



ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WE BRING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

www.zionuccindy.net/worshipathome

The 1st Sunday After Christmas
December 26, 2021

Prelude

Venite Adoremus

We are Called to Worship—Jesus, the light of the World, truly came that all might see. From Bethlehem to Jerusalem, from Egypt to Ethiopia, from Jordan to Syria, from Rome to the Isles of Britain, from China to Japan, from Mexico to Chile, from New England to the Pacific, the Good News of Jesus Christ spread throughout all the lands. Today, we give thanks for our wonderfully beautiful and diverse global church family as we get a glimpse at the ways Christmas is celebrated around the world.

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

You are welcome to send prayer requests to Pastor Sarah. Spend a few moments connecting with God and lifting up your prayers.

A Time of Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (unison)—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.

We Hear God's Word

John 1:1-14 (NRSV)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him

was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

Christmas in Haiti

A reflection from Global Ministries Mission Co-workers Tim and Diane Fonderline

Chime Choir

What Child is This

Christmas in the Philippines

A video reflection from Global Ministries Mission co-worker Andrew Larson, serving with the United Church of Christ in the Philippines

Christmas in Armenia

A Global Ministries Reflection "Why do Armenians Celebrate Christmas on January 6?"

Carol

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing, #185, with Chime Choir

Christmas in Sri Lanka

A video reflection from Pastor Biyoora Shaya Kaneshapillai, serving in the Church of the American Ceylon Mission and part of our Indiana-Kentucky Conference Sri Lanka Partnership Team

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation—Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, was born that Christmas day that we might know all the hope, peace, joy, love, and life that was in him. Today, we join with our sisters and brothers around the world in giving thanks for the Christ Child. With gratitude we ponder what gifts we might bring this day that they might be light and love for a world in need.

December Benevolence—The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need.

You can mail your offerings to our office or give online at www.zionuccindy.net/donate

Discerning the Gifts We Can Bring – 2022 Time and Talent Survey

A Doxology for Advent

By Rev. Scott Cervas, to the tune of Greensleeves

These gifts we joyfully bring to you,
to fill the world with meaning;
our hearts and minds are longing for
the life of which you are dreaming.
This, this our gift we bring,
our lives we share, your praise we sing;
show us your vision, Lord,
for hope, and peace, and caring.

We Give Thanks—God of miracles, when Jesus was born, angels, shepherds, sages, and even animals rejoiced and gave thanks. Today, we delight in our chance to join the Christmas party of gratitude. Thank you for naming us your beloved children. We offer you our hearts, our deeds, and our entire lives in thanksgiving for the gift of Christ Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.~

Hymn

Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child, #219 (2x)

We Are Sent Forth with a Blessing—Jesus Christ was a light for all the world to see, a light that shined throughout all the lands. As you go forth this day, remember your global family, near and far, celebrates with you this Christmas season, hold them in your hearts, and let the Light of the World shine forth in your lives that wherever there is darkness we might share Christ’s light and love. Go in peace.

Postlude

Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne