

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

Christmas Eve 9:00pm Service December 24, 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 the Child From The Skit Guys
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Christ Child

L: Beloved, today we welcome the Christ Child, the fulfillment of our joy, as we proclaim with the prophet Isaiah, “For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

P: Christ our joy has come near. Emmanuel, God with us, has come to dwell with us as a tiny baby. “His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this” (Isaiah 9:7).

L: We light this candle as a sign of Christ coming to dwell with us, to live in the neighborhood of vulnerable humanity as a vulnerable child. May the light of Christ warm our hearts and light our way as we share the joy of God’s salvation wherever we go. (First candle is lit)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: The people have walked in the shadows. The light now shines.

P: Rejoice and sing a new song of great joy!

L: Nations war against nations and among themselves. Yet, the light of peace, justice, and love illuminates the path of the righteous remnant.

P: Rejoice and declare the glory of God in the land of the living.

L: Creation groans with the strain of use, misuse, and neglect. Yet, the light of resilience will not be dimmed on the earth.

P: Rejoice and witness the seas roar, the land rest, and the wind breathe. Rejoice for the glory comes and God is with us!

***HYMN: “Angels We Have Heard on High” R90/Projected**

***INVOCATION**

ALL: Emmanuel, you brought worlds into being. Your word goes forward with creative and redemptive power. Keep watch over your people assembled today as we lift our voices and our beings in praise, celebration, remembrance, and worship of you. 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: Isaiah 9:2-7

SPECIAL MUSIC: “Bethlehem Wind” Joseph Martin with our Senior Choir

WITNESS OF FAITH: Psalm 96

SPECIAL MUSIC: “This Peaceful Night” Besig & Price with our Senior Choir

WITNESS OF FAITH: Titus 2:11-14

SPECIAL MUSIC: “Shepherd’s, Hurry!” K. Lee Scott with our 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!

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

***HYMN: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”** R99/Projected

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 1:39-45

SERMON: “Savior, Messiah, Lord” Rev. Mundell

PASTORAL 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.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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

L: The generous spirit pays attention to unmet needs within and beyond our community. When we give from our resources of time, talent, and treasure, our generosity becomes enfleshed, shows up, and makes love of God and neighbor real. Rooted in the wells of abundance and God's blessed provision, let us be stewards participating in the well-being and flourishing of all.

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 (Responsive)

ALL: Bountiful God, receive these gifts, extend their reach, and magnify their impact for your glory and for your creation. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC: "The Greatest King of All" D. Thompson with our Senior Choir
HOLY COMMUNION

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*HYMN:

"Silent Night"

R/95 Projected

1. 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.

2. English First Verse

Silent night, Holy night,

All is calm, all is bright,

Round yon virgin, mother and child,

Holy infant so tender and mild

Sleep in heavenly peace,

Sleep in heavenly peace.

*BENEDICTION

L: Light is planted like seed for the righteous person; joy too for those whose heart is right.

ALL: Rejoice in the Lord, righteous ones! Give thanks to his holy name!

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

BULLETIN SPONSOR

The bulletins for both Christmas Eve Services are given In Memory of Donald and Beth Walters by their family.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Enjoy your Christmas Day with family and friends and we'll see you back next at our Thursday, December 26th, 6:30 pm worship service in the chapel.

Red Poinsettias for Christmas 2024

<i>In Honor of</i>	<i>Given By</i>
Grandchildren	Ronald & Iona Altnau
<i>In Memory of</i>	<i>Given By</i>
Bill Zinecker, Len Quinn	Kay Quinn & Family
Dave Gittens, Boese Family	The Gittens Family
Dick & Mabel Bloedel, Jerry & Donna Long	The Long Family
Dick Mlodzik and Riky Mlodzik	Bev Mlodzik
Don Retzlaff	Caroline Retzlaff & Family
Doreen Badtke	Tom Badtke & Family
Earl & Lorraine Fischer, Edward & Darleen Sramek	Ken, Cal & Sandy Fischer
Edna Schwandt	The Schwandt Family
Edna Schwandt	Chester & Donna Burton
Elda & Clarence Zimmerman	Tom & Julie Stellmacher
<i>Over Please</i>	

Red Poinsettias for Christmas 2024

<i>In Memory of</i>	<i>Given By</i>
Floyd & Dorothy Baird	The Family
Howard & Florence Luker	Lyndon & Dolores Luker
Jeff Badtke	Tom Badtke and Family
Loved Ones	Bob & Judy Lueck
Loved Ones	Patti Schaalma and Family
Loved Ones	Philip & Susan Manthei
Loved Ones	Roberta Tetzlaff
Loved Ones	The Miller Family
Loved Ones	The Schieler Family
Loved Ones	The Wrzinski Family
Lucille & Melvin Miller	Tom & Julie Stellmacher
Marvin Cluppert	Ruth Ann Cluppert and Family
Norma & Kelsey Kuhs	Tom & Julie Stellmacher
Paul & Elsie Brady, Jean Brady Moeller	Jane Brady & Family
Peter Theisen, Louis & Loretta Albright, Frank & Minnie Albrecht, Herman & Minnie Huth, Elda Huth, Wilbur Huth	Nancy Theisen
Ralph & Mae Schaefer	The Bebel & Moessner Families
Ruth & Merwin Stellmacher	Tom & Julie Stellmacher
Terri Lenz	Her Family