

“The Church is not the past. The Church is not tradition. The Church is not history. The Church is the next right thing to do.”

–Cardinal Benitez, *The Conclave*



Photo by Dan Plasman

Prelude *Gabriel's Oboe* by Ennio Morricone

Lighting of the Candles and Ringing of the Bell

Welcome

Centering Music and Lighting of the Candle of Peace *We Light a Candle*

We light a candle for peace, and our world that's longing for peace.

We light a candle for peace, and our world that's longing for peace.

Holy One shine with the fire of our lives.

We light a candle for peace, and our world that's longing for peace.

Call to Community

One: May the Spirit of the God of Peace be welcome in this place!

Many: Come, O Spirit, be with us!

One: The One who raises the sun each morning and lifts high the moon at night, ushers us too, through cycles of rising, falling, and rising again.

Many: Though we stumble, God lifts us.

One: Though we doubt, God remains.

Many: Though we get weary, God revives.

One: Though we are anxious, God grants peace.

Many: May we experience peace in the changing seasons of life.

***Opening Hymn** *I Am For You/Green Gather Hymnal #704*

Opening Prayer *enfleshed.com, adapted*

God of change, even when we find ourselves in situations once unimaginable, you give us reason to hope. In the midst of destruction, you enliven our capacities for building community and connection. In the midst of evil's power, the gifts of your Spirit remain with us. By your grace, make us creators of justice and planters of peace in whatever places we find ourselves. Amen.

Assurance of Grace and Peace

One: Peace be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us share peace with one another

December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

We're so glad you've joined us today. Please feel free to ask any questions and participate or not in any parts of the worship service as you desire.

Service Volunteers

Usher: Tom Fahlstrom

Greeters: Linda and Matthew McWebb

Offertory: Paul Burdick,

Michael Valdez, Virginia Stuart

Acolyte: Carol Rice

Reader: Sue Scott

Sound Board: Chris Clark

Video Camera: Lewis Corbin

Staff

Pastor Rev. Jody Betten

jody@douglasucc.org

Music Director Peter Black

Cantor Jeff Spangler

Administrative Asst. Julie Ridl

julie@douglasucc.org

Phone 269.857.2085

Worship

Sundays at 10am

Quiet Contemplation

Thursdays at 5pm

Our Mission

To grow together spiritually as progressive Christians, welcoming all, and pursuing peace, justice, love, and healing for all creation.

We demonstrate this by:

- Being Open and Affirming
- Acting as a Creation Justice Church
- Respecting and understanding all belief and faith traditions
- Recognizing and celebrating our connectedness to all peoples
- Valuing questions rather than answers

Asterisk () means stand if you wish and are comfortable doing so.*

Congregational voice parts look like this.

And service music lyrics look like this.

DOUGLAS UCC



***Passing the Peace** *Hands Shaped Like a Cradle*

Put Peace into each other's hands and like a treasure hold it,
Protect it like a candle flame, with tenderness enfold it.

Gospel Reading *Luke 1:26-38*

Contemporary Word *Annunciation/Denise Levertov*

Ancient Reading *Jeremiah 29:4-15*

Reflection Jody Betten & Dan Plasman

Moment of Quiet for Reflection

Offering and Offertory *Amazing Things* by Bryan Sirchio
Nancy Plantinga

Joys and Concerns • Tibetan Prayer Bell

One: Thanks be to God! **Many: Alleluia!**
One: O God, **Many: Hear our prayer.**

***Doxology** *Oh Glorious God*

O Glorious God to you we bring
Praise, treasures, lives as offering;
Spirit of Peace within us dwell;
Come Jesus, our Emanuel.

Celebration of Holy Communion

One: God be with you. **Many: And also with you.**
One: Lift up your hearts. **Many: We lift them up to God.**
One: Let us give thanks to God. **Many: It is good to give God thanks
and praise.**

Creation's Praise *Body of God*

God breaking through to our lives, but this is no great surprise.
Babies and barns, green fields and farms; This is the body of God.
Star in the dark sky we share, straw underfoot as we look up and stare,
Each part of creation a perfect formation that lives as the body of God.
Where else would God be but right here?
Under our noses, in the midst of our fears,
God in the manger, God in the cows,
God in the Christ child who showed the world how.
God in our stories, God in our world,
God in our lives is the Good News we've heard.

***Sharing of the Bread and Cup** (*gluten-free option, non-alcoholic juice in trays*)

The Bread of Life, the Gift of Heaven. Amen.
The Cup of Love, the Drink of Compassion. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Creator who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom
come, your will be done, on Earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our
daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass
against us. Lead us not into temptation, and deliver us from evil. For
yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Ways to be Love in the World

***Hymn of Sending** *No Obvious Angels/Handout*

***Benediction** *In the Steps of RBG* by Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer

Congregational Meeting



Scan this code to read and
subscribe to our **Weekly
E-Pistle** – all the news and
events in our busy community!

Prayer List

Bev Hawkes; Anne Dooley's
daughter, Dee; Dan McGavin
and Family of Carol Brown;
Barbara Lindsay (Lewis Corbin's
Bridge Partner); Rev. Marchiene
Rienstra Family; Karen Clement
(Friend of Debra Carr's); Ann
and Jim Hopkins; Sally LaRowe
(Linda Charvat's friend); Janice
Campbell children &
grandchildren (Pete Wehle's
friends); James Higgins (Friend
of Shane Anderson and Michael
Tuleja), Joe Scarpone (Friend of
Tom Fahlstrom); Fred Hamlin;
John Kerr; Dave and Shirley
Lawson; Ruth Fahlstrom
(daughter of Tom Fahlstrom);
Nancy Grib (Friend of Pamela
Chappell); Stuart Family; Mary
Westenbroek; Jerry Elpers and
family (Beth Howley's Dad); Edie
Plantinga (Nancy's Mom); Max
Matteson; Eric Cooley (Jo
Cooley's brother)

Birthdays

December 9: Carol Jaworowicz
December 10: Linda Charvat,
Chris Clark
December 11: Stephen
Townsend
December 13: Kelly Jacobsma
December 14: Nicole LaCroix

**Weekly Financial
Stewardship Report**

for December 1, 2024

Attendance: 107 Viewers: 160
Nov. Podcast Downloads: 5,476

Collection Plate/Mail:	\$6,987.00
Online Giving:	\$1,044.38
Total:	\$8,031.38



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Your gifts sustain our church
community and our mission
of service.


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No Obvious Angels

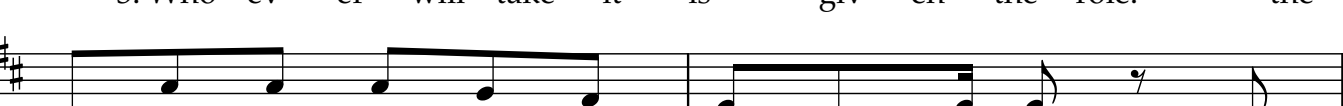
Closing Song

Shirley Erena Murray


Ron Klusmeier



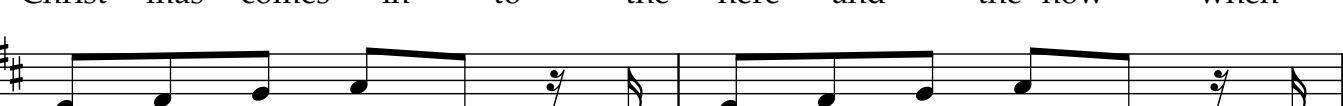
1. No ob - vi - ous an - gels sing through the night skies, no
2. Our an - gel po - ten - tial is wait - ing to start! The
3. Who ev - er will take it is giv - en the role: the



3
thun - der - struck shep - herds tell out their sur - prise, for
Spi - rit will teach us the song of the heart, for
fruit - ful, the faith - ful, the joy - ous of soul, for



5
Christ - mas comes in - to the here and the now through
Christ - mas comes in - to the here and the now through
Christ - mas comes in - to the here and the now when



7
star - sight - ed peo - ple, the watch - ful and hope - ful, who
peace - mak - ing people - ple, the just and the gen - tle, the
we are the an - gels who dream and de - liv - er, who




9
ff
wake us to see a new world. _____
stars who will light the new world. _____
rise and cre - ate a new world! _____

12 Final Ending



for we are the an - gels who dream and de - liv - er; we'll



15
ff
rise and cre - ate this new world! _____