Link for Zoom:

https://zoom.us/j/94327921872?pwd=a05walRGK1MxcTRab0pLWC9DeFViQT09

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 <u>Tithe.ly App</u> 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 folktune 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 Leader	Catherine Chambers
-	Colleen & Oriya Sarnicola-Moon
Greeter(s)	Nancy Evangelista & Joe Dosch
Coffee Hour	Cartledge/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 Leader	Erin Law
Greeter(s)	Amie Acton
Coffee Hour	Regina Burke
Organ	Laurel Buckwalter
Piano	Peter O'Connor
Usher	Mary Perkins
Zoom Hosts	. John Buckwalter & Jim Ninos

#### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

Ding Jiaxi & 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' niece's youngest son), Mary-Lou & Jerry Cartledge.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

<u>Christmas Eve choir rehearsal tonight!</u> 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:

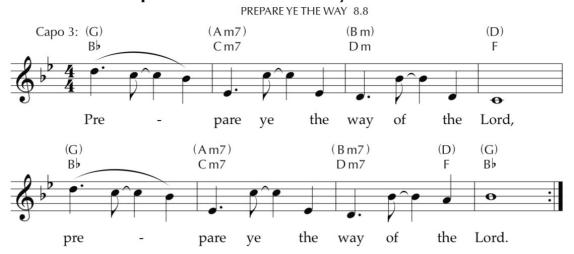
As an independent church, not affiliated with any denomination, UUC is funded entirely by individual members and donors. We need a steady stream of financial support and volunteers to enable us to pay salaries and utilities and to help maintain our facilities and programs.

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

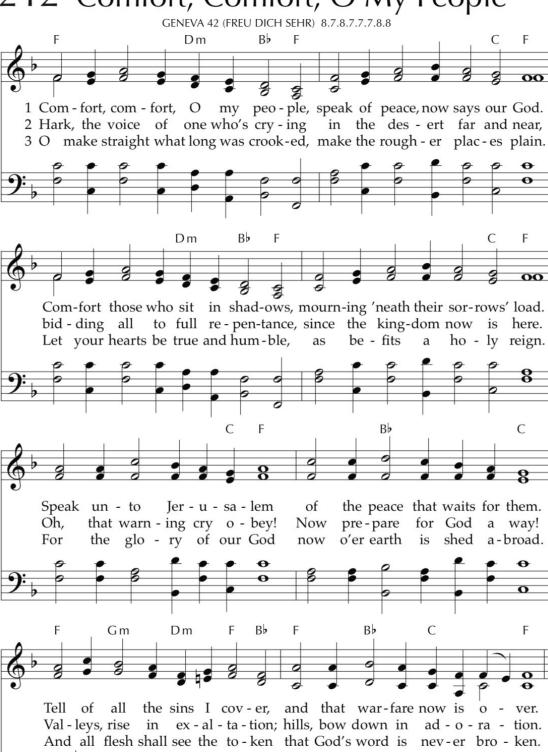


Text: Isaiah 40:3, Matthew 3:3, Mark 1:3

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



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



Text: John L. Bell (Scotland), © 2002 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.) Music: Charlene Nafziger (Canada), © 2019 Charlene Nafziger



## 210 O Come, O Come, Immanuel



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.