

United Church of Hinesburg

Telephone: 802-482-3352
Website: www.ucofh.org

E-Mail: unitedchurch@gmavt.net
Office Hours: Mon - Thurs 9:00am – 12:00pm



Staff & Participants in Today's Service

Pastor: Rev. Jared M. Hamilton Administrator: Jody Ciano

Pastor Intern: Andi Lloyd Reader: Julia Grant

Musicians: Sammy Angstman & Evan Allen, Rufus, Betsy & Amy Patrick, Joanne Russell,
Chris Dorman, the Hinesburg Artist Series, and the Chancel Choir of University Congregational
United Church of Christ of Seattle, WA.

Order of Worship

Thursday, December 24, 2020, at 5:00pm – Christmas Eve, Year B
 Sunday morning Livestream/Podcast
[Bold] print invites congregational participation

Prelude “Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy” Sammy Angstman & Evan Allen

Greeting and Welcome

May the Grace of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the peace of the Holy Spirit be with you.
And also with you.

Call to Worship

Glory to God in the highest!

And hope to every discouraged heart.

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to every conflicted soul.

Glory to God in the highest!

And joy to every downcast spirit.

Glory to God in the highest!

And love to everyone.

Let us sing praises to our God.

Let us offer this light against the darkness.

Lesson from the Epistles

Titus 2:11-14

Julia Grant

Music Meditation

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

The Chancel Choir of University Congregational United Church of Christ of Seattle, WA

O come, all you faithful, joyful and triumphant

O come now, o come now to Bethlehem

Come and behold the ruler of all angels

O come in adoration

O come in adoration

O come in adoration: Christ is Lord

God of true God, light of true light

Born of the virgin’s womb in human form

Truly our God, begotten, not created

O come in adoration

O come in adoration

O come in adoration: Christ is Lord

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation

Sing, all you messengers of heavenly love

Glory to God, all glory in the highest

O come in adoration

O come in adoration
O come in adoration: Christ is Lord

Amen, Lord, we greet you
Born this happy morning
Jesus to you shall all glory be given
Word of our God now in flesh appearing
O come in adoration
O come in adoration
O come in adoration: Christ is Lord

Lighting of the Advent Candles and the Christ Candle

Altar Image

Psalm Antiphon "Bless the Lord, My Soul"

**Bless the Lord my soul, and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord my soul, who leads me into life.**

Second Lesson

Psalm 96

Julia Grant

Psalm Antiphon "Bless the Lord, My Soul"

**Bless the Lord my soul, and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord my soul, who leads me into life.**

Special Children's Music

"Sweet Sunshine"

Chris Dorman

Children's Message

Pastor Andi Lloyd

Christmas Carol

"Away in a Manger"

Hinesburg Artist Series

Away in a manger
No crib for His bed
The little Lord Jesus
Lay down His sweet head
The stars in the bright sky
Look down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing
The poor Baby wakes
But little Lord Jesus
No crying He makes
I love Thee, Lord Jesus
Look down from the sky

And stay by my side
'Til morning is nigh

Be near me, Lord Jesus
I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever
And love me, I pray
Bless all the dear children
In Thy tender care
And take us to Heaven
To live with Thee there

Service of the Word

Reading of the Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:1-20

Julia Grant

Homily

“What did We Expect?”

Rev. Jared M. Hamilton

Music Meditation

“Creator of the Stars of Night”

Sammy Angstmann

Service of Prayer

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

written by Beth Merrill Neel

Sometimes, O God, we forget people, or we toss them aside – the difficult ones, the needy ones, the ones that are hard to spend time with, the ones who confront us. And sometimes when we do things like that, it’s not really about the other people, but about us.

We are uncomfortable, or we feel guilty, or we follow brighter, shinier people, or we worry about what will make us look good.

We are in such desperate need of your forgiveness. We need to be forgiven for our sin, for our mistakes, for mistaking what the world values with what you value.

Help us to be better, and to see more clearly, and to care more thoroughly.

In Christ we pray. **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the world in which the Prince of Peace took flesh and form, saying, hear us, O God;

your mercy is great.

We give you thanks, Holy One, for the light that has come into the darkness of our world, for the truth illuminated, for the pathway that has opened, for the rejoicing of your people. Hear us, O God;

your mercy is great.

We give you thanks for the feet of those who bring good news, food, shelter, comfort, friendship, and medicine for healing. Hear us, O God;

your mercy is great.

We give you thanks for the church of Christ Jesus and for all people of faith whose attention to the way of peace tears down walls that keep us apart. Hear us, O God;

your mercy is great.

We give you thanks for this country and for every nation. We pray for a world where wisdom reigns, where leaders work for the well-being of the poor, so that no one is hungry or homeless, and every child is valued and nourished. Hear us, O God;

your mercy is great.

We pray for the knowledge and courage to be good stewards of all that you have given us: ourselves, our neighbors, the strangers among us, the oceans and rivers, the air and soil, creatures large and small, that we may continue to be blessed with health and life. Hear us, O God;

your mercy is great.

We pray for those who are harmed by poverty, sickness, and cruelty of any kind, especially during this pandemic year, that you may so fill your world with the power to heal that all people would be made strong and whole. Hear us, O God;

your mercy is great.

We pray for those concerns yet unnamed this day . . .

[A time of silence is kept to allow for responses.]

Hear us, O God;

your mercy is great.

We commend all these things to you and offer our thanksgiving, trusting that what we have left unsaid, your holy wisdom can unearth; in the name of the One who came among us in the power of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Prayer of Our Savior

Our Father (Mother/Creator/God) 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.

Service of Offering

Musical Offering

“All on a Starry Night”

The Hinesburg Artist Series

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Music

“Doxology”

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God, the source of all our gifts;
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts. Amen.**

Prayer for the Offering

Sharing the Light of Christmas

Carol

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
 round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,
 sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;
 glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
 Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;
 radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
 with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
 Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

Benediction

Postlude

"For Unto Us a Child Is Born"

Hinesburg Artist Series