Welcome to Church of Christ December 29, 2024 ~ First Sunday after Christmas

We are honored to worship God with you today!

Prelude In Dulci Jubilo - J. S. Bach

Call to Worship ~Nels White

Leader: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights!

People: Praise God, all angels; praise the Lord, sun, moon

and all you shining stars!

Leader: Praise the Lord, all sea and skies! God commanded, and they were created.

People: Praise God from the earth, fire and hail, wind, mountains, trees,

and all creatures!

Leader: Leaders and followers, young and old alike, praise God!

People: Let all praise God's exalted and wonderful name. Praise the Lord!

Hymn 189 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

(Worship and Rejoice)

Vs 1 Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth; you who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Vs 2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night, God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant star: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Vs 3 Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar; seek the great Desire of nations, you have seen the natal star: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Vs 4 Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear, suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Guided Meditation and Silent Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (trespasses/debts)

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 trespasses (debts), as we forgive those who trespass against us (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

Scripture: Luke 2:22-38 ~Nels White

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male

shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too." There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage. then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Sermon "Seeing the Possibilities"

Carol Sing

Light of Service *Minister's Discretionary Fund* ~David Torrey
We have a chance to offer financial gifts in support of Spirit-led work. Undesignated gifts go to the recipient named above. Please use the white envelopes in the pews to designate giving otherwise. There is no obligation, and we always welcome prayers for our LOS recipients. Thank you!

Offertory On Christmas Day in the Morning - arr. P.L. Harris

Doxology (two versions are offered) Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen. OR: Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Sharing Joys and Church Life Updates

Sharing Prayer Concerns

Silent Prayer and Meditation

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn 218 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

(Worship and Rejoice)

Vs 1 Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Vs 2 Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born. The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo! Above the earth rang out the angle chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

Vs 3 Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

Our Common Commission

Let us go forth into the world in peace, being of good courage, holding fast to that which is good, rendering to no one evil for evil, strengthening the faint-hearted, supporting the weak, helping the afflicted, honoring all persons, loving and serving the Lord, and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Benediction

Postlude Join the Triumph of the Skies! - arr. D. Wagner Please remain seated to listen or depart quietly.

We gladly list these prayer concerns and ask you to keep us apprised of any updates so that we have the most current information. If you would like a pastoral visit please call or email Pastor Erick (860-303-0910, reverendole@gmail.com).

Members needing our prayers:

Patty Cammilletti, Steven, Tina & Aaliyah Chausse, Linda Creedon, Bonnie Greenwood, Holly Kelsey, Will Kelsey, Arlene Patten, Dan Patten, Cindy Sinclair, John Thew

Ongoing concerns for our relatives and friends:

Annattie P., Eric, Jo, Donna Aakjar (Nancy Perry's sister), Andrew Anderson (Ruth Adotte), Jay Atkinson, Robert Battis (Leslie's father), Andrea Blacklow (Kristin Mudge's friend), Jack Bowman (former music director of Salisbury UCC), Denis Combes (Jason Combes' father), John Funchion, Fran and Arnold Gellman (Tina Olsen's aunt and uncle), Judy Green, Dennis Carr Hannifin (Sally Carr's son), Nathan Hazeman (friend of David Bourne), Olivia Howard (Ky Byrne's cousin), Jim Korner (Liz Wilbur's brother), Bethany Lee, Serena Livingston (Kristin Mudge), Kathy Loomis (substitute preacher), Don Martin (Ruth Adotte), Rick Martin (Ruth

Adotte), Bill Patrick (Lyn's husband) and family, Rev. Kenric and Debby Prescott, Constance Rotondo (Jane Williams), Desi Smith (Bonnie Greenwood), Ryan Sterba, Rob Thew, Sue Ellen Thomas (Pastor Erick's sister), Dennis Watlington (Tim Hitchcock), Judi Welch

Those who are grieving - the families of: Kerry Garside, Stephen Getz, Jackie Hamad, The Rev. Paul Heller, Avery Nelson, Aaron Pelletier, Sue Pratt, Owen Simmons, Mary Sager

In the wider community:

Leigh Cappabianca (missionary in Turkey), Laura Smith (missionary in Venezuela), The people of Haiti, Israel, Gaza, Ukraine - and all enduring ongoing violence, The people impacted by recent hurricanes Helene and Milton

CHANCES TO LEARN, LIVE & SERVE LOVE:

LISTENING CIRCLES COMING SOON - Pastor ErickI plans to gather groups of folks who would benefit from sharing - or simply listening, in a safe setting that reminds us that we are not alone. These groups, which will likely gather about six times on every other Wednesday evening starting soon in 2025, will be open to those who are feeling grief due to: the loss of a loved one, the weight of global events, or any other significant loss or change. If you would like to learn more about these plans, please contact Pastor Erick.

2025 Financial Support Needed - All are invited to join in making a pledge of support for 2025 so that we can continue to serve as a beacon of hope, peace, joy and love, a place where those who need help can find it. <u>Click Here to Indicate Your Support for 2025.</u> Automated Monthly Giving is Available! To make a pledge, you may also call the church office (860-542-5721) Tuesday through Friday, 9 AM to 2 PM.

Total Pledged as of 12/6: \$43,090 Pledge Range: \$30 to \$7,500 Average Pledge: \$1,874

2024 Shortfall - Our year-end income is lagging behind the normal level by more than \$30K. Please be sure that we have received your support. Thank you!

Blue Christmas Tree will remain in place for a bit, so please feel free to add an ornament in loving memory of someone or for whatever reason fits.

Coffee Mugs "to Go" - Anyone who purchased a custom-made coffee mug in the past is invited to take them home – thank you!

Christmas Wreaths on the church and chapel doors are given in memory of:
Our parents, Robert & Dolores Wolff, and Rev. B.F. Anderson; and our grandparents the Wolff, Wellman, Moller, and Anderson families by Eric and Sue Anderson; Ted and Elisabeth Childs and Darrell and Elaine Russ by Betsy Gill; Our parents Marian and Stanley Civco and Louise and Robert Tangarone by Stan and Marie Civco; Kenneth Satherlie and Karen & Jimmy Davidson by their families; Eve Thew by John, Ann, and Rob Thew; Kathalene White by Nels and Phyllis White

Christmas Memorial Flowers have been gifted to the church in loving memory of:
Dianna Christinat by Steve Christinat; Terrence H. Tirrell by Kathy, Heather, & Lindsay; Cecily and Dodger, and Barbara Moeckel by Kelly Kandra Hughes; Rose Lamberto (Jason Combes Grandmother) by Anonymous; Kenneth Satherlie and Karen & Jimmy Davidson by Lynn & Tim Deasy; Paul Calhoun and Mary Surkamer, and Sue & Roald Olsen by the Erick, Tina, Elias, Ellie, and Olivia Olsen

"Clothes Closet" Donations Welcome

We would appreciate short jackets (no long coats). Thank you!

Food Pantry Items of the Week - This week the Food pantry especially needs: tuna fish, Spam, condiments, and empty egg cartons. Thank you!