

Next Sunday:December 8, 2024

Liturgist: Nancy Hughes

The flowers on the altar are given for the glory and honor of God, by Mae Brandon in celebration of her husband Calvin's, birthday.

Gift Card Orders: Today is Gift Card Sunday again, and you will find an order form in your bulletin. Fill it out and turn it in with payment, before you leave today. Gift card orders will continue weekly until December 15th. Orders will then resume February 2nd; there will be no order in January.

ADVENT – CHRISTMASTIDE ... The lyrics in one of our traditional Christmas songs suggest that this is the season for boundless joy and happiness. This is the season of Advent, wherein we unite with Christians around the world in joyful acknowledgement and anticipation of the birth of Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah. In preparation for this sacred time of year, the United Church of Christ has developed a devotional booklet, with suggested Scripture readings, reflections, and prayers from pastors, ministers, and writers. The reflections begin with Advent and continue into the New Year and Epiphany. The booklet is titled "*The MESS in the MESSIAH.*" Pick up your copy of this booklet from the table next to the elevator. Do not delay in picking up a copy for your family; our supply is limited.

The 2nd Annual Christmas Cookie Sunday is planned for **December 15th**. What's that all about? You bake cookies, Christmas or otherwise, and bring a plate to share for fellowship after the worship service. Hospitality will provide coffee as usual, but there will also be apple cider and eggnog for you to enjoy. It's that simple. Please sign up at the goodie table in the **Gathering Room**, to make/bring cookies.

Special Prayer Requests: In upholding our commitment as members and friends to one another, we ask you to keep the following member families and friends in your prayers this week:

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| Norma Lyons | Mark Powers | JoAnn Samuels |
| Corena Simpson | Mary Kay Spieth | Laura Stanfa |
| Carol Strand | Ron Sweatt | |

Abundant Grace UCC

December 1, 2024
 9:30 am Worship Service
 18200 Dixie Hwy, Homewood IL, 60430



December 1, 2024-December 8, 2024

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| Today | Communion Sunday | Thursday | Choir Rehearsal | 7:00 pm |
| | Gift Cards | | Saturday | Benevolence Mtg. |
| | 1 st Sunday of Advent | | (Away) | 9:00 am |
| | Worship Service | Sunday | 2 nd Sunday in | |
| Tuesday | Bible Study | | Advent - Peace | |
| | | | Worship Service | 9:30 am |
| | | | Finance Committee | 10:30 am |
| | | | W&M Meeting | 10:30 am |

Pastor.....Rev. Keitric Emory
 Choir Director.....Ronisha Penner
 Organist/Pianist.....Leon Dubose Sr.

Abundant Grace United Church of Christ
 (708) 747-1330
 (708) 798-0700
www.abundantgraceucc.org

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

RINGING OF THE BELL

CHORAL INTROIT

PRELUDE "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, and CALL TO WORSHIP Annette Demchuk

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE
THE CANDLE OF HOPE

+HYMN #153 (vs.1) "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Williams

+PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION (in unison)

God of the Possible and Probable, gloom often encapsulates us when life is confusing, and conflict is great. Our faith is rattled, and we are swallowed by shadows of fear. The world often feels like the end is near, even when a new beginning is around the corner. We forget that even when shadows have lengthened, there remains a crack in the surface. Light begins to stream into our space, and warmth dances upon our hearts. When fear unnerves us, may we cling to the hope of God's love, and the possibilities of joy once again. For we ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen!

+PASSING OF PEACE

Greet one another with Christ's peace.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen!

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION AND PRAYER

THE STORY

THE SHARING OF BREAD AND CUP

WORSHIP OF GOD THROUGH OUR OFFERING

OFFERING SENTENCE

OFFERTORY MUSIC "O Lamb of God"

+DOXOLOGY

"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 (in unison)

Eternal loving God, this day and always, we celebrate the gifts of our hands and hearts. We share our talents and time, knowing our energy builds the world with love. We share our treasures, knowing that all gifts we entrust to your Church will build your Realm. With joy, we devote our first fruits to loving you and your children. We offer this prayer in the holy and righteous name of Jesus Christ. AMEN, AMEN, AND AMEN!

SPECIAL MUSIC "Christmas is Coming!"

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD FOR US

SCRIPTURE READING Scripture: Luke 21:25-36

SERMON "When.....NOT If" Rev. Dr. Carmin A. Frederick-James

INVITATION

+CLOSING HYMN #188 (vs.1) "Angels We Have Heard on High" French carol, 18th c.

+THE COMMISSION

Go into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; help the afflicted; honor all. Love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of God's Spirit.

+CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION #749 "The Lord Bless You and Keep You"

"The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord lift his countenance upon you, and give you peace, and give you peace. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious, and be gracious; the Lord be gracious, gracious unto you."

+CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE "Walk With Me, Lord"

+Those who are able, please stand.

There are Hearing Assistance devices on the back table of the Sanctuary if you have trouble hearing the service. Please return them before you leave for future uses.