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

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

*www.OurSavioursUCCRipon.com*

Advent Three December 9, 2021

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

Prelude Accom.: Craig Bowden

Words of Welcome and Good News

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

L: When confusion claims us; when we feel unable to do anything right; the Holy invites us to be faithful that we may find Joy.

(Light candle of Joy)

***ALL: Where in the world do we find Joy these days?***

ADVENT VISUAL REFLECTION: Joy by RockPointe church

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Gathering one! Embracing one!

**P: Gentle one! Emblazoned one!**

L: Winnowing one! Restorative one!

**P: The one who has come! The one who will come!**

L: The one who bears the image of those who bear God’s.

***ALL: Worthy are you, mysterious one!***

\*HYMN: “Come, Long-expected Jesus” B122/Projected

\*INVOCATION

***ALL: Creating and sustaining God, in your presence there is life. Living water springs up, and deserts blossom where you pass. Seeking the life that comes from you, we have gathered before you. Our hearts are ready, O God, our hearts are ready. Delight us with your presence, and prepare us for your service in the world, through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.***

\*Response & Invitation: “Precious Lord, Take My Hand” by Thomas A. Dorsey

**Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand, I am tired,**

**I am weak, I am worn; Through the storm, through the night,**

**lead me on to the light: Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

WITNESS OF FAITH: Zephaniah 3:14-20

WITNESS OF FAITH: Isaiah 12:2-6

CALL TO CONFESSION

L: John the Baptist called people to repentance, to prepare them for the coming of God’s reign. Let us, too, repent, that we may be ready for God who comes to us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

***ALL: God, we confess that it is not easy to wait for you. Our world worships the power that acts quickly through force; how difficult it is for us to wait for the power of your rule which comes slowly through love. We admit, that while claiming to desire your reign of peace and justice, we take part in the ways of war, hatred, and injustice. We leave little room for you to act in our lives. We turn now to you in repentance and openness to your Spirit. Forgive us and show us how to clear a path for you. Come to us in your Christ and reveal your reign on earth. Amen.***

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

L: God says: Remember these things, O Israel, for you are my servant; you will not be forgotten by me. I have swept away your transgressions like a cloud, and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you. I say to you in the name of Jesus the Christ, our sins are forgiven.

**P: Thanks be to God!**

Passing of the Peace [A blessing from our minister]

WITNESS OF FAITH: Philippians 4:4-7

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 3:7-18

VISUAL REFLECTION: “Hallelujah” with Pentatonix Projected

\*STATEMENT OF FAITH: United Church of Christ Projected

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place**

**I can feel God’s mighty power and God’s Grace**

**I can hear the brush of angel’s wings**

**I see glory on each face**

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place**

HYMN: “I wonder as I wander” R119/Projected

HYMN: “What Child is this” B148/Projected

CONGREGATIONAL 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, for ever. Amen.**

HYMN: “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice B129/Projected

VISUAL REFLECTION: “Mary did you know” with Pentatonix

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY Rev. Mundell

HYMN: “it Came Upon the Midnight Clear” B131/Projected

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

[Offering plates by the sanctuary entrances/social media/mail/office.]

L: God calls us to create a community which welcomes all: to care for the infirm, to heal the shame of the outcast, to create a welcome for all. Let these gifts we offer begin this process of reconciliation!

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: Take these gifts, and gather us back together, O God, we who have separated ourselves from our neighbors from our higher selves and from your expansive Love. Reunite us with our calling. Amen.***

\*BENEDICTION: “Go Now In Peace”

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day. Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true. Know he will guide you in all you do. Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see. God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

\*Postlude

**THIS WEEK’S COMING EVENTS**

**Thurs. December 9 6:30pm Worship Service in Sanctuary**

**Fri. December 10 9am-12pm Office Hours**

**Sat. December 11 11am Bake Sale at Russell Manor**

**Sun. December 12 9:00am Christmas Pageant Service**

**Mon. December 13 9am-12pm Office Hours**

**6:00pm Church Council Meeting**

**Tues.**  **December 14 9am-12pm Office Hours**

**Wed. December 15 9am-12pm Office Hours**

**5:15pm Confirmation Session Twelve**

**Thurs. December 16 6:30pm Worship Service in Sanctuary**

**Fri. December 17 9am-12pm Office Hours**

**Sun. December 19 9:00am Worship in Sanctuary**

**10:15am Christian Ed Classes**

**FUTURE COMING EVENTS**

**Thurs. December 23**  **6:30pm Blue Christmas Service in Sanctuary**

**Fri. December 24 4:00pm Christmas Eve Service**

**10:30pm Christmas Eve Service**

**Sat. December 26 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.

**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: Mon-Friday. 9-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 – 17 Sunday 9:00 - 61

Total Livestream Views: Thursday – 60 Sunday – 57

General Fund: $2556 Capital Improvements: $189 OCWM: $156

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

**Sunday Worship Team 9:00 am**

**Audio Operator:** Kelly Mundell **Liturgist:** Jamie Prellwitz

**Organist:** Craig Bowden

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

***Karen Kanneman,*** *December 14*

**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.

**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.

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

**COMMUNITY MEAL HELP:** In Ripon, there are two free evening meals a month, the second Tuesday at Grace Lutheran Church and the fourth Tuesday at First Congregation. We have been asked if we think we could host a community meal; either the first or third Tuesday of each month. At this point, it would be a sack lunch/meal that we would prepare beforehand in the kitchen and have ready to go. What we are looking for is to see if there would be enough volunteers to make this happen once a month. Please let Missions Committee, Rev.Mundell, or Conrad Winkelman know if you would be willing to help.

**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.

**NEED A LIFT?:** Nurse Monica is working with Dot Abrahamson to find a good home to for a Chair-Lift at no expense to the individual needing it. If you know someone who could benefit from this, and has the ability to pick up the unit, please feel free to call Dot at 920-745-2027

**IN OUR PRAYERS:**  Billi Kaufman, Bill Waltenberry, Roger Fenner, Lorraine Fischer, Steve McSorley, Bob Schouten, Caroline Sowersby, Audrey Cluppert’s Brother, Roy Gomoll, Hank Grams, 14 unspoken, and all others.

*Please keep in your prayers the Family of Eugene Wallschlaeger as they grieve his loss.*

***Today’s Altar Flowers***

***In Honor of Iona & Ronald Altnau’s 60th Anniversary***

**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.

**COLD WEATHER SAFETY FOR OLDER ADULTS:** Older adults can lose body heat faster than when they were younger due to changes in their body. In fact, they may not even realize that their body temperature is too low and that can turn into a medical emergency. Hypothermia is what happens when the body temperature gets exceptionally low. For an older person, a body temperature of 95F or lower can cause a heart attack, kidney problems, liver damage or worse.

**EARLY SIGNS OF HYPOTHERMIA**

Cold hands and/or feet, pale skin, shivering, slow speech or slurring words, confusion, or sleepiness.

**LATER SIGNS OF HYPOTHERMIA**

Slow, clumsy, stiff, jerky or trouble moving, slow heartbeat, slow, shallow breathing, losing consciousness or blacking out.

Call 9-1-1 if you think someone has signs of hypothermia then warm them up with a blanket and/or coat, move them to a warmer space, and/or give them something warm to drink, but do not give them caffeinated coffee or alcohol because alcohol can make a person lose body heat.

To prevent Hypothermia inside your home: ensure that your heat is set to at least 68-70F. Dress warm on frigid days even if you are staying inside including slippers and socks. Sleep in warm pajamas, socks on your feet and extra blankets. If you drink alcohol, do so in moderation. If you have to go outside on a cold and windy day, wear warm clothes including socks and boots, hat, scarf and mittens or gloves, but do not stay out long. Also be sure to change your clothes if they get wet. Additional information may be found on the NIA website.

And do not forget to keep your pets warm too ☺

Monica Gagnon (Gon-yo), Parish Nurse OSUCC, Ripon

National Institute on Aging, Content reviewed: January 01, 2018.