



FEDERATED CHURCH

Thursday, December 21 & Sunday, December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent; Lessons & Carols

Mission Statement:

We are called to nurture a growing relationship with God by following the example of Jesus Christ.

We are called Federated because on July 2, 1914, Columbus' Congregational (now the United Church of Christ) and Presbyterian churches joined to serve as one congregation.

Prayer requests can be shared with the Church Office 402-564-2812 to initiate a Prayer Chain with the Order of St. Andrew. The Prayer Chain is strictly confidential.

If you missed worship last week, visit www.federatedcolumbus.org for videos of worship and bulletins.

In case of an emergency, Edward's cell phone number: 402-302-2812.

Governing Council - Federated Church Elders			Federated Church Clergy and Staff	
Julie Graham, <i>President</i> Alison Wagner, <i>Vice President</i>			Rev. Edward Yang, Ph.D. <i>Pastor/Head of Staff</i> edward@federatedcolumbus.org	Brenda Sand <i>Christian Education Director</i> brenda@federatedcolumbus.org
<i>Class of 2023</i>	<i>Class of 2024</i>	<i>Class of 2025</i>	Stuart Gausman <i>Bell Choir Director</i>	Chrissy Ford <i>Office Administrator</i> cford@federatedcolumbus.org
Jesse Abrego	Donna Augspurger	Pat Anderson	Reagan Gausman <i>Vocal Choir Director</i>	Kathy Zywiec <i>Office Assistant; Social Media Coord.</i> kathy@federatedcolumbus.org
Katie Claus	John McPhail	John Lohr	James Sharpe <i>Organist</i>	Mark Baumann <i>Custodian</i>
Parker Grant	Mark Weeder	Brenda Sand	Amanda Weeder <i>Accompanist</i>	Beatriz Garcia Lopez <i>Nursery Attendant</i>
Order of St. Andrew - Federated Church Deacons			Lay Pastor Antonio Garcia <i>El Buen Pastor Fellowship</i>	
Ruth Erwin	Sharon Kuncel	Kathy Leischner		
Laura Porter	Peg Meyer	Barb Olson		
Jean Royer		Lori Rine		
Andree & Terry Hoeman, <i>Co-Historians</i>				
Bill Royer, <i>Head Usher</i>				

Welcome to Worship at Federated!

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21 & SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT; LESSONS & CAROLS

Hymns, Songs, Prayers, and liturgies in **Bold** are for the participation of the **Congregation**

PRELUDE

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

MARK HAYES

Noël, X Grand Jeu, et duo

LOUIS-CLAUDE DAQUIN

James Sharpe, Organ & Piano

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING : LOVE

Presbyterian Outlook

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

A Sanctified Art

One: I knew joy, but when I heard the laugh of a child,

All: Suddenly, joy was overflowing.

One: I knew love, but when you held my hand,

All: Suddenly, love was overflowing.

One: I knew God, but when you showed me grace, when you forgave me, when you loved me, when you raised me,

All: Suddenly, God was overflowing.

One: So, let us worship Holy God together As a reminder that God is here and we are never alone.

All: This is community. This is the body of Christ.

One: Welcome home.

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE** (You are welcome to share a handshake, fist bump or peace sign)

One: Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace. May the peace of Christ be always with you.

All: And also with you.

One: You are invited to share Christ's peace with one another.

OPENING SONG

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Playback Media)

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Good News, You say to me, "You are highly favored," but I struggle to see how that could be. You say to me, "Do not be afraid," but I am afraid all the time. You say to me, "Even the impossible is possible, just look at Elizabeth!" But hope slips through my hands like water. The impossible still feels impossible. So today I pray, Today we pray: Teach us to sing like Mary. Teach us to laugh like Elizabeth. Teach us to trust like the angels. Forgive us when we can only do one at a time, or none at all. Amen.

MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

One: May God forgive you. May God's guiding hand surround you. May you know comfort. May you know peace.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

LESSONS & CAROLS

Lesson 1: Isaiah 9 : 2, 6 - 7 (The people who walk in darkness receive the promise of the Messiah)

Image: Yossi Rosenstein, *Heavens Open*, 2004

*** Carol #1 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (verses 1 - 3)**

Lesson 2: Micah 5 : 2 - 5a (The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem)

Image: Nativity Scene with Santons

Carol #44 O Little Town of Bethlehem (verses 1 & 4)

**As you are able, please rise in body or in spirit.*

One License #711910-A

CCLI License #1160936 & 20180420

Lesson 3: Luke 1 : 26 - 35, 38 (An angel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear a holy child)

Image: El Greco, *The Annunciation*, ca. 1590-1603

* **Carol #48** **Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming**

Lesson 4: Luke 1 : 46 - 55 (Mary's Song of Praise, also called "The Magnificat")

Image: Domenico Ghirlandaio, *Visitation*, 1491

Carol #11 **Oh Lord, How Shall I Meet You? (verses 1 & 2)**

Lesson 5: "The Christmas Story" Poem by Leanne Guenther

Video: *O Holy Night (Playback Media)*

Lesson 6: Luke 2 : 1 - 7 (Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem, where Mary gives birth to her child)

Image: Adolf Joseph Weidlich, *The Journey to Bethlehem*, 1865

Carol #25 **Away in a Manger**

Lesson 7: Luke 2 : 8 - 16 (Angels appear to shepherds in the fields and announce the birth of the Messiah)

Image: Matthias Stomer, *Adoration of the Shepherds*, 1632

* **Carol #23** **Angels We Have Heard on High**

Lesson 8: Matthew 2 : 1 - 11 (Magi from the East come seeking the Messiah and offer gifts to the baby Jesus)

Image: James Tissot, *The Magi Journeying*, ca. 1890

Carol #66 **We Three Kings of Orient Are (verses 1 & 5)**

Lesson 9: John 1 : 1 - 5, 9 - 14 (The Word of God becomes flesh and lives among us, full of grace and truth)

Image: Sandro Botticelli, *The Mystical Nativity*, circa 1500

* **Carol #27** **Gentle Mary Laid Her Child**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that this world is hard— harder than it has to be.

When the world falls apart around us,

We believe in listening for the angels that say, "Do not be afraid," and in seeking out the Elizabeths in our lives—

Those who laugh with joy at our arrival and throw open the doors to their homes.

We believe that healthy relationships can offer healing, through the laughter of cousins, the joy shared between siblings, and the home found in partnership.

Therefore, we believe in church families, in chosen families, and in the love that extends beyond family.

We believe in friendships, in neighbors, and in leaning on each other when the going gets tough.

We believe in the Triune God— Lover, Beloved, and Love itself—inherently relational, always connected, and never alone.

We believe that that same belovedness exists for us. We believe that we are loved and claimed, never alone. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY (SUN.)

Carol of the Bells

Bells of Joy; Stuart Gausman, Director

* ADVENT DOXOLOGY

**Praise God for gifts of hope and peace, Praise God for gifts of joy and love
Praise God for sending Christ to dwell, On earth for us - Emmanuel. Amen.**

*** UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**God Most High, receive the gifts of our lives as an offering of gratitude for your grace.
Overshadow us with your Holy Spirit and let it be with us according to your word, for nothing is impossible with you. Amen.**

*** CLOSING HYMN #29**

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

*** BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

From Heaven Above to Earth (BWV 606)

J. S. BACH

JOYS & CONCERNS

If you have any joys or concerns, please share with the congregation by informing the office.

◆ Pray for the family of Bill Irby, who passed away on Dec. 18th. Memorial Service was held on Saturday, Dec. 23rd.

◆ Pray for Brian Marker, son of Steve & Jackie Marker, who is recovering from surgery and strokes.

◆ **Homestead Presbytery: Schuyler**

We are a congregation of 50 members with an average Sunday attendance of 30 members per Sunday. We are currently enjoying the opportunity to serve God. Through the Mission of Operation Christmas Child, we have a congregational goal of putting together 275 and a community goal of 500 Shoeboxes to be shipped around the world letting all children know the love of Christ. As well as our ongoing work in merging with two other local congregations, St John's Lutheran and the United Methodist Church. All three Churches are planning on bringing to a congregational vote in January a motion to enter into the merger. We are currently worshipping together once a month with an attendance of 70 plus. All three congregations have expressed a majority support of the merger with the First Presbyterian Church leading the way with 100 percent in favor. As part of the merger we are exploring what we can do together as we seek to explore the possibilities of expanding our Mission projects with the added helping hands and resources of all three congregations. Please keep us in your prayers as we seek to build the community of Faith in Schuyler NE and our Presbytery. Thank You!

◆ UCC Living Waters Association: Creighton Faith United Creighton (UMC/UCC) (Creighton, NE 68729)

Pickle Ball nets are up in the gym and can be enjoyed by small groups.

Monday - Friday, 8am - 4:30pm

THIS WEEK AT FEDERATED CHURCH

Sunday, December 24, 2023

10:00am Worship Service, Sanctuary
3:00pm Spanish Worship Service, Sanctuary
5:00pm Family Christmas Service
8:00pm Communion & Candlelight Service

Monday, December 25, 2023

11:00pm Christmas Meal, delivery & pickup begin

Tuesday, December 26, 2023

5:30pm Consonnaires, Choir Room

Wednesday, December 27, 2023

6:30pm Puppet Rehearsal, Gym

Thursday, December 28, 2023

3:30pm Contribution Deadline
6:30pm Worship Service, Sanctuary

Friday, December 29, 2023

6:00pm El Buen Prayer Service

Saturday, December 30, 2023

No events scheduled

Sunday, December 31, 2023

10:00am Worship Service, Sanctuary
3:00pm Spanish Worship Service, Sanctuary

Monday, January 1, 2024

Office Closed

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve

10 am: Lesson & Carols Service,
No Education Hour

5 pm: Family Christmas Service

8 pm: Choir, Communion and Candlelight Service

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day, Church office closed;
Community Christmas Meal, delivery and take out
begin at 11am

Jan. 1 - New Years Day, Church office closed