



*An Open & Affirming, A2A-Accessible to All
Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

4 January 2026 – 10:30 AM
Second Sunday after Christmas

***indicates the congregation is invited to stand.
Please feel free to remain seated if you prefer.**

PRELUDE *The Best is Yet to Come* Cy Coleman & Carolyn Leigh
JAZZ ON HIGH • Aidan Santa Cruz, piano & vocals; Tony Bianchini, bass; Zack Olsen, drums

WELCOME the Rev. David Pattee, pastor

*GATHERING SONG #742 1) in unison 2) repeated as a round

**Gathered here in the mystery of this hour,
Gathered here in one strong body,
Gathered here in the struggle and the power,
Spirit draw near.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP adapted from *Sirach 24:1-12* Jim Howley, liturgist

One: Listen as wisdom gives praise, and tells of her glory in the midst of the people,
coming forth like a word from the mouth of God.

All: I covered the earth like a mist,

One: I reigned in the heavenly places,

All: And travelled through the deepest abyss.

One: I held sway over all the earth

All: And over every people and nation I ruled supreme.

One: Then I was ready to settle down

All: And I sought a resting place for my wisdom ways:

One: Where shall I abide? Where shall my hope, peace, joy, and love remain?

All: Make your home among us, O Wisdom, and come and live with us forever!

*HYMN 153 [hymn sheet] *Who Would Think That What Was Needed* SCARLET RIBBONS

*INVOCATION

*GREETING OF PEACE

WORD MADE PLAIN children are invited to gather in front Joline Wade Gatlin

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

May the peace of God surround you... **Like the trees towering in the forest!**

May the peace of God warm you all over... **Like the sun shining in the sky!**

May the peace of God rise and roll over you... **Like the waves rolling in the sea!**

May the peace of God fill you... **Like the wind stirring in your soul!**

May the peace of God surround you... [singing] **Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen...** [repeating]

ANTHEM *Brand New Day* Van Morrison

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

MEDITATION

Pastor Dave

RESPONSE 584

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

**I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!
If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery,
Of what you were meant to do and be.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

concluding with *A Prayer in the Spirit of Jesus*

**Earth-Maker, Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer, Source of all that is and all that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all, Loving God in whom is Heaven:
May the hallowing of your name echo through the universe.
May your Heavenly will be done by all creatures great and small.
And may your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need this day, feed us. For the hurt we inflict on one another, forgive us.
Through times of temptation, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is Love.**

OFFERTORY

Invitation
Offertory Music

www.PeaceUnited.org/Giving
Blue Skies



Irving Berlin

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Words of Institution and Prayers of Consecration
Distribution

Please come forward by the center aisle to receive.

Take bread, dip into the cup, partake immediately, and return to your seat by a side aisle.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of all goodness, we thank you for the nourishment of our faith and the renewal of our lives through this Communion in Christ. So send us now into the world as instruments of your peace. Where there is hate, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. O God, grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Savior. (inspired by St. Francis of Assisi, c.1181-1226)

*HYMN 160 [hymn sheet]

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ELDERKIN

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Everybody Rejoice

Luther Vandross

153 Who Would Think That What Was Needed

*Isa. 11:1-6; Matt. 2:1-11; Luke 2:8-14**John Bell and Graham Maule, 1990; alt.*

1 Who would think that what was need-ed to trans-form and save the earth
 2 Shep-herds watch and sag-es won-der, mon-archs scorn and an-gels sing;
 3 Cen-tu-ries of skill and sci-ence span the past from which we move,

might not be a plan or ar-my proud in pur-pose, proved in worth?
 such a place as none would reck-on hosts a ho-ly, help-less thing;
 yet ex-per-i-ence ques-tions wheth-er with such prog-ress we im-prove.

Who would think, de-spite de-ri-sion, that a child should lead the way?
 Sta-ble beasts and pass-ing stran-gers watch a ba-by laid in hay:
 In our search for sense and mean-ing, lest our hopes and hu-mor fray,

God sur-pris-es earth with heav-en, com-ing here on Christ-mas Day.
 God sur-pris-es earth with heav-en, com-ing here on Christ-mas Day.
 God sur-pris-es earth with heav-en, com-ing here on Christ-mas Day.

This song was written by The Iona Community in Scotland, which frequently develops hymn texts through a collaborative process, often employing traditional tunes from the British Isles such as "Scarlet Ribbons."

Tune: SCARLET RIBBONS 8.7.8.7.D.

*English traditional melody
 Arr. John Bell and others, 1990*

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

(Jesus, the Light of the World)

John 8:12; 9:5

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.; adapt. George D. Elderkin; alt.

1 Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, Je-sus, the light of the world;
 2 Joy-ful, all you saints a-rise, Je-sus, the light of the world;
 3 Christ, by high-est heaven a-dored, Je-sus, the light of the world;
 4 Hail the Bear-er of God's peace! Je-sus, the light of the world;

Glo-ry to the Christ-child bring, Je-sus, the light of the world.
 Join the tri-umph of the skies, Je-sus, the light of the world.
 Christ, the ev-er-last-ing Word, Je-sus, the light of the world.
 Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the light of the world.

Refrain
 We will fol-low the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the
 dew-drops of mer-cy are bright, Shine all a-round us by
 day and by night, Je-sus, the light of the world.

The original version of Charles Wesley's hymn has received various alterations throughout the years. This adaptation by George Elderkin utilizes a repeated ascription, "Jesus, the light of the world," and a refrain to create a rousing carol of praise.

Tune: ELDERKIN 7.7.7.7. with refrain
 George D. Elderkin
 Arr. Jeffrey Radford, 1993