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

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

*www.OurSavioursUCCRipon.com*

Christmas Eve Dec. 24, 2021

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

Prelude Accompanist: Craig Bowden

Words of Welcome and Good News

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: “Away in a Manger” with Carols from King’s 2021

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Enlightened one! Burden-sharing one!

**P: Helpless-as-us one! Given-for-us one!**

L: Counseling one! Peace-bringing one!

**P: Forever-and-ever one! Knit-us-together one!**

L: The heavens are glad, fields exult, and trees sing out!

**P: The earth rejoices at your coming, Holy Child of Bethlehem!**

\*HYMN: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” R94/Projected

\*INVOCATION

***ALL: Holy One, Holy Three; Parent, Christ, and Spirit; Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer; We stand in awe of your greatest mystery once again: that you would come to us as one of us, full of smiles and tears, strengths and weaknesses, growing pains and griefs. A child is given indeed! A child is given that we know that heaven and earth are forever joined, that no matter what we do, no matter who we are, no matter what we feel, we are never alone. Praise be to you, Holy One, Holy Three. Amen.***

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” by Adolphe Adam

With Bob Meyer, Pete Schieler, and Jeremy Schouten

WITNESS OF FAITH: Psalm 96

HYMN: “Angels We Have Heard on High” Projected

WITNESS OF FAITH: Titus 2:11-14

SPECIAL MUSIC: “From Heaven Above” by Luther (Handbells)

With Bob & Sue Meyer, Denise & David Thompson, and Jeremy Schouten

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 2:1-20

SPECIAL MUSIC: “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (Handbells)

With Bob & Sue Meyer, Denise & David Thompson, and Jeremy Schouten

MEDIATION: “Salvation to All” Rev. Kevin 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: Glory to God in the highest heaven! God brings peace, good news, and great joy! Let us offer back God from our abundance and blessings.

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: God of peace and joy, you bind us together as if in swaddling bands of our own cloth. We are meant to be together, meant to be active participants in your great story, the story of humanity’s redemption. We give these gifts with open eyes that can see, if for but a moment, strands of linen gently guiding us all toward one another. Amen.***

SPECIAL MUSIC: “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”

**THIS WEEK’S COMING EVENTS**

**Thurs. December 23 9am-12pm Office Hours**

**6:30pm Blue Christmas Worship Service in Sanctuary**

**Fri. December 24 9am-12pm Office Hours**

**4:00pm Christmas Eve Worship Service in Sanctuary**

**10:30pm Christmas Eve Worship Service in Sanctuary**

**Sun. December 26 9:00am Christmas Worship Service in Sanctuary**

**10:15am Christian Ed Classes**

**Mon. December 27 9am-12pm Office Hours**

**Tues.**  **December 28 9am-12pm Office Hours**

**Wed. December 29 9am-12pm Office Hours**

**Thurs. December 30 6:30pm Worship Service in Sanctuary with Communion**

**Fri. December 31 OFFICE CLOSED**

**Sun. January 2 9:00am Worship in Sanctuary with Communion**

**10:15am Christian Ed Classes, NO ADULT ED**

**10:30am Drive-Thru Communion**

**FUTURE COMING EVENTS**

**Wed. January 5**  **5:15pm Session Thirteen**

**Thurs. January 6 6:30pm Worship in Sanctuary**

**Sun. January 9 9:00am Worship in Sanctuary**

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

**WORSHIP & COMMUNION:** Our next Drive-Thru Communion will be happening on January 2nd. On December 5th, we had 15 participants.

**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.

**LIVE STREAMING:** If you are viewing the worship from one of our social media platforms, make sure to leave a comment or like our post to know you’re worshipping with us! If there is an issue with the stream, or you have any feedback, please reach out to Conrad.

**BULLETIN INFORMATION DEADLINES:** If you are interested in getting information placed in the bulletin, or would like to sponsor an item through the Altar Guild, these requests are needed by **Tuesday, 11am.** This deadline ensures our delivered bulletins are received before Thursday/Sunday Service!

**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 with copies of the hymn for those wanting a print form, 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.**

Worship Services are Thursday at 6:30pm and Sunday at 9:00am.

Both services are live streamed, and a video recording is placed on our social media sites to view at any time. For those videos, please visit: www.oursavioursuccripon.com or “Our Saviours United Church of Christ” Facebook page & Youtube Channel

Either the Thursday or Sunday service will be broadcasted via radio at 11:00am on 1600AM WRPN

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

**Parish Nurse** Monica Gagnon monica@churchclinic.org 920-318-1295

**Office Manager**  Conrad Winkelman osuccripon1@gmail.com 920-748-2544

**Custodian** Rick Stracy [rlstracy@gmail.com](mailto:rlstracy@gmail.com) 920-229-1367

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**  The office hours are: Monday-Friday, 9AM-NOON. If you need to get into the church at an unopen time, please call the church office and leave a message, or call a church council person.

**CONTRIBUTIONS & ATTENDANCE FOR LAST WEEK**:

Attendance: Thursday 6:30 – 15 Sunday 9:00 - 56

Total Livestream Views: Thursday – 66 Sunday – 59

General Fund: $3267 Capital Improvements: $1283 OCWM: $683

Thank you so much for your continued support of mailed in and online contributions.

**Sunday Worship Team 9:00 am**

**Audio Operator:** John Kwiatkoske **Liturgist:** Confirmand

**Organist:** Craig Bowden

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**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.

**OFFICE CLOSED:** The Office will be closed on Friday, December 31st.

**YOUTH CHRISTIAN ED CLASS:** Phil Wepner’s class will not be meeting on January 2nd.

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

**MISSIONS FOOD COLLECTION:** In the Month of December, Peanut Butter, Canned Chili, Soup, and Condiments are the recommended item to be donated.

**STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPE BOXES:** Available in the East Narthex! Please pick them up at your earliest convenience.

**CONFIRMATION CLASSES:** During Winter Break, we will not be holding Confirmation Class. Our next scheduled confirmation class will be January 5th. Enjoy Christmas break!

**CHRISTMAS PAEGENT:** Everyone enjoyed seeing the spectacular show put on by our Sunday School and Confirmation Students, Puppeteers, and Sunday School teachers. Thank you so much for all the hard work put into the show! If you were unable to make it, or would like to rewatch it, the Christmas Pageant is available to watch online at your convenience!

**CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE:**

**Thursday December 23rd at 6:30pm** – Blue Christmas Service with First Congregational Church and Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

**December 24th at 4:00pm and 10:30pm –** Christmas Eve Services with Communion and Candle lighting at each service.

**Sunday, December 26th** - Christmas Service at 9:00am.

**BETTER NIGHT SLEEP:** By the time we reach 60 we tend to wake up more, snooze for shorter periods, and get less deep sleep then younger people. Stress is the number one reason individuals report having difficulty getting enough sleep. By decreasing tension before going to sleep we can improve our sleep progression. As a young child often has a nighttime routine to help get their mind and body prepared for sleep, so should we. Consider preparing yourself for a better night sleep with the following suggestions.

First try to get 30 minutes of morning and afternoon sun – even if it is inside by a window. The sun will clear your morning fog and reset your production of melatonin - the hormone that regulates your sleep/awake cycle. Later in the afternoon do the “dreaded deeds” first before dinner. Whether you need to make a difficult phone call, help the children to get their homework done, or have a household discussion. Start the process sooner rather than later. This will free your mind and lifts your spirits. Try then to sidestep negative; TV, internet, and/or video games which can activate your mind, making it difficult to fall asleep or get back to sleep once you wake up during the night. If you do utilize screens around bedtime, be sure to turn them off at least 30 minutes before retiring. Finally, avoid salty snacks before bed because they usually make you thirsty, increasing your sleep interruptions with trips to the bathroom. Also, more time will then be lost getting back to sleep. Instead have oatmeal, a banana, or yogurt which all has sleep inducing properties. Goodnight.

**“In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.”**

**Psalm 4:8 ESV**

*Monica Gagnon (Gon-Yo), Parish Nurse*

*Nicole Pajer, December 2021, Why You Couldn’t Sleep Last Night, AARP Bulletin*

**SANTA CLUB:** This year the church had the Santa Club use the space in our Chapel as a mini-workshop instead of at the North Pole. We thank those church members who helped coordinate this great event, and love to see the positive effects it has on our community in Ripon.

**MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES:** Church Health Services in Beaver Dam has a large amount of medical equipment and supplies which have been donated to them by individuals and organizations. These products are given out free to individuals. If interested just ask me and I will look for your request next time I am there! – Nurse Monica

**IN OUR PRAYERS:**  Billi Kaufman, Bill Waltenberry, Roger Fenner, Lorraine Fischer, Steve McSorley, Bob Schouten, Caroline Sowersby, Audrey Cluppert’s Brother, 15 unspoken, and all others.

*Please keep in your prayers the Family and Friends of Marion Vandebrink as they grieve her loss.*

*Please keep in your prayers the Family and Friends of Orville Breivogel as they grieve his loss.*