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Meeting ID: 943 2792 1872

Password: 023012

To connect by phone, call (646)558-8656

When attempting to join our Sunday morning worship on Zoom, participants enter a “Waiting Room” and are allowed entrance only when recognized by a member of the UUC Tech Team. This means your Zoom login must have your name or some identifying information that we can recognize. “Zoom User” will not work!

Those joining us for worship on Zoom can present their tithes and offerings online through our [website](#) or by downloading the [Tithe.ly App](#) for your iPhone or Android device. You may also give using Venmo. Our Venmo “handle” is @UUCAlfred, but you can find us by searching for the name of the church, or you can scan this QR code to donate to UUC on Venmo:



UNION UNIVERSITY CHURCH
ORDER OF WORSHIP
Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2024

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

PRELUDE Watchman, Tell Us of the Night *James Mansfield, arr Joseph Parry*

***INTROIT #219** Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Speaker 1: We have lit again the first two candles in our Advent wreath, to remind us of God’s gifts of hope and peace. Today we will light the third candle, the candle of joy.

Speaker 2: As we wait for Christmas, the birth of Jesus, we look forward to the joyful celebrations we will share and those we love. The prophet Zephaniah calls us to shout for joy, because God will transform the people. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the angel told the shepherds not to be afraid. The angels brought “Good news of a great joy, which shall be to all people.” The good news of Jesus’ birth and the promise of Shalom are still “tidings of great joy” for us today.

Speaker 1: Paul tells us to rejoice in God always. The third candle reminds us of our joy in Jesus Christ.

(The pink candle is lit)

Speaker 2: God of Joy, thank you for the excitement and delight we experience at this joyful time of year. Help us to share your joy with others, so that they too will be filled with your spirit. Amen.

*** HYMN OF THE MONTH #212 Comfort, Comfort, O My People**

PRAYER CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

SILENT PRAYER – LORD’S PRAYER *(debts/debtors)*

GIFT OF MUSIC Good Christian Friends, Rejoice *German folk tune arr Albert Zabel*
Handbell Quartet, Peter O’Connor, piano

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY Oh Little Town of Bethlehem *Lewis H Redner, arr John Innes*

*** DOXOLOGY #71A & BLESSING**

Praise God, the source of life and birth.

Praise God, the Word who came to earth.

Praise God the Spirit, holy Flame.

All glory, honor to God’s name. Amen

***HYMN # 546** **There Is a Line of Women**

SCRIPTURE

Ruth 1:1-18 (Pew Bible p.231); Matthew 1:5 (p.835)

MEDITATION “Unexpected and Mysterious” (Hymn #229)

SERMON Love that Endures *Rev Roberto Che Espinoza, PhD*

*** CLOSING HYMN#210 (vs 1-4) O Come, O Come, Immanuel**

*** BENEDICTION**

*** BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

(congregation left leads, congregation right responds)

Congregation left: Soli deo gloria

Congregation right: Soli deo gloria

Congregation left: To God alone all glory be

Congregation right: To God alone all glory be

All: Amen, amen, amen.

POSTLUDE Go Tell It on the Mountain

***Please stand as you are able.**

Please join us for coffee and fellowship in the Church Center following worship.

Serving Today

Lay LeaderCatherine Chambers
Advent Candles.....Colleen & Oriya Sarnicola-Moon
Greeter(s)Nancy Evangelista & Joe Dosch
Coffee HourCartledge/Heineman
Organ.....Laurel Buckwalter
Piano Peter O'Connor
Usher.....Mary Perkins
Zoom Hosts Jim Ninos, John Buckwalter

Looking Ahead

December 22, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Lay LeaderErin Law
Greeter(s)Amie Acton
Coffee Hour Regina Burke
OrganLaurel Buckwalter
Piano Peter O'Connor
UsherMary Perkins
Zoom Hosts..... John Buckwalter & Jim Ninos

PRAYER CONCERNS

Ding Jiayi & Family, Chang Weiping & Family, Clayton Stutzman, Hugh Langelier, Wes Bentz, Lowin, Michelle Garcia Escobar, Vangelia Perryman, Esther & Marcus Epps, Kenneth Williams, Bob & Deb Lewis, Steve Crandall, Bob Condrate, the Burdick family, Joan & Brad Bowden, Chrystal Dodge, Vaughn Mussmon (Joan Schulze's niece's youngest son), Mary-Lou & Jerry Cartledge.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Cookies for the Food Pantry: These cookies can be left in the church kitchen until December 18.

Christmas Eve choir rehearsal tonight! Luanne and Laurel will be directing a community choir. Rehearsals will be on Sunday nights, December 15 and December 22, at 7 PM in the sanctuary. Laurel is hoping that church members will be able to provide special music on Sunday morning December 22, doing one of the songs we will learn on the 15th.

Blue Christmas Service December 21, 2024, 7:00 PM

Join us on the longest night of the year for a contemplative **Blue Christmas Service**, a sacred time to honor the complexity of the holiday season. This service is designed for those who find this season difficult—whether due to grief, loss, loneliness, or simply the weight of the world. Through quiet reflection, candlelight, and gentle music, we will create space for sorrow and longing, while holding hope for renewal and healing. Together, we will acknowledge the shadows, honor our emotions, and find solace in the presence of community and the sacred. Come as you are—whether heavy-hearted or seeking peace—and allow this time to ground and renew you as we await the light's return. All are welcome.



Collection of Items for the Allegany County Unhoused

The UUC Board of Elders has agreed to help collect items for the unhoused in our county in cooperation with the Allegany Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (ACASA) and the Allegany County Democratic Committee. A collection bin will be in the Church Center from Dec. 14 until Jan 17. Local collection bins will also be placed at the Alfred Pharmacy, Box of Books Library, and AU Alumni Hall. High priority needs include the following **new items**:

Sweats (L and XL tops and bottoms)	Hairbrushes
Long winter underwear	Deodorant
Winter socks	Aquaphor
Waterproof heavy gloves	Blistex SPF 15
New hats and scarves	Gatorade
Hand & foot warmers	Listerine (alcohol free)
Cheese and cracker packets	Wet-ones
Ouchless hair elastics	

Financial Update:

As an independent church, not affiliated with any denomination, UUC is funded entirely by individual members and donors. We need a steady stream of financial support and volunteers to enable us to pay salaries and utilities and to help maintain our facilities and programs.

Operating Income is running behind budget by about 29%

Income through November 30: \$61,189.00

Income needed through November 30 to make budget: \$86,430.00

219 Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord

PREPARE YE THE WAY 8.8

Capo 3: (G) B \flat (A m7) C m7 (B m) D m (D) F

Pre - pare ye the way of the Lord,

pre - pare ye the way of the Lord.

Text: Isaiah 40:3, Matthew 3:3, Mark 1:3

Music: Stephen Schwartz (USA), © 1971 Range Road Music, Inc., Quartet Music, Inc., and New Cadenza Music, Inc.,
dist. Hal Leonard, Inc.



212 Comfort, Comfort, O My People

GENEVA 42 (FREU DICH SEHR) 8.7.8.7.7.7.8.8

F Dm Bb F C F

1 Com - fort, com - fort, O my peo - ple, speak of peace, now says our God.
 2 Hark, the voice of one who's cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 O make straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er plac - es plain.

Dm Bb F C F

Com - fort those who sit in shad - ows, mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load.
 bid - ding all to full re - pen - tance, since the king - dom now is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits a ho - ly reign.

C F Bb C

Speak un - to Jer - u - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them.
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way!
 For the glo - ry of our God now o'er earth is shed a - broad.

F Gm Dm F Bb F Bb C F

Tell of all the sins I cov - er, and that war - fare now is o - ver.
 Val - leys, rise in ex - al - ta - tion; hills, bow down in ad - o - ra - tion.
 And all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Chord symbols represent a simplified harmony.

Text: based on Isaiah 40:1-5; Johannes Olearius (present-day Germany), "Tröstet, tröstet, meine Lieben," *Geistliche Singe-Kunst*, 1671; trans. Catherine Winkworth (England), *Chorale Book for England*, 1863, alt.

Music: Louis Bourgeois (present-day France), *Genevan Psalter, Octante Trois Pseaumes de David*, 1551; harm. adapt. from Claude Goudimel (present-day France), *150 Pseaumes de David*, 1564

546 There Is a Line of Women

CLIMBING VINE 7.6.7.6 D

Capo 1: (D) Eb (G) Ab

1 There is a line of wom-en ex - tend - ing back to
 2 There is a line of wom-en who took on pow'r-ful
 3 There is a line of wom-en who stood by Je - sus'

(D) Eb (A) Bb (D) Eb

Eve whose role in shap - ing hist' - ry God
 men, de - fy - ing laws and scru - ples to
 side, who housed him while he mini-stered and

(A) Bb (G) Ab

on - ly could con - ceive; and though through end - less
 let life live a - gain; and though, de - spite their
 held him when he died; and though they claimed he'd

(Bm) Cm (Bm/A) Cm/Bb (G) Ab (F#m) Gm

ag - es their wit - ness was re - pressed, God
 tri - umph, their sto - ries stayed un - told, God
 ris - en, their news was deemed sus - pect till

(Em) Fm (Bm) Cm (G) Ab (A) Bb

val - ued and in - spired them through whom the world was
 kept their num - ber grow - ing, cre - a - tive, strong, and
 Je - sus stood a - mong them, his wo - man - ly e -

(D) Eb (G/A) Ab/Bb (A) Bb (D) Eb

bless'd. So sing a song of Sa - rah— to
 bold. So sing a song of Shiph-rah with
 lect. So sing a song of An - na who



(G) (D)
 A \flat E \flat
 laugh - ter she gave birth; and sing a song of
 Pu - ah close at hand: en - gaged to kill male
 saw Christ's in - fant face; and sing a song of

(E) (A)
 F B \flat
 Ta - mar who stood for wo - men's worth; and
 chil - dren, they foiled the king's com - mand; and
 Mar - tha who gave him food and space; and

(G) (D) (Bm) (D/A)
 A \flat E \flat C m E \flat /B \flat
 sing a song of Han-nah who bar - gained with her
 sing a song of Ra - hab who shel - tered spies and
 sing of all the Ma - rys who heed - ed his re -

(G) (G/F \sharp) (Em) (D/F \sharp)
 A \flat A \flat /G F m E \flat /G
 Lord; and sing a song of Ma - ry who
 lied; and sing a song of Es - ther pre -
 quests and now at heav - en's ban-quet are

(G) (A) (D) (G/A) (A)
 A \flat B \flat E \flat A \flat /B \flat B \flat
 (♩) Last time
 bore and bred God's Word.
 vent - ing gen - o - cide.
 Je - sus' fond - est guests.



210 O Come, O Come, Immanuel

VENI EMMANUEL LM with refrain



1 O come, O come, Im-man - u - el, and ran-som cap-tive
 2 O come, O come, thou God of law, in cloud and maj-es-
 3 O come, thou Rod of Jes-se, free thine own from Sa-tan's
 — 4 O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spir-its by thine
 5 O come, thou Key of Da-vid, come and o-pen wide our
 6 O come, thou Wis-dom from on high, and or-der all things
 7 O come, De-sire of na-tions, bind all peo-ples in one



Is-ra-el, that mourns in lone-ly ex-ile
 ty and awe. Thy pre-cepts, taught on Si-nai's
 tyr-an-ny. From depths of hell thy peo-ple
 — ad-vent here. Dis-purse the gloom-y clouds of
 heav'n-ly home. Make safe the way that leads to
 far and nigh. To us the path of knowl-edge
 heart and mind. Bid en-vy, strife, and quar-rels



here, un-til the Son of God ap-pear.
 height, call us to lives both just and right.
 save, and give them vic-t'ry o'er the grave.
 — night, and death's dark shad-ow put to flight.
 thee and close the path to mis-er-y.
 show, and cause us in thy ways to go.
 cease, and fill the world with heav-en's peace.

Refrain



Re-joice! Re-joice! Im-man-



u-el shall come to thee, O Is-ra-el.



Text: anon., O Antiphons, ca. 8th-9th c.; "Veni, veni Emmanuel," 12th c.; stanzas 1-5 trans. John M. Neale (England), *Medieval Hymns and Sequences*, 1851, alt.; stanzas 6-7 trans. Henry Sloane Coffin (USA), *Hymns of the Kingdom of God*, 1916

Music: trope melody (present-day France), 15th c.

