL: Holy Convenor of the Ages, As the memories of happiness sweep back into our minds, we delight in the Advent blessing of joy. Such blissfulness turns our spirits from the lengthened nights to God's Divine Light which will be arriving soon. Like the saints of yesteryear, we celebrate together, rejoicing in the season, and knowing the best is yet to come. Amen.

***RESPONSE & INVITATION: "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" by Thomas A. Dorsey**

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand, I am tired,
I am weak, I am worn, Through the storm, through the night,
lead me on to the light: Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

WITNESS OF FAITH: Zephaniah 3:14-20

WITNESS OF FAITH: Isaiah 12:2-6

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. Come, Lord Jesus!

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

WITNESS OF FAITH: Philippians 4:4-7

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 3:7-18

A TIME OF LEARNING: "Advent Symbols" with Purple Pete Projected

*STATEMENT OF FAITH: United Church of Christ 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: “Refiner’s Fire” with Vinyard in UK & Ireland Projected

MEDITATION: “John’s Good News” Rev. Mundell

HYMN: “On Jordan’s Banks” R84/Projected

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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

L: Embracing radical joy transforms our spirits, creating a gentle energy within us. We are renewed, and we sense God’s call more clearly. In seeking God’s message, we know how to joyfully share our talents, treasures, and time, bringing more peace and comfort into our world.

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: ALL: God of Holy Darkness and Returning Light,
We give of our full hearts, knowing that you will bless this world with love.
We give of our full minds, knowing that you will bless this world with
peace. We give of our full souls, knowing that you will bless this world
with hope. May the joy of your gifts encourage us to share the best we
have, creating your Realm here on earth. 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

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

- Thur. Dec. 12 9:00 am - Mind, Body, Soul Clinic with Nurse Emily
5:15 pm - Senior Choir Practice
6:30 pm - Worship Service in the Chapel
- Fri. Dec. 13 [Salvation Army Bell Ringing at Hy-Vee](#)
5:45 pm - Lego Multiverse
- Sat. Dec. 14 [Holiday Bake Sale items need to be at church by noon, please.](#)
Missions will plate, wrap, and price the items.
[January Messenger Deadline](#)
- Sun. Dec. 15 9:00 am - Worship Service in the Sanctuary - 3rd Sunday of Advent
and the [Sunday School Children's Pageant](#)
10:00 am - [Missions Committee Holiday Bake Sale](#)

NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS

- Mon. Dec. 16 5:30 pm - Christian Education Committee Meeting
6:15 pm - Puppet Practice
6:30 pm - Church Council Budget Meeting
- Tues. Dec. 17 5:00 pm - Free Community Meal at Immanuel United Methodist
- Wed. Dec. 18 [Deadline for Traded Treasurers Christmas Holiday Meal donations](#)
- Thur. Dec. 19 9:00 am - Mind, Body, Soul Clinic with Nurse Emily
5:15 pm - Senior Choir Practice
5:45 pm - Lego Multiverse
6:30 pm - [Blue Christmas Ecumenical Service](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Tues. Dec. 24 4:00 pm - Christmas Eve Early Candlelight Service with Communion
9:00 pm - Christmas Eve Late Candlelight Service with Communion



QR CODES FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

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





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

OUR SAVIOUR'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
FAITH FAMILY FRIENDSHIP

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.

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

Our Sunday Service is broadcast via radio at 11:00 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 also a drop box adjacent to the office door if you need to drop off items when the office is not open.

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Kyle Turner Dec 12, Ronald Badtke, Wiet Crook and Jeremy Schouten Dec 13, Karen Kanneman Dec 14, Cory Klettke and Geraldine Shure Dec 15, Eli Stibb, Cordelia Thiel and Christine Wittchow Dec 16, Ricky Prellwitz and Donald Walters Jr Dec 17

ATTENDANCE AND CONTRIBUTIONS FOR LAST WEEK

Thursday:	In-Person: 0	Livestream: 0	Total: 0
Sunday:	In-Person: 64	Livestream: 145	Total: 209

General Fund: \$4,433.00 OCWM: \$127.00 Capital Improvements: \$659.00

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP TEAM

Audio Operator: Phil Manthei **Liturgist:** Jamie Prellwitz **Musician:** Nicole Burdick

CHRISTMAS IS IN THE AIR CONCERT

Thursday, December 5th was the much anticipated “Christmas is in the Air” organ and piano concert featuring Jared Stellmacher and Terri Wilke, and it more than met expectations! What an amazing experience! Wow. Just Wow!

Thank you to Jared and Terri for sharing their talents with us, to the Worship Committee for setting up the concert and who provided the delicious treats at the reception, to Conrad Winkleman for running the Livestream, the 165 people who were in the pews that evening, and the 1645 people who enjoyed (and continue to enjoy) the concert via Livestream!

A total of \$797 in free will donations were given to benefit the Ripon Santa Club and, interesting fact: the Livestream viewer who joined us from the farthest away was from Nigeria. That person has joined us for Sunday services on occasions also.

IT'S TIME TO RING BELLS!

Friday, December 13th from 9 am to 6 pm we will be ringing the bells for the Salvation Army at Hy-Vee. Thank you to all who have volunteered and make sure you have fun! There are copies of the schedule on the table in the East Narthex if you want to pick one up.

If you have questions on Friday, please call Amy Borgardt at 920-229-1694.

HOLIDAY BAKE SALE ON DECEMBER 15TH

The Mission Committee's Holiday Bake Sale is Sunday, December 15th, the same Sunday as the Children's Pageant. Looking at the bakers sign-up sheet in the East Narthex, it certainly looks like there will be some amazing goodies to choose from. These ladies really know their way around making delicious treats, so come prepared to buy some—and make your mouth incredibly happy!

Bakers, if we could get your goodies all delivered to the church by noon on Saturday, December 14th, which gives the Missions Committee time to plate and price everything for Sunday. Thanks so much for sharing your enjoyment of baking with us too!

PUPPET PRACTICE SCHEDULE UPDATE

Please note there will not be any practices held on December 23rd or December 30th. See you again in the New Year!

TRADED TREASURES COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY HOLIDAY MEAL PROGRAM

The Holiday Meal Program also will provide Christmas meals to families in our community, so we'll continue to accept monetary donations up until December 18th to help with that effort. Thank you so much!

MISSIONS FOOD COLLECTION

Suggested food items for *December* are:



All Purpose Flour, vanilla extract (imitation is ok), vegetable oil, cookie decorating sprinkles, frosting, sugar cookie mix, white sugar, brown sugar, powdered sugar, chocolate chips, walnuts, raisins, baking soda, salt, oatmeal, peanut butter.

Thank you so much to those who have already donated!



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: Sandra Badtke, Cattibree Dailey, Tara Koller, Sue Meyer, and
12 Unspoken