



Henrietta United Church of Christ

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Senior Pastor: Rev. Jason Boyd

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Associate Pastor: Rev. Martha Koenig Stone

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Church Administrator: Andrea Folan

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Ministers: Everyone!

Order of Worship

10:30 AM

Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021

WELCOME TO THE HENRIETTA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!

- ***Please remember to silence your cell phone as we gather to worship.***
- **This month's missions, funded by pledges to the Board of Christian Outreach is the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship**
- The **asterisk *** indicates to rise in body or in spirit.

WE GATHER AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

CENTERING MUSIC FOR ADVENT (*in unison*)

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, One more seed is planted there;
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That, in course, the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love the Rose is on the way.

Words by Eleanor Farjeon (1928); Tune: Besançon, French folk melody

WELCOME!

Pastor Jason

PASSING OF THE PEACE (*one / many*)

Pastor Jason

May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Please greet one another in the spirit of Christ's love and peace by sharing messages of peace with your pew neighbors or in the comments in our broadcast.

SUNG RESPONSE "There's a Spirit of Love in This Place"

There's a spirit of love in this place, there's a spirit of love in this place.
You can't see it, but it's there, just as precious as the air.
There's a spirit of love in this place.
O alleluia, sing alleluia! We bless your holy name.
O alleluia, sing alleluia! There's a spirit of love in this place.

Words and Music by Mark Miller, © 2003 Abingdon Press

WE OPEN OUR HEARTS TO GOD'S RENEWING PRESENCE

***+ CALL TO WORSHIP** (*one / many*)

Pastor Jason

Righteous one! Equitable one!
Refining one! Delightful one!
Blessed one! Redeeming one!
One-of-flesh to save all flesh!
Emmanuel, One of Us – praise be your coming!

*** OPENING HYMN** "Watcher Tell Us of the Night"

Watcher, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are.
Traveler, O a wondrous sight! See that glory beaming star!
Watcher, does its beauteous ray news of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes it brings the day, promised day of Israel!

Watcher, tell us of the night, higher yet that star ascends.
Traveler, blessedness and light, peace and truth its course portends.
Watcher, will its beams alone gild the spot that gave them birth?
Traveler, ages are its own; see it burst o'er all the earth!

Watcher, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn.
Traveler, shadows take their flight, doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watcher, you may go your way; hasten to your quiet home.
Traveler, I rejoice today, for Emmanuel has come!

Words by John Bowling (1825); Tune: Aberystwyth, by Joseph Parry (1879)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

Mark Arend; Maddie and Mason W

SUNG RESPONSE (*in unison*)

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, One more seed is planted there;
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That, in course, the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love the Rose is on the way.

Words by Eleanor Farjeon (1928); Tune: Besançon, French folk melody

+ PRAYER OF RENEWAL (*one / many*)

Pastor Martha

O God, You have promised to make pathways straight so your people may walk in joyful safety. But in our arrogance, we create dangerous roads, secret ways based on privilege, which suit human standards, not yours.
Forgive us.

You promise a way of justice and equity so that all may dwell in peace. But the valley between rich and poor has become an impassible chasm: We punish the poor. We make them sicker. We make them hungrier.

Forgive us.

God, you rescued your children from the hands of their oppressors and called all of them to delight in your glory on the level path which leads home.

But we oppress our siblings, claiming “crooked” means not straight, not white, not male, not cis, not born here, not English speaking.

Forgive us for these corruptions of your good Word.

Come again! Make our hearts alive with your truth!

+ WORDS OF GOD’S ENDURING LOVE (*one / many*)

Pastor Martha

Hear this gracious promise: I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God, who sees our flaws and loves us into doing better.

Alleluia and amen!

CHILDREN’S TIME

Pastor Martha

WE MEET AT CHRIST’S TABLE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Pastor Martha

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor Jason

UNISON COMMUNION SONG “As We Gather at Your Table”

As we gather at your table, as we listen to Your Word,
Helps us know, O God, your presence, let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
Teach us through this holy banquet, how to make Love’s victory known.

Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr., (1989); Tune in The Sacred Harp (1844)

SHARING OF BREAD AND CUP

Jesus used the ordinary food of his time to remind his friends of their unity with him and their covenant with God. As you partake of this simple food and drink, you are invited to remember Christ’s love and forgiveness, to give thanks for his sacrifice, and to ponder your part in God’s unfolding world.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Adapted from Rev. Alydia Smith, United Church of Canada

Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life. We are fed by your love; we are strengthened by your life. We are sent forth into this world to live into the visions God has laid on our hearts. We are now commissioned to feed as we have been fed, to forgive as we have been forgiven, to love as we have been loved. Thanks be to God. Amen.

ANTHEM "Under the Stars" HUCC Choir
Words by Anna Driscoll, music by George F. Reynolds, choral setting by Jane Holstein

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S GOOD NEWS

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 3: 1-6 Maddie W

MESSAGE "The Path Uncrook-ed" Pastor Jason

MUSICAL RESPONSE "A Pastoral Christmas" by Douglas E. Wagner Bell Choir

* **HYMN** "O God of Peace, You Sent Us John" Tune: It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

O God of peace, you sent us John who called, "Prepare the way!"
He challenged all we counted on and promised your new day.
He cried out in the wilderness and made the pathway straight.
He filled the valleys, smoothed the roads, and taught us how to wait.

We wait for Christ and look around at all that is not good.
We see the crooked places found in our own neighborhood.
We see within this land we love the children cast aside.
May we who long for peace be moved to answer when they cry.

We hear the words that John proclaimed as we await Christ's birth.
We long for peace to come one day and fill this troubled earth.
Could it be that we're called to be peacemakers in our day?
By doing so, O God, may we again prepare the way.

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WE DEDICATE OURSELVES TO GOD'S SERVICE

INVITATION TO GRATEFUL GIVING Pastor Jason

*** DOXOLOGY FOR ADVENT** (*in unison*)

Praise God, whose dawn transfigures night,
Whose Daystar shines for us on high,
Whose Spirit brings into our sight
The Hope which to our world draws nigh.

Words by David B. Bowman. Reprinted by permission of the publisher from *Flames of the Spirit*, ed. Ruth C. Duck. Copyright ©1985
The Pilgrim Press. Tune: Genevan Psalter, 1551

+ PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Let us pray together. . .*)

Covenantal God, we live into your promise to make our rough ways smooth. With each gift we grind. With each talent we sand. With each act we polish. We have not smoothed our ways yet, Hopeful One, but with your indefatigable guidance, we will yet, O God. We will yet. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD’S PRAYER (*unison*)

Pastor Jason

**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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Eric Falla

*** SENDING HYMN** “All Earth Is Waiting”

All Earth is waiting to see the promised one,
And open furrows, the sowing of our God.
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
It cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,
“A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel”:
One whose name is “God with us,” our Savior shall be,
Through whom hope will blossom once more within our hearts.

Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain:
Open new highways, new highways for our God,
Who is now coming closer, so come all and see,
And open the doorways as wide as wide can be.

Words and music by Alberto Taulé (1972)

BENEDICTION

Pastor Jason

POSTLUDE

Robin Bower

Please remain seated for the Postlude.

**WE RETURN TO THE WORLD
RENEWED AND EMPOWERED BY GOD'S SPIRIT**

As our worship ends, our service begins.

*+Portions of today's worship were adapted from **Pathways Made Straight: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday of Advent C**, written by Stephanie Dorsey, chaplain resident at York Hospital in York, PA. Copyright 2021 Justice and Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.*

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy adapted from the SALT Project: <https://www.saltproject.org/progressive-christian-blog/advent-candle-lighting-litanies>

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