



- Card Ministry: Please sign the cards on the table at the front of the sanctuary. Let Shirley or Gretchen know about those with physical or emotional needs who would appreciate a card. Your prayers for these people are much appreciated.
- Covid Safety: A reminder that Covid numbers are up, and so please stay safe with precautions. Some in the church may for instance not feel comfortable holding hands or sharing lunch, and we ask that this be respected. Booster vaccines are also now available if you are eligible and choose to do so.

† Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession provided by the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways publication.

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
 Scripture: Psalm 148 & Luke 2:22-50  
 Fellowship Meal: The Severtsons  
 Lay Reader: Mindy Severtson

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

CALL TO WORSHIP†

Leader: We come to witness a miracle.  
**People: We sing the miracle of God's steadfast love.**  
 Leader: New life bursts forth in unexpected ways.  
**People: We shout the good news: God's covenant endures forever!**  
 Leader: The desert blooms; what was barren is fertile!  
**All: With our mouths we proclaim God's faithfulness to all!**

INVOCATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION†

**All: Too often we pride ourselves on our singular importance, our individual worth. We credit ourselves with our successes and blame our shortcomings on others. O God, you love us in spite of ourselves. You made a covenant with the faithful; you have never turned away from your promise. Forgive us our selfish ways, put contrite hearts within us. Anoint us with your Holy Spirit.**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS†

Leader: God knows our weakness and our strengths. God loves us as we are, knowing we are yet works in progress. God keeps all covenants; God keeps us. Receive the anointing love of God's grace. You are forgiven! Rejoice!  
**All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.**

TIME OF PRAYER (You may remain seated)

Joys and Concerns

**All: Dear Lord, hear our prayers.**

Silent Prayer

Lord's Prayer (debts, debtors)

Choral Response *Spirit Divine, Hear Our Prayer* No. 615

OFFERING OF GIFTS & SELVES TO GOD

Offertory

**Presentation of Gifts\***

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;***

***Praise God, all creatures here below;***

***Praise God for all that love has done;***

***Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen***

Prayer of Blessing

IMPROMPTU CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Please join us as we have our Impromptu Christmas Pageant. We will hand out parts and costumes and perform the pageant with no rehearsal needed.

PARTING SONG\* *Lord of Life*

**Lord of Life, Lord of Love, walk forever beside us.**

**Day by day show the way, be Thou our vision to guide us.**

**Striving to follow Thy noble plan, nothing can divide us. Lord of Life, Lord of Love, walk forever beside us.**

BENEDICTION, POSTLUDE, & CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**December Meetings:**

**None**

Today; **Impromptu Christmas Pageant, 10:30 am**

Please join us for our Impromptu Christmas Pageant today at the 10:30 am service. We will hand out parts, and there will be costumes available for anyone who wants them. It will be a bunch of fun.

This Evening; **Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 pm**

Please join us for our traditional Christmas Eve service at 7:00 pm. Pastor Brian will offer a Christmas message, and we will sing your favorite traditional Christmas hymns. We will have communion and end with Silent Night by candlelight.

Sun., Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>; **Question Sunday, 10:30 am**

Sunday December 31<sup>st</sup> will be a Question Sunday. Church members will be asked to write down questions at the beginning of the service or submit them via Facebook and pastor Brian will answer them during his sermon time.

- Please consider donating new non-perishable food items to our outdoor food pantry, they can be put directly in the outdoor pantry, the collection shelf in the Fellowship Hall, or the collection box in the comfort room.
- All are invited to enjoy lunch and conversation in the downstairs Fellowship room following the service. Donations of snacks are always welcome. Lunch is provided by volunteers with the help of your donations. The first Sunday of the month is always a church potluck.
- Prayer Shawl Ministry: If you know of someone who would appreciate a prayer shawl, please talk to Pastor Brian.