

Worship on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2024

The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson, Designated Term Pastor
Diane Dawson Dexter, Organist

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

We bear witness to the light of Christ shining in our midst.
With Isaiah and Jeremiah, prophets of Israel, we remember the
promised salvation of the Lord.

**We look for the return of the One who will bring justice,
peace, and righteousness to the earth.**

With John the Baptist, calling from the wilderness, we cry:
**"Prepare the way of the Lord! Repent, for the kingdom of
heaven has come near."**

With Mary, the mother of Jesus, we praise the Lord, rejoicing in
God our Savior:

**the Mighty One has done great things for us, and holy is
God's name.**

With the writers of the gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John,
we tell the good news of Jesus Christ:

**he is the child of Bethlehem who came to save the world,
and he will return in final victory to rule in glory.**

With choirs of angels, and with all the heavenly host, we sing:
**"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth, peace
and goodwill to all!"**

The Word became flesh and lived among us;
we have seen his glory. Hallelujah!

Hymn 211 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Litany for Christmas

The world has seen the salvation of our God. **Hallelujah!**
O Christ, splendor of God's eternal glory, the mighty Word
sustaining the universe, **renew our lives by your presence.**
O Christ, begotten of the heavenly Father before all time, born
in a stable in Bethlehem in the fullness of time,

may your church be a sign of hope and joy.

O Christ, born to a Jewish family in the line of your servant
David for the salvation of the world,

release everyone into freedom from sin.

O Christ, truly God and truly human, born in fulfillment of your
promises, **order our desires to honor you.**

O Christ, born of the Virgin Mary, miraculous child of wonder,
mighty God of all ages, Prince of Peace,

may we and the whole world live in love, justice, and peace.

Lord, have mercy.

Almighty and unseen God, the coming of your light into the
world has brightened weary hearts with hope.

**Help us to proclaim the good news of salvation in your Son
Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Isaiah 62:6-12

New Testament Luke 2:1-20

Sermon Dr. Rosanna Anderson

Offertory "I Wonder as I Wander" Appalachian Melody

Hymn 238

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains:

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in

excelsis Deo!

Prayer of Dedication

**God our Redeemer, we sing your praises! Your glorious
love shines in the face of Jesus, born a babe into this dark
world. We marvel that he generously humbled himself to
bring us salvation. How precious is your gift of love! Let the
light in our sanctuary and our songs of praise spill through**

the windows to neighbors dwelling in darkness. May our gifts reflect the light of Christ and, as beacons in the night, draw people far and near closer to you. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Sharing Joys and Prayer Concerns
Prayers of the Church and the Lord's Prayer (*trespasses*)

Hymn 239 "Silent Night"

Join us in sharing the light of Christ. Only tilt the unlit candle towards the flame of a lit candle which is held straight up. Once your candle is aglow with the flame, keep it upright at all times. Do not tilt your lit candle to light the next person's candle. The person next to you will tilt their unlit candle to your candle. Use caution to avoid hair, clothing, and other flammables. Use caution with the hot melted wax.

Benediction

Postlude "Silent Night" Arrangement in 4/4 Time

Church Calendar

Sunday, Dec. 29 **Worship and Fellowship** 10:00 a.m.
Our Guest Preacher will be the Rev. Pam Vollinger.
All are welcome to join us onsite or via live stream on our website.

Sunday, Jan. 5 **Worship and Fellowship** 10:00 a.m.
The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson will preach and celebrate the Lord's Supper. Everyone is welcome to join us onsite or online.

Wednesday, Jan. 8 **Bible Study** 9:00 a.m.
We will meet in the Union Chapel Parlor and online.

Union Chapel (United Church of Christ)

P.O. Box 192, 821 Crescent Ave., Fishers Island, NY 06390

www.fiunionchapel.org

The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson, Designated Term Pastor

Becky Walters, Administrative Assistant

Laura Chapman, Sexton

Diane Dawson Dexter, Organist