



# FEDERATED CHURCH

Sunday, December 24th, 2023  
Christmas Eve

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

**Welcome to Worship at Federated!**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023

5PM YOUNG AT HEART SERVICE; 8 PM CHOIR, COMMUNION & CANDLELIGHT

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, Piano & Organ

BRASS PRELUDE (8 P.M.)

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

*O Holy Night*

Bob Arp, Riley Gausman, Stuart Gausman, Parker Grant, Dave Melick

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIDEO

“This Is Jesus” (Hyper Pixels Media)

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING** (5 pm Miller Family, 8 pm Wolfe Family)

Presbyterian Outlook

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

A Sanctified Art

One: This year, we dreamed of world peace.

**All: We dreamed of deep breaths and restful sleep.**

One: We dreamed of love that lasts and suffering that passes.

**All: We dreamed of doors open wide and a cure to disease.**

One: We dreamed, because to dream is to believe.

**All: For to dream is to hope; to dream is to see.**

One: So make room in your being to dream yet again,

**All: Of a world without fear, and a God that draws near.**

One: For it is almost Christmas.

**All: Love is almost here.**

One: May we dream to see, and hope to believe. Let us worship Holy God.

**\* OPENING HYMN #41**

***O Come, All Ye Faithful***

**\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

One: Ever-present God, from time to time we dream radical dreams.

**All: We dream of freedom for the imprisoned, food for the hungry, and equality for all.**

One: We dream bold, radical dreams, until the world tells us that these dreams are impossible.

**All: And when that happens, we are tempted to tuck our dreams into coat pockets and let them collect dust on the shelves of our hearts. Forgive us for giving up so easily.**

One: Forgive us for giving up so easily, for on this night we remember and celebrate a radical dream - That you dwelled among us.

**All: Give us the courage to dust old dreams off the shelf with the confidence that with you, the impossible is possible.**

One: With you, a light always shines in the darkness.

**All: With you, even an unwed teenage couple and a band of shepherds can bring joy to the world.**

**\* MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER**

**\* DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

One: Good news! Great joy! In Jesus Christ the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

**All: Glory to God in heaven, and on earth, peace. Amen!**

**\* HYMN #37**

***Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (verse 1)***

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

One License #711910-A

CCLI License #1160936 & 20180420

**HYMN #37 (5 pm)**

***Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (verse 2)***

CHORAL ANTHEM (8 pm)

*Lullaby for Christmas*

ARR. K. LEE SCOTT

Chancel Choir, Reagan Gausman, Director; Amanda Weeder, Accompanist

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

5pm Beth Sharpe, 8 pm Marilyn Abrego, Liturgist

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Gospel According to Luke 1 : 26 - 38

Pew Bible, NT, pages 56 - 57

One: This is the Word of God for the people of God,

**All: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

Edward Yang, Pastor

**\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

One: We believe in hope.

**All: We believe that to hope is to dream with our eyes wide open.**

One: We believe in peace.

**All: We believe that peace is not found by accident. Prepare the way.**

One: We believe in joy.

**All: We believe that joy is angel choruses and gifts from the Magi, as well as soul food, big tables, Open doors, candle light, fireside, singing in the shower, and the body of Christ gathered as one.**

One: We believe in love.

**All: We believe that God loves us so much that God could not stay away. So God showed up as a child. We believe that that love is real, and we know that it changes us.**

One: Therefore, we believe in the power of dreams,

**All: And we believe that nightmares, which are all too real here and now, will have no place in God's promised day.**

One: Until then, we believe in passing the light, In showing up, in doing the work, In listening for angel choruses, and in learning from the youngest among us.

**All: We believe. Help our unbelief. Amen.**

\* RESPONSIVE HYMN #53

*What Child Is This?*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Because God so loved the world, God sent the Son into the world. In response to this good news of great joy, we offer songs of praise, tithes and offerings, and acts of service.

OFFERTORY

*Jesu Bambino*

PIETRO YON

Reagan Gausman, Soprano

**\* 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**

**With these gifts, dear God, accept the praise and thanksgiving of our hearts, which rejoice in your goodness and love. Let our gifts point to your presence in the world, and further your dream for the world through Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Amen.**

## SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (8PM)

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Communion of God's People

(Communion is served in the pews. Please hold bread and cup to partake together. Federated Church celebrates an open table, meaning all who trust in Christ are welcome to receive communion. Children are welcome to receive communion with the permission of parents/guardians as part of the family's on-going conversations about faith. After partaking, please place cups in the pew holders.)

### Prayer After Communion

**We give you thanks and praise, O God, for you have indeed come to live among us - in this gathering of Christ's body, through the word read and proclaimed, through the bread and cup we share and in our going out to serve. Fulfill what you have promised in our lives and in your world that all may gladly receive your perfect gift of love: Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### SCRIPTURE READING

Gospel According to Luke 2 : 1 - 7

Pew Bible, NT, pages 58

One: This is the Word of God for the people of God,

**All: Thanks be to God!**

### \* CLOSING HYMN #60

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

*(candles are lit while room lights are dimmed)*

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

One: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

One: As Christ offers us peace and forgiveness, let us offer a sign of that peace to one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

### POSTLUDE

*Toccata in F Major (Symphony V)*

*Charles M. Widor*

### 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 December 18th. Memorial services was held on Saturday, December 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. We do request prayers for our aging congregation with the flu bug going around. 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, the excitement of worshipping together has captivated the entire community and beyond. 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)