

**What can I offer, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb. If I were a wise one, I would do my part; but what can I offer? All my heart.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**TO SERVE THE WORLD**

\*HYMN #132 *Joy to the World*

\*BENEDICTION

PASSING THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

*\*Please stand in body or spirit.*

*+10:00a.m. Service Only*

*Please join us for coffee and conversation in Fellowship Hall after worship!*

Flowers this week are kindly donated in loving memory of Ferd Prevost, a devoted husband and father, and a longtime church member, so missed by his wife Myrna, and children Kira, Lida, Richard, and Darren.

**Today's Participants**

**Ushers:** Mae Murdoch & Dianna Powers

**Advent Candles:** Heather Barber & Jean Eckrich (8)  
Billy, Ellie, Jack, and Nick Murphy (10)

**Lay Readers:** Faye Craighead (8) & Caroline Kerr (10)

**C&D Counters:** Chris Simmers & Kevin Nyhan

**Pastor:** Rev. Jed Rardin

**Pianist:** Abigail Charbeneau

**Music Director:** Sue Berlenbach

**Memorial Bells Choir Director:** Carlene Ruesenberg

**Director of Christian Education:** Alison Nyhan

**Zoom Technician:** Walt Irvine

**Prayers, Joys, and Concerns**

Prayers for Pat Knight; Bill Murdoch; the Nyhan family; and Betsy Gates.

Prayers for the people of Israel and Palestine.

**SOUTH CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH, UCC**

*An Open and Affirming Church Dedicated to Racial Justice*

**JOY**

**DECEMBER 10, 2023**

**8AM & 10AM**

*Welcome to South Congregational Church, United Church of Christ! Whoever you are, whatever your faith tradition, whatever creed you profess, whatever your age, ability, race, sexual orientation, or gender expression: You Are Welcome Here!*

## WE GATHER...

### WORDS OF WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC      *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
**and a branch shall grow out of his roots.**

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
**the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.**

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;

**but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.**

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

**Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.**

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
**the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.**

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand in the adder's den.

**They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.**

\*HYMN #2      *Joyful, Joyful*

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Loving God, it's been really hard to keep hope alive in our hearts. All the violence,  
all the hatred and all the division had been almost too much to bear. Forgive us for  
letting the *what is* stand in the way of *what can* be. Forgive us for almost losing our  
hope. This Advent, we pray that you would re-ignite the hope within us and inspire  
us to offer signs of it in this little corner of your world. Amen.**

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF ADVENT: JOY

## THRESHOLD

+CHORAL ANTHEM      *This is the Time to Be Joyful*      by Pepper Choplin

### +A MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

*(Following the message, children are invited to proceed downstairs to Church School.)*

## TO HEAR GOD'S WORD...

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**God, source of all light, by your Word you give light to the soul. Pour out on us the  
spirit of wisdom and understanding that our hearts and minds may be opened.  
Amen.**

SCRIPTURE      Isaiah 61:1-4; Psalm 126:1-3; Luke 1:41-55

SERMON      Let It Out!

\*HYMN #114      *Return, My People*

## TO PRAY TOGETHER...

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father-Mother, who art 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but  
deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever.  
Amen.**

## TO RENEW OUR COMMITMENT...

### AN INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Virtual offering plate: [bit.do/southchurch](https://bit.do/southchurch): other options include using the  
"Donate" button on the website, or mailing/dropping off a check to the office.

OFFERTORY      *Greensleeves*

\*SUNG RESPONSE (*NCH#128 vs. 4*)

