

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

O Lord, open our eyes to see your glory in the coming again of light each day; open our ears to hear the angels' hymn in the stirring of joy within us; and open our hearts to the transforming power of your love as it comes to us through the love of all those who hold us dear and have sacrificed most for us. Be born among us that we may ourselves be born. Be born within us that by words and deeds of love we may bear tidings of your birth to a world that dies for lack of love. We ask this in the child's name. Amen.

— Frederick Buechner, "Come and See," *Secrets in the Dark*

HYMN (seated)

"What Child Is This"

#162

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT AND CHRIST CANDLES

The Robinsons

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.

Throughout Advent we prepare for the arrival of Christ. We light candles that brighten our path to Emmanuel, God with us. Tonight, we relight the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

Advent candles are lit.

We also light the Christ candle, and we rejoice at the news of Jesus' birth. As it is written in the Gospel of John, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:5)

Christ candle is lit.

Let us pray:

You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you. You wrap our sorrow with comfort and increase our joy with delight. Tonight, we sing our thanks for your endless love made known to us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

*HYMN “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” #150

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Josie Abbott

Anthem “Los Peces En El Río” arr. Matthew Prins
(The Fish in the River)
Even the fish delight in the Savior’s birth.

Luke 2:1-7

Ella Nagy-Benson

Hymn “Away in a Manger” #147

Luke 2:8-14

Andi Lloyd

Hymn “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” #167

Luke 2:15-20

Michele Brown

*Hymn “Joy to the World” #143

SERMON For All the People

*HYMN “Angels We Have Heard on High” #155

OFFERING

It is a long-standing tradition of our congregation to donate all of the Christmas Eve offering to organizations that address serious needs in our community and beyond. This year’s offering will support WomenSafe and Charter House Coalition.

Invitation

Collection of Gifts

Offertory “The Huron Carol”

Dan Forrest

Annie Moore-Cox, soloist

*Doxology “In the Bleak Midwinter” (v. 4)

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a wise man, I would do my part;

Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

*Prayer of Dedication

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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, for ever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LIGHT

*HYMN “Silent Night, Holy Night”

#145

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Fantasia on ‘In dulci jubilo,’” BWV 729

J.S. Bach

Thank you to the Handbell Choir and the Chancel Choir for sharing their music. We also thank our string quartet: Emily Sunderman and Carter Lee, violins; Joy Pile, viola; and Tom Dunne, cello.

Pastor

Rev. Andy Nagy-Benson

Theologian in Residence

Rev. Dr. James C. Davis

Organist

Jeff Buettner

Director of Music

Jessica Allen

Director of Children and Youth Ministries	Jennifer Smith
Members in Discernment	Lindsey Franklin Andi Lloyd
Deacons	TJ Springthorpe, Gail Heitzker, Judy Jessup Mal Chase, Sally Holland, Dave Phelps

STAFF NOTES

Church Office hours are Monday-Friday 9AM-12 PM. Items for the bulletin need to be in by Wednesday each week. To leave a message on the phone system after office hours, just follow the instructions. The following numbers and emails will help you reach us.

Judy Albright, Church Administrator	388-7634
Church Office fax line	388-0501
Andy Nagy-Benson <i>after-office-hours emergency</i>	545-2535
James C. Davis, Theologian in Residence	443-3221
Jeff Buettner, Organist	(cell) 349-9209
Brian Slavin, Sexton	(cell) 989-5792
Jessica Allen, Director of Music	(cell) 989-3945
Jennifer Smith,	(cell) 233-1110
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Cathy Chase and Irene Zaccor: treasurermidducc@gmail.com	
Website: www.midducc.org	

2018 POINSETIA LIST

Rich Carpenter in loving memory of his parents, Bob and Katherine, and sister, Jeanne

Mal and Pat Chase in memory of Malcolm and Audrey Chase and CU and Dorothy Wood

Bill Cochrane in memory of Tom Cochrane

Jim and Dorothy Douglas in memory of Bernice and Roland Reed, Nina and Samuel James, Helen and Howard Foster, and Robert Douglas

Amy and John Emerson in memory of Norman Olmstead and in honor of Edith Olmstead, parents of Amy

John and Lisa Evarts in memory of Verna Evarts, and Albert, Ken and Don VanDeweert

Rebecca Fifield in memory of her husband, Joel Fifield

Jim Sr. and Joyce W. Foster in loving memory of their son, Jim Jr.

Robert and Nancy Foster in memory of Howard and Helen Foster

Patty and David Hallam in memory of Lester and Mary Drage and Robert and Barbara Hallam

Phil and Kathy Heitkamp in memory of their parents Fred Heitkamp, Marge Marsh, John Marsh, Leslie Schwartz and Peg Miller

Anna Hardway in memory of Barbara Wells

Tim Hollander in memory of Betty and Ted Hollander

Lois Huldin and Jackie Noble in memory of Donald H. Huldin

Peg Lawrence and family in memory of H. Thomas McGrath Jr.

Candy and Hugh McLaughlin in honor of Daniel and Sarah McLaughlin

Andrea Perham in memory of David S. Perham

David, Gary and Michael Phelps and their families in memory of Francis and Ellen Phelps and Harold and Ruth Sperry

David Preble in loving memory of the Preble family

The Robinson family in memory of Fred Hackett

The Robinson family in memory of Colin Robinson

Tana Scott in memory of her husband, The Reverend Charles P. Scott

The Tatkon-Kent family, Barbara, Kendra and Julie, in memory of their family and friends who have died

The Harris Thurber family in his memory

Priscilla Tully in memory of Happy Tully

Irene and Al Zaccor in memory of Tante Ilka Schulte

This church regards all persons with equal respect and concern. It is open to and affirming of all persons, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, economic status, age, nationality, marital status, or physical, mental, or emotional disability.