



MAPLE STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
DECEMBER 19, 2021 • FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
“A Room with a View (love)”

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| WELCOME | | Rev. Douglas Vooyo |
| PRELUDE | <i>From Heaven Above to Earth I Come</i> | Ji Hye Jung, handbells |
| THRESHOLD SONG | <i>Love Comes to Us at Advent</i> | Amanda Udis-Kessler |

Sing: Love comes to us at Advent, love waits for us to care.
Love waits for our compassion, freely offered, freely shared.
In this time of preparation for the work of co-creation,
for the birthing of a world where faith shapes all we do.
Love is born in us anew!

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| CALL TO WORSHIP | Maren Tirabassi | Rev. Douglas Vooyo |
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Oh, Holy God we hear the story of shepherds and magi, of maiden and carpenter, of prophets and angels, and we too come to Bethlehem for a blessing. You are born in our hearts because you have chosen the weakness of our bodies for your birth. We are filled with love because you have taken upon yourself our humanity; we are filled with hope because you have offered us your Spirit, your life, and your light; we are filled with faith because all that is meek, lovely and humble in us and in creation becomes holy this Christmas Eve. Our salvation has come into this holy time and we say together,

All: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and goodwill to all.”

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| OPENING HYMN | <i>Once in Royal David’s City</i> | Black pg. 145 |
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| ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING | Cindy Bowen & Donna Mandriota |
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Reader: Today we offer the Light of Love to illuminate the door of welcome. May this light shine in our hearts, in our lives and in our church. May love awaken us to the possibilities and lead us to greater hospitality. There IS room in this inn, A House for the Holy, where we are all loved.

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| <i>When God Is a Child</i> | Brian Wren & Joan C. Fogg |
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1. Love is a flame that burns in our heart.

Jesus has come and will never depart

CHORUS: When God is a child, there's joy in our song.

The last shall be first, and the weak shall be strong,
And none shall be afraid.

**Please stand as you are able.*

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| CHILDREN’S TIME | Karen Kilty |
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| PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/PASTORAL PRAYER | Rev. Douglas Vooyo |
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THE LORD'S PRAYER (UNISON)

**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 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.**

A STORY OF INNKEEPING: OFFERING

Rev. Douglas Vooyo

Leader: Just imagine living in Bethlehem at the time of Jesus' birth. It was a little town with a big expectation! As we've heard from so many prophets, hundreds of years earlier, they predicted that a baby would be born in this one place of least significance, but one that would surely become great. This was part of the sacred texts of the people and surely something that everyone, including the innkeeper, in Bethlehem knew about. But, did they believe it? Did they believe that something great, a peaceful ruler, would come from their town? Perhaps not enough to realize the possibilities of a pregnant woman on their doorstep that night. Do we believe that we are capable of birthing something life-changing for the people in our community? As the Body of Christ, could we live with more expectation of what is possible? Could we look more closely at what is right in front of us and be captured by its promise.

***DOXOLOGY**

Lyrics: Thomas Ken, Tune: Red No. 64

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ whose pow'r uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

SPECIAL MUSIC

BREATH OF HEAVEN...BREATH OF LOVE

HYMN: *In the Bleak Midwinter: Verse 1* Red Hymnal pg. 128

SCRIPTURE: Mary's Canticle of Love Luke 1:46-55 Faith Bertrand

ANTHEM *The Angel Gabriel* Joel Raney
Chancel Choir

MEDITATION: *The Song of Mary* Kathy Gross

HYMN: *In the Bleak Midwinter: Verse 2* Red Hymnal pg. 128

MARY AT THE MANGER J. Barrie Shepherd Judy Drouin & Grace Phinney

READINGS 1&2

HYMN: *In the Bleak Midwinter: Verse 3* Red Hymnal pg. 128

READINGS 3&4

ANTHEM

Breath of Heaven

Chris Eaton & Amy Grant

Amy Brierly, alto and Julie Macsata, soprano

I have traveled many moonless nights, cold and weary, with a babe inside,
And I wonder what I've done. Holy Father, You have come
And chosen me now to carry Your Son.
I am waiting in a silent prayer, I am frightened by the load I bear.
In a world as cold as stone, must I walk this path alone?
Be with me now, be with me now.
Breath of Heaven,
Hold me together, be forever near me, Breath of Heaven.
Breath of Heaven,
Lighten my darkness, pour over me Your holiness, for You are holy,
Breath of Heaven.
Do You wonder as You watch my face
If a wiser one should have had my place?
But I offer all I am for the mercy of Your plan.
Help me be strong, help me be, help me.
Breath of Heaven,
Hold me together, be forever near me, Breath of Heaven.
Breath of Heaven,
Lighten my darkness, pour over me Your holiness, for You are holy.
Breath of Heaven,
Hold me together, be forever with me, Breath of Heaven.
Breath of Heaven,
Lighten my darkness, pour over me Your holiness, for You are holy.
Breath of Heaven, Breath of Heaven, Breath of Heaven.

READINGS 5&6

HYMN: *In the Bleak Midwinter: Verse 4*

Red Hymnal pg. 128

READING 7

RESPONSIVE READING

Rev. Dr. Charles Gross

“The Breath of Love”

All: Love breathes us into being, defining who we are and what we shall become.

Leader: Evolving without beginning or ending, life and love woven with mystery and wonder,
never static. Beckoning us higher, soaring as far as hope dares take us. hearing, weaving,
releasing the music which sings to and through us each moment.

All: Love breathes us into being, desiring who we are and what we shall become.

Leader: Creating our possibility to know and be known, fully present, fully alive; Evolving us
through time and space, heart and mind, joy and sorrow; Engaging, empowering,
ennobling the soul which is our inner delight.

All: Love breathes us into being, dreaming who we are and what we shall become.

Leader: Challenging us: Be more, rise higher, become more human and therein more divine;
breathing us anew, aright, heaven-born, spirit-centered in time's moment of now;
Praying, yearning, trusting, with sighs too deep for words, the ebb and flow of life and
love.

Leader: Deep within, I know this Love.

All: I know this Love is.

Leader: I know this Love is mine.

**All: I know this Love belongs to everyone. Creation's one true breath, gifting me life for
love, granting me love for life. Forever and ever. Amen**

***CLOSING CAROL**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Red Hymnal pg. 132

BENEDICTION

Maren C. Tirabassi/Richard Becher

Faith Bertrand

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

**Make of my heart a stable,
a house of the holy,
a warm and sturdy place
for joy to live and grow.**

POSTLUDE

Good King Wenceslas

Ji Hye Jung

*The steeple is lit this week in loving memory of
my parents Rev. Lawrence Milford Stone & Helen Louise Culver Stone,
my grandparents Mr. & Mrs. Hiram B. Stone
and Mr. & Mrs. Grove H. Culver
my brother Benjamin Thomas Stone,
and my friend Faye Gardner*

Maple Street Congregational Church, UCC

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Morning Worship Service — Sundays at 10am

Zoom Prayer & Table Worship — Tuesdays at 6pm

Zoom Bible Study — Thursdays at 12noon

Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 10 am – 1 pm