

*Glorify God, grow disciples, and meet the needs of our neighbors.*

## GATHERING

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PRELUDE

*God, Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*

Arr. by Sally DeFord

Katia Dinas

*The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord! Psalm 146:10*

#### ◆ LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

Kurt Booth & Hawkins Burns; Lighters & Readers

Readers: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call be blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

**People: His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.**

(Lighting of the first, second, and third candles)

Readers: He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and he has sent the rich away empty.

**People: He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.**

#### ◆ OPENING HYMN

*My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

GTG 100

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

Hawkins Burns, Lay Liturgist

God is always willing to listen to our hearts as well as our voices, as we admit how we have not cared as we could, have not shared as we should. Let us confess our sin to the God who is faithful in mercy and grace.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**This season is supposed to be so holy, God of Christmas. Yet, the din of sales pitches turns us into cynical grumps. As we observe the decorations of the season, we miss seeing loneliness and the strained faces of those who fear the future. We are focused to find just the right gift or card which speaks of joy. Yet, we forget that you came so long ago to offer justice to those who have none. Be patient with us, God of our hearts, as we struggle to speak for the voiceless, to walk with those who have lost their way, to let go of our certainty of what really happened so long ago. May we listen to the songs of children which speak of that peace which really does bring reconciliation, of that grace which really does offer hope, of that love which really came to us that night in Bethlehem, in the birth of Jesus, our Savior and our Lord. Amen.**

#### SILENT CONFESSION

#### DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Do not be afraid but believe. Our God is here, opening our eyes to see salvation approaching us in this season of Advent.

**In the Spirit we join our voices in rejoicing in God who is our Savior – the One who calls us blessed, the God who forgives us!**

#### ◆ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

GTG 582

GLORY TO GOD

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

# HEARING THE WORD

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### ANTHEM

*Swing Down, Angels*

Words, Joseph Graham; Music, Brad Nix

*Swing down, swing down, angels, soar to Bethlehem. Hallelujah! Swing down,  
swing down, angels, singing' to the Lamb. Let your music fill the sky, lift your wings and fly.  
Swing down, swing down, angels, singin' to the Lamb.*

*Come and swing down, swing down, angels, wake the world with praise.  
Wake the word with praise. Swing down, swing down angels, announce the day of grace,  
the day of grace. Tell the shepherds in the field God's glory now has been revealed.  
Swing down, swing down, angels, wake the world with praise. Wake the world with praise!*

*Gloria (Glory, glory, glory) Gloria (Glory, glory, glory) in excelsis Deo. We're singin' Gloria  
(Dooba dooba doo, dooba dooba do, dooba dooba do) Gloria in excelsis Deo, in excelsis Deo!*

*Swing down, swing down, angels, fill the world with joy. Hallelujah! Swing down, swing down, angels, shout about the boy.  
Raise a jubilation song, peace on earth, goodwill to all. Swing down, swing down, angels, fill the world with joy. Fill the world with joy.*

*Angels, swing down, swing down, swing down, swing down. Fill the world with joy! Ooo.*

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

#### SECOND READING

Matthew 11:2-11

#### SERMON

Rev. Dr. Ken Ritchie

"What Do You See?"

## RESPONDING

### ◆ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*A Brief Statement of Faith, 11.2*

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.**

### ◆ HYMN OF MEDITATION

*Prepare the Way, O Zion*

GTG 106

BEREDEN VÅG FÖR HERRAN

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION 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, forever. Amen.**

### SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **And also with you**

### OFFERING

Offertory

*Emmanuel Shall Come*

Arr. by Dennis Eliot

Doxology

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

GTG 606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below.  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

**O God who blesses, may our offerings, as well as our lives, tell of those who are given voice, those who are put back on their feet, those who show us the way, and those who offer grace and hope, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

# SENDING

## ◆ HYMN OF DEDICATION

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

GTG 123

CAROL

## ◆ CHARGE & BENEDICTION

**We will glorify God, grow disciples, and meet the needs of our neighbors.**

## ◆ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (refrain only)*

VENI EMMANUEL

◆ Stand as you are able

GTG-Glory to God Hymnal

Online giving is now available. Just scan the QR Code to the right with your smart phone or go to our website and click the "Give Now" button. [www.FaithUnited-pc.com](http://www.FaithUnited-pc.com) You will have the option to set up your giving profile. This will make it easy to login anytime you are ready to give, even designated giving like Special Offerings, Building Repairs or the Garage Fund.

**You can also select to donate the 2% fee so Faith United does not incur it.**



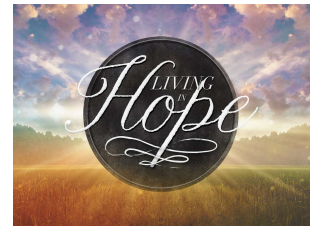
### PRAYER LIST

Dale Durcholz, Dennis Van Deventer, George & Mozelle Mills,  
Greg Kaut (George & Mozelle's son-in-law), David Duell

**Homebound or Recovering:** Charley Rae Furrh (Terri Russell's cousin)

### LIVING IN HOPE

Pastor Ken is offering a new midweek video devotional series throughout Advent based on the Advent readings from Isaiah. Isaiah's messianic prophecies offer a lasting hope as we journey through these chaotic and uncertain days. This hope is based not in our ability to master our days and times, but in God who finds what is lost. This hope empowers us to wait for the God who is God in faithfulness. Each Wednesday during Advent a new episode will be posted on the church's Facebook page and YouTube channel. Invite your friends and neighbors to check out this new series!



Brighten a child's holiday.

### TOY DRIVE

Each donated toy gives hope to a child of opening up at least one gift this holiday season.

Help by donating new unwrapped toys for children ages 1-18. Collect toys based on what you think a child or teenager would like or refer to our Most-Needed Toy list below.



### Metrocrest Santa Store 2022!

Bring your New unwrapped gifts and put them in the designated location at the church.

If you cannot participate this way, call the church office for assistance. We will deliver the gifts to the Store on or shortly after Monday, 12/12.

**Thank you for your donations!**

**metrocrest**  
  
**services**  
*building a stronger community together*



### MOST-NEEDED TOY ITEMS

- Sports & college apparel
- Electronics, video & board games
- Gym bags & sports equipment
- Wallets, jewelry, & watches
- Leggos
- Hair dryer, flat & curling irons
- Nail & cosmetic sets
- Perfume/cologne sets (AXE sets)
- Wal-Mart & Amazon gift cards
- Disney themed items
- Marvel themed items

# Poinsettias 2022

*(Please notify church office if names or dedications are incorrect)*



## Given by

## Dedication

Lorna Acker

- 1) In loving memory of Charlie Acker
- 2) In loving memory of Don Acker

Brenda Burkham

- 1) In memory of Lynn Echols
- 2) In memory of Jeff Wallace

Gail Crumpler

In remembrance of my cousin, Barbara

Frank Fehmel

- 1) Jennifer Fehmel
- 2) Kathie Jo Babisak Fehmel
- 3) Grandparents

Kathleen Ferguson (2)

All Glory to God

Jeanne Haben (2)

In memory of Paul Haben

Joe & Amy Hinkle

- 1) In memory of Bob Hinkle
- 2) In memory of Jenny and Jerry Rutland
- 3) In memory of David Rutland

Anne Kirchmeyer

- 1) In memory of parents, Jessamine & Henry Scheele IV
- 2) In memory of grandfather, Henry Scheele III

Courtland & Rich Lewis

- 1) In memory of our parents
- 2) In honor of our grandchildren

Sharon Meurer

- 1) In memory of John Marxer
- 2) In memory of David Youngstrum
- 3) In memory of Jack Walden

Kevin, Katie, & Nathan Miller

- 1) In memory of Doc & Nina Mecum
- 2) In memory of Carole Miller

David Pierce

- 1) In memory of John Marxer
- 2) In memory of Jane Louise McGee
- 3) In memory of Bob Hinkle

Richard & Diane Royer

In memory of Kenny Royer

Geraldine Shotswell

- 1) In remembrance of all my family members
- 2) Remembering my Faith United family

David & Patti Sloey

In loving memory of Harvey & Marian Garoutte

Nancy Smith

To the Glory of God

OPENING HYMN

# 100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

## Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you  
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a  
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.  
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the  
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery  
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

OPENING HYMN – cont.



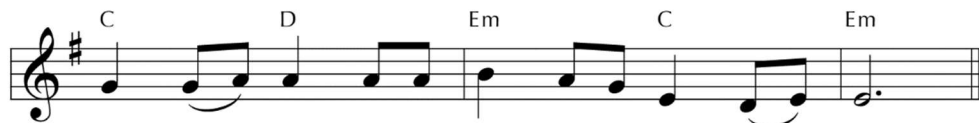
name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

HYMN of MEDITATION

Prepare the Way, O Zion 106



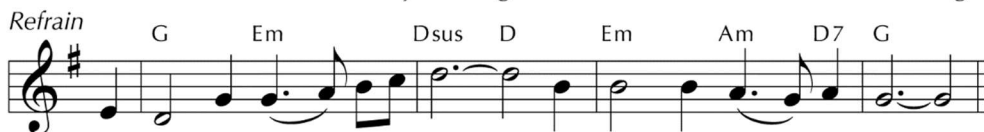
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!  
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.  
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.  
 and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.  
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.  
 All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

HYMN of DEDICATION

123 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,  
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un - furled,  
 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suf-fered long;  
 4 And you, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,  
 5 For lo, the days are has-tening on, by proph-ets seen of old,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
 and still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:  
 be - neath the heaven-ly hymn have rolled two thou-sand years of wrong;  
 who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,  
 when with the ev - er - cir-cling years shall come the time fore - told,

"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gra-cious King":  
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov-ering wing,  
 and we at war on earth hear not the tid - ings that they bring;  
 look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing:  
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,

the world in sol - emn still-ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.  
 and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless-ed an - gels sing.  
 O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the an - gels sing!  
 O, rest be-side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing.  
 and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

## **FUPC Choir and Music leadership**

David Pierce, Director of Music      Katia Dinas, Pianist

### **Soprano**

Marissa Guerrero  
Lois Norton  
Barbara Ritchie  
Gerry Shotswell  
Katelyn Spivey

### **Alto**

Patti Sloey  
Jessica Stottlemeyer  
Renee Wensley

### **Tenor**

Houston Burns  
Kyle Feather  
Jeremy Rohwer

### **Bass**

Hawkins Burns  
Rich Lewis  
Zachary Rohwer

## **The Session**

Rev. Dr. Ken Ritchie, Moderator of Session  
Rich Lewis, Treasurer

### **Class of 2022**

\*Kathleen Ferguson, W&M  
\*Debbie Menefee, CL  
\*Katie Miller, CE  
\*Tracy Tiemann, B&G

### **Class of 2023**

\*Courtland Lewis, O&E  
\*Patti Sloey, Finance  
Brenda Burkham, CL

### **Class of 2024**

Kurt Booth, O&E  
Frank Fehmel, Finance  
Terrie Russell, CE  
Nancy Smith, W&M



\* denotes Committee Chair

## **CHOSEN TO SERVE**

**Disciples:** The People of Faith United

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Ken Ritchie,  
Ken@FaithUnited-pc.com

**Business Manager:** Brenda Swindle,  
Brenda@FaithUnited-pc.com

**Director of Music:** David Pierce

**Pianist:** Katia Dinas



## **Faith United Presbyterian Church**

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