**Welcome to OUR SAVIOUR’S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

343 Scott Street, Ripon Wisconsin *(920) 748-2544*

[*www.OurSavioursUCCRipon.com*](http://www.OurSavioursUCCRipon.com)

Christmas Eve Dec. 24, 2020

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*\* All who are able please stand L: Leader; P: People*

Prelude Accompanist: Craig Bowden

Words of Welcome and Good News

INTRODUCTORY SENTENCES

L: Good evening! On this Christmas Eve, we are gathered as God’s people to celebrate again what Christ’s coming means to the world. We join with Christians all over the world who are celebrating tonight.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

L: Tonight, we relight the four Advent candles and recall what the good news means. (Lighting of the Candles) We lite for hope, peace, joy, and love.

L: Jesus Christ is the greatest gift who makes all these other gifts possible. So, we light the Christ candle now, as we think about what Christ’s coming means to each one of us. (Lighting of the Christ Candle)

PRAYER

L: We thank you, God, for your gift of Jesus Christ to the entire world. We thank you that Christ’s coming makes hope, peace, love, and joy possible for every person in every nation. Encourage us to do our part to bring goodwill and peace to our families, our churches, our neighborhoods, and the world. Now let your Spirit put us in touch with you, the living God, through the words and music we hear tonight/today. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray.

**ALL: Amen.**

VISUAL REFLECTION: “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” by BlueFish TV

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: In the beginning, there was the Word;

**P: the Word was in God’s presence, and the Word was God.**

L: The Word was present to God from the beginning. Through the Word all things came into being….

**P: In the Word was life, and that life was humanity’s light- -**

L: And the Word became flesh and stayed for a little while among us;

Out loud, but muted

**P: we saw the Word’s glory—**

L: the favor and position of a Parent’s only Child—

**P: filled with grace, filled with truth.**

L: Let us rejoice in the Word!

\*HYMN: “O Come All Ye Faithful” R89/Projected

\*INVOCATION

**ALL: O Word made Flesh, you have come into our midst as light and wisdom, desiring to be known to us in our lives and to be found in the world around us. Open our eyes and our ears and our hearts to recognize you where you dwell—in our midst—Challenging, heartening, lighting the way to truth, peace, justice.**

RESPONSE & INVITATION: “Spirit of the Living God”

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

WITNESS OF FAITH: Isaiah 9:2-7

SPECIAL MUSIC: “O Holy Night” Jeremy Schouten

WITNESS OF FAITH: Psalm 96

HYMN: “Angels We Have Heard on High” vs. 1&2 R90/Projected

WITNESS OF FAITH: Titus 3:4-7

HYMN: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” 1&2 R94/Projected

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 2:1-20

SPECIAL MUSIC: “The Birthday of a King” Jeremy Schouten

 (by William Howard Neidlinger)

MEDICATION: “Treasured by Mary” 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 plates are located near the sanctuary entrances.]

L: The Love of God is born new in the world as often as we embody that love

in the works of compassion, peace and justice. Let us offer our gifts in a spirit of generosity and hope.

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: With these gifts, dear God, accept the praise and thanksgiving of our hearts, which rejoice in your goodness and love. Let our gifts point to your presence in the world, and further your dream for the world through Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Amen.**

HYMN (4:00): “Let Us Break Bread Together” 1&2 Red Hymnal #210

SPECIAL MUSIC (10:30): “Ava Maria” (by Schubert) Denise Thompson

HOLY COMMUNION

(With modifications for safety; only participate if you feel comfortable)

CANDLE LIGHTING VIGIL

\*HYMN: “Silent Night” R#95/96

1. Our Saviour’s First Verse 2. German First Verse

**Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!**

**Alles schlaft, eisam wacht Alles schlaft, eisam wacht**

**Nur das heilige Elternpaar, Nur das heilige hochheilige Paar**

**Das im Stelle zu Bethlehem war, Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,**

**Bei dem himmlischen Kind, Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,**

**Bei dem himmlischen Kind. Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!**

3. 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: Welcome, Holy Child! Your presence transforms our lives. Sisters and Brothers, before we go forth from this peaceful place, let us take a good look around us at one another: see what beauty is revealed among us in the light of Christ! **(Look Around)**

L: Now, let us extinguish these small lights and go forth bearing the Light of Christ in our hearts to let it shine in our world!

\*Postlude: Exit singing the first verse to “Joy to the World”

***TODAY’S BULLETIN IS :***

*In Memory of Dave Gittens; Given by Pat Gittens.*

*In Memory of Clarence Schwandt, Given by Edna Schwandt*

**THIS WEEK’S COMING EVENTS**

**Sun. Dec. 27 9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary - 1st Sunday of Christmas**

 **10:15 am Sunday School (No Adult Ed)**

**Mon. Dec. 28 Office open 10-Noon.**

**Tues.**  **Dec. 29 Office open 10-Noon.**

**Wed. Dec. 30 Office open 10-Noon.**

 **No Confirmation**

**Thurs. Dec. 31 Office closed. New Year’s Eve**

 **6:30 pm Christmas Eve Worship in Sanctuary & Communion**

**Friday Jan. 1 Office Closed. New Year’s Day**

**Sun. Jan. 3 9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary & Communion – 2nd Sunday of Christmas**

 **10:15 am Sunday School (No Adult Ed)**

**FUTURE COMING EVENTS**

**Thurs. Jan. 7 6:30 pm Worship in Sanctuary**

**Sun. Jan. 10 9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary - 3rd Sunday of Christmas**

 **10:15 am Sunday School & Adult Ed**

**LOOSE COIN UPDATE:** We are still using the loose coins in the offering plate for special projects. You can still give by specifying on the envelope that it is for Stewardship loose coin offering. Thanks to all for your continued support.

**DRIVE THRU COMMUNION:** First Sunday of each month from 10:30 am- 11:00 am. The next drive-thru communion will take place Sunday January 3rd. December we had 29 participants.

**WORSHIP & COMMUNION:** We will continue with 2-worship services/week and offer communion both in the “sanctuary” and via “drive-thru”. Through January for sure and longer, if helpful.

**STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE REMINDER:** Please bring to worship or send in your pledge card to the church office. Thank you for your continued support of Our Saviour’s UCC. Results to date: Total of 60 pledges have been received for the amount of $91,653. Gen. Fund $75,919. Capital Imp. $8,620. OCWM $7,114

**WELCOME TO OUR SERVICE TODAY!**

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

**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. Weekly hymns are being printed and some are available in the vestibule by the bulletins.**

9:00 am Worship: Podcasted and video at [www.oursavioursuccripon.com](http://www.oursavioursuccripon.com/) & airs at 11:00 am on 1600 WRPN. Also available on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

**Pastor** Rev. Dr. Kevin Mundell revdrmundell@me.com 920-385-8990

**Parish Nurse** SSM Health ended their Parish Nurse Program, and Nurse, Jessica also ended her time with us. We are in the process of discerning our next steps.

**Admin. Assistant** To be Determined osuccripon1@gmail.com 920-748-2544

**Custodian** Rick Stracy rlstracy@gmail.com 920-229-1367

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**  The office hours are: Mon-Thurs. 10-noon. If you need to get into church at an unopen time, please call the church office and leave a message.

**PARISH NURSE HOURS:** Nurse Jess’ last day was Dec. 22. We are discerning the future of the program.

**Sunday Worship Team 9:00 am**

**Audio Operator:** Kelly Mundell **Liturgist:** Confirmand

**Acolyte:**  **Organist:** Craig Bowden

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**CONTRIBUTIONS & ATTENDANCE FOR LAST WEEK**: Attendance: Thurs: 35 Sunday: 28

General Fund: $ 4,376 Capital Improvements: $225.50 OCWM: $179.50

Thank you so much for your continued support of mailed in and online contributions. It means so much to us during this time.

**FEB. MESSENGER:** The deadline is Jan. 15th.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** If any of your contact information changes, please let the office know as soon as possible. Thank you.

***Birthday Greetings to our Young at Heart (age 50+)***

***Shirley Grams,*** *December. 27* ***Timothy Graff,*** *December 29* ***Frederick Malzahn****, December 29*

***Delores Retzlaff,*** *December 31* ***Connie Turner,****December 31*

**GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**ALTAR & ORGAN FLOWERS; RADIO BROADCAST; BULLETIN SIGN-UP:** 2021 Sign-up is available on the stand outside of the office! This sign-up is for ALL SPONSORSHIPS! Altar flowers are $25 and Organ flowers are $16 each. Radio Broadcasts are $50 per sponsor & $25 per sponsor per bulletin. You can also send a letter with payment into the office or call the office to sign up. Please remember to send payment in for your signed-up slots.

**MISSIONS COMMITTEE NOTES:** Smoke Alarm Install. – rescheduled for hopefully next spring. Please watch bulletins and messengers to stay up to date. Thank you.

**NURSE JESS NOTE:** As we are all entering in on a fresh journey come this New Year of 2021, we have no idea what this year will bring. Nothing reminds us of unexpected circumstances more than 2020 does. Each trial, each joy, each individual experience is all adding to your unique, important story. Yes, you have a story to tell. There are actually three stories. Your story, my story, and HIS story. Taking time to reflect on this past year, some questions to ask yourself may be: How is your story intertwining with others? And how do others see Him in your deeds, your love, your attitude? These small, what seem like mundane actions can be channels to show God’s love. No matter how miniscule, your story needs to be read and shared! Our wounds and brokenness are what connects us and shows others what a mighty God we serve. All around us God is directing an orchestra and we are all one small part of it. We each have our roles in telling out God’s good news of salvation, peace, and love. So…What’s your story?

Happy New Year Everyone! May God’s blessings and peace surround you in the coming year.

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** If you are interested in contributing to worship with some form of special music, please talk to Craig Bowen or David Thompson. We can even record the piece in the sanctuary and insert the recording into our services for safety if need be.

**PARISH NURSE ANNOUNCEMENT:** Nurse, Jess is ending her time with us, and we celebrate her, during the Sunday Dec. 27th worship service.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:** Volunteers will be filling-in at the church office, until we hire a replacement for the position. The Council has placed an advertisement in local shoppers and newspapers to find a new person for the position. If you are interested in volunteering to help out, please let any of our church council members know. Thank you.

**2021 ENVELOPE BOXES READY FOR PICK-UP:** “Contribution Envelope Boxes” are located in the East Narthex, near the carport entry door. You can access them safely, without interacting with another person, anytime the church office is open. Also, you can pick-up your box if you come to a worship service. The boxes are in alphabetical order by last name. NOTE: Envelope Numbers have all been changed to allow reducing the number of boxes we need to order. Revising numbers will save cost of 120 boxes next year.

NEW: You can also receive your box, if you ask, when you participate in Drive-thru-Communion. Helpers will be available to locate your box and hand it to Pastor, Kevin.

**LIVE STREAMING:** Rev. Mundell has successfully accomplished “live streaming” of every worship service, from 6:30pm to 7:30pm on Thursdays, and from 9:00am to 10:00am on Sundays. If you go to the video podcast section of our website or our YouTube page or our Facebook page you should be able to follow along with the service as it is happening in the sanctuary. Immediately, after each service, a recording of the service is available on all three sites.

If there is a problem with the Live Stream, let us know, because we may be able to manually put an audio or video recording up on our OSUCC website.

**PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY:** Feel free to use our prayer chain ministry by contacting Caroline Retzlaff at 920-748-2367.

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Barb Schultz, Billi Kaufman, Ed Vande Brink, Bill Waltenberry, Roger Fenner, Lorraine Fischer, Len Quinn, Kay Quinn, Steve McSorley, Bob Schouten, Caroline Sowersby, Christine Krueger, Mary Albright, Gladys Wilkes, 12 unspoken, and all others.