

10:30 A.M.

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

*At CCC, we honor and celebrate people of all races, cultures, ages, abilities,
sexual orientations and gender identity.*

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 4, 2011

**Please stand as you are able*

Please turn off mobile phones before worship begins

Let us now enter into the Holy One's presence.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Matt Braddock

PRELUDE

Noel Sur Les Flutes

Louis Claude Daquin

*LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF LOVE

Stewards of the Earth

Holy God, we are waiting and planning for the birth of your holy child. Guide us tenderly through the wilderness moments. Make the rough places smooth. Lead us through the barren times, so that our plans may grow into strong and steady incarnations of your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus, the herald of good tidings. Amen.

Light this can-dle for love, one bright can-dle for love, Christ brings love to ev' ry heart, Christ
comes, Christ comes! Light this can-dle for love, one bright can-dle for
love, Christ brings love to ev' ry heart, Christ comes, Christ comes!

*HYMN OF PRAISE #

Down By the Jordan

LOBE DEN HERREN

Sung to the tune "Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty", TNCH #22

Down by the Jordan, a prophet named John was baptizing,
Preaching a message the people found bold and surprising:
"God will forgive! Show that you'll change how you live!
Surely God's new day is rising!"

There by the river, the crowd came with great expectation:
 "Are you God's Chosen One, sent here to rescue our nation?"
 "No!" John replied. "He who is mightier than I
 Judges and offers salvation."

Jesus, you went to be baptized along with the others,
 Taking your place among sinners, God's lost sons and daughters.
 Then with great love, God's Spirit came as a dove!
 Your work began in those waters.

Here in the Church, we are baptized and filled with God's Spirit.
 Freed and forgiven, we're welcomed with joy! Can you hear it?
 This is God's sign! This is how God says, "You're mine!"
 Let's take the good news and share it!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Joan Boyer

Let there now be a quiet time among us. I invite you look at your hands. They've been through a lot, those hands . . . they have strengths, scars, beauty. I invite you to remember that it is your hands that do the work of love in the world: hold another's hands, type emails to politicians, sign cards of consolation and congratulation, write words urging peace, bathe children, feed elders, nurse the ill. These hands are God's hands, your hands, our hands. A great mystery of flesh and intention, A great potential of embodied love. We offer our hands to God, praying together . . .

Holy God, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. AMEN

FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

Joan Boyer

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Glenda Neal

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor Amy Lewis

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND RECONCILIATION

God our Holy Friend, we confess to each other and to you, that we are creatures of both success and failure. We are often impatient and thin skinned. We rush into condemnations without understanding. We take our family and friends for granted. Our church leaders are expected to mirror our biases. Our Bible is selectively used to buttress our opinions. Our faith is measured by whether we get what we want. Our love can be selective and intermittent.

We also thank you for the successes, both small and large, that renew our hope. We thank you for the faith that has sustained us and for courage in the hour of temptation. We thank you for the love we have shared, and seen growing in the lives of others We rejoice that your grace has not been in vain.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Believing that all people are children of God, greet each other with a sign of peace.

MUSICAL OFFERING

G. F. Handel

*Comfort Ye
Ev'ry Valley Shall be Exalted*

Robert Wetzler, tenor

SECOND READING

Mark 1:1-8

Pastor Matt Braddock

SERMON

"Messengers of Love"

CALL TO OFFERING

Pastor Matt Braddock

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERING**OFFERTORY***And the Glory of the Lord*

G. F. Handel

The Chancel Choir

***DOXOLOGY**

VENI EMMAUEL

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow:
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.
Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O, Israel.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)**

Joan Boyer

**We dedicate to you, generous God, our lives. Receive these offerings as a sign of
our gratitude and commitment. Amen.**

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**SETTING THE COMMUNION TABLE**The 3rd Grade Church School Class**PREPARATION HYMN # 102**

ST. THEODULPH

*O How Shall I Receive You***INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

Pastor Matt Braddock

PRAYER OF BLESSING**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Pastors Matt Braddock & Amy Lewis

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP**COMMUNING HYMN # 345**

PICARDY

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

***HYMN OF GOING FORTH**

GARTAN

Love Came Down at Christmas

In verse three substituting “neighbor” for “all men”

1. Love came down at Christ - mas, Love all love - ly, Love di - vine;
 2. Wor - ship we the God - head, Love in - car - nate, Love di - vine;
 3. Love shall be our to - ken; love be yours and love be mine;

Love was born at Christ - mas; star and an - gels gave the sign.
 wor - ship we our Je - sus, but where - with for sa - cred sign?
 love to God and all men,* love for plea and gift and sign.

**"neighbor" may be substituted for "all men"

***BENEDICTION**

Pastors Matt Braddock & Amy Lewis

The story tells us that it's those who wait in the world's shadows
 who are the first to know the story of the Christ-child
 born into darkness, bringing great light.

So leave here today trusting the promise of light —
 and be carriers of the tidings of peace and the truth of love.

Pray for the justice another is waiting for,
 and speak of the hope another needs to breathe.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ the love of God
 and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all

POSTLUDE

Charles Callahan

Wachet auf!

* * * * *

Flowers

Persis and John Hildebrandt have donated the altar flowers in celebration of Nae Pearson, our choir and the beautiful music they bring to Christ Congregational Church.



Lectionary Readings for Next Sunday, December 11th:

Isiah 61:1-4, 8-11
 Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55
 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
 John 1:6-8, 19-28

What is Happening With Christian Education Today?

During the 9:00 service

Adult Education: *Contemporary Theology* – Conference Room
 Childcare for infants through two-year olds in the nursery - Room 106

During the 10:30 service

Childcare for infants, toddlers & two year-olds in the Nursery - Room 106
 Lambs (3 and 4 year-olds and pre-kindergarten 5 year-olds) Room 006
 K-5th Grade: Leave for Communion Lesson following Children's Time
 & rejoin families in the Sanctuary for Communion
 Middle School (6th – 8th Grade) –Help set up the Mitten Tree in the Lobby

Chapel Choir

For K through 5th Graders

11:45AM Chapel Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

Youth Group

5:30 PM Youth Dinner – Social Hall
 5:30 PM 7th & 8th Grade Meet in Lobby for bowling
 6:15 PM 6th Grade OWL – Room 206
 6:15 PM Covenant Class – Conference Room
 8:00 PM Youth Programs Adjourn

CCC Calendar for the Week

Sunday, December 4th (Sabbath Sunday & Second Sunday of Advent)

- 9:00 AM Adult Ed Contemporary Theology Class (Conference Room)
- 9:00 AM Service of Worship
- 10:30 AM Service of Worship
- 11:45 AM Chapel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- 11:45 AM Chrismon Workshop-Planning (Room 107)
- 11:45 AM Retreat House Discernment Mtg. (Meeting Room)
- 12:00 PM Intergenerational Orchestra Rehearsal (Chancel)
- 12:30 PM Families with Young Children Fellowship (Social Hall)
- 5:30 PM 7th & 8th Graders Meet in the Lobby for bowling
- 5:30 PM Youth Group Dinner (Social Hall)
- 6:15 PM 6th Grade OWL (Room 206)
- 6:15 PM Covenant Class (Conference Room)
- 6:30 PM Friendship Circle (Meeting Room 108)

Monday, December 5th

- 12:00 PM Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
- 6:45 PM Outreach & Engagement Comm.: Pre-Board Mtg. (Room 208)
- 7:30 PM Executive Council (Conference Room)

Tuesday, December 6th

- 7:15 PM 2nd Tuesday Evening Mankind Group (Room 207)
- 7:30 PM Planned Giving Comm. Mtg. (Room 206)
- 7:30 PM SSCCC Board Meeting (Conference Room)
- 7:30 PM Tuesday Evening Mankind Group (Room 009/010)

Wednesday, December 7th

- 9:00 AM Anti-Racism/Multi-Cultural Journey Team (Room 206)
- 7:00 PM Retreat House Discernment Mtg. (Sanctuary)

Thursday, December 08, 2011

- 6:45 PM 7th/8th Grade Program (Room 009/010)
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Friday, December 9th

(No Events scheduled.)

Church is not open on Friday evenings, except 3rd Friday of the month.

Saturday, December 10th

- 8:30 AM CCC Saturday Stitchers (Room 208)
- 9:00 AM Cello Choir Class (Choir Room)

News and Events at CCC

Church Wide Caroling

Please join the staff, our families and the rest of the congregation as we gather to share the musical joy of the season on **Sunday, December 18th**. We'll meet at the church at 5:30 p.m. for pizza before breaking into multigenerational groups to carol in the Indian Spring neighborhood and at Springvale Terrace. We'll reconvene at 7:30 p.m. for a party in the CCC lobby. Sign-up on the lobby bulletin board so we can plan pizza for all. Also indicate whether you need a ride or can drive others. Dr. Nae will provide music booklets for all. Please bring a flashlight!

Home Visit Ministry: Volunteers Needed!

You are invited to be a part of a new and meaningful **Home Visit Ministry** at Christ Congregational Church. **Twenty volunteers are needed!** Each Home Visit Ministry volunteer will partner with a congregant who cannot worship with us on Sundays anymore, often due to illness or mobility challenges. The ministry involves building a relationship with the congregant by visiting them at home three times a year – Christmas time, Easter time and one other time of choice. CCC will provide poinsettias and lilies for your visits during the Christmas and Easter season.

The Home Visit Ministry does not require extra special training in pastoral care – you are simply invited to extend Christian community by making a thoughtful visit on behalf of Christ Congregational Church. The purpose of the ministry is to be a reflection of God's love in remembering and getting to know a member of CCC who is no longer able to gather with us on Sundays.

If you would like to volunteer with the Home Visit Ministry, please email Pastor Amy at amy@cccsilverspring.org or sign up on the bulletin board in the lobby by Sunday, December 11th. Thank you for considering this call to the ministry of helping others!

Men's Christmas Toast

The Men's Christmas Toast will again be held at the Royal Mile Pub on **Tuesday, December 13th at 7:00pm**. The Royal Mile Pub is at 2407 Price Ave., Wheaton (off of Georgia Avenue near University Blvd. West). If there are any questions, call Bruce Strand.

Shaw Community Ministry Update

Thank you again to the Boy Scouts and everyone else from CCC who contributed food and cash for the Shaw Community Ministry Thanksgiving Food Drive. We contributed \$663 and twenty-five bags of food. It was much appreciated.

The next Shaw event is the Annual Christmas Party on **Saturday, December 17th** at Lincoln Temple, 1701 11th Street N.W., Washington, D.C. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about Shaw. There will be a lunch and Santa Claus will give gifts to the children in the Shaw after-school program. The gifts are provided by individual members of the Congregational Churches that sponsor Shaw (such as you) who step forward to be the Secret Santa for a Shaw child. The Children put on a performance at the Party for their parents and guests. If you are willing to be the Secret Santa for a Shaw child or would like to come to the Shaw Christmas Party, please contact our CCC Shaw Board Member, Marjorie Hoffman.

Sisters for Sisters Potluck Lunch & White Elephant Exchange

Sisters For Sisters will have our Christmas potluck lunch/ white elephant exchange at the home of Joan Boyer on **Saturday, December 17th** at 1:00 P.M. CCC women are invited to join us. RSVP to Joan Boyer, June Leonard, or Ruth Haigh.

Social Action Concerns

UCC Leaders Call for Congress to Return to the Common Good

On November 22, the five national officers of the UCC issued a pastoral letter to Congress in light of the failure of the "Super Committee" to reach an agreement on deficit reduction. The letter reads in part:

Our Christian faith speaks directly to public morality and the ways a Nation should bring justice and compassion into its civic life. Pointedly, our current fiscal debates, at their heart, are nothing less than a struggle for the soul of the nation and its moral conscience. When budget lines and tax dollars are valued over the lives of women, children, the elderly, and the disabled, it is time that we take a deep look at who we claim to be as a nation. . . . Our nation, as well as the people we have elected to represent us, have moved too far in the direction of promoting individual self-interest at the expense of community responsibility. . . . It is our sincere hope and prayer that in the days and months following the Super Committee's failure to reach a deficit reduction agreement, our leaders will find the moral strength to work for the common good.

To read the entire letter, and to identify the five signers, go to:
www.ucc.org/news/a-pastoral-letter-to.html.

Chrismon Workshop Dec. 11th at Noon

Make a home-sized Chrismon for your tree at the Chrismon workshop on **Sunday, December 11th** in the Social Hall, following a light potluck lunch. There will be Chrismons of various degrees of difficulty at the workshop so all ages may participate. Samples will be available for you to copy or you may create your own design. Anyone interested in helping, let Glenda Neal know. If attending, please bring a plate of finger sandwiches to share. Beverages will be provided.

The Mitten Tree

This year all items collected on the Mitten Tree will go to Broad Acres Elementary School in Montgomery County, MD. The school community greatly appreciates any winter outwear for ages pre-school through size youth XL for boys and girls. These can be new or gently used gloves, mittens, hats, scarves, coats, snow pants, or boots. This is a good time to clean out your closets! The Mitten Tree will be in the front lobby of the church **December 4th -- 18th** ready for your donation. Any questions, contact Kristen Brown.

Retreat House Future

A third set of meetings for congregational discernment regarding the future of the Retreat House will focus on the finances and alternative approaches to retreats in the future -- including whether we might be able to partner with another organization or whether it might make sense to sell all or part of the property. The meetings will convene **today, Sunday, December 4th**, right after the 10:30 service and on **Wednesday, December 7th** at 7 PM -- same content, different times.

These two meetings, which will be for discussion and sharing but not for decisions, will round out the line of discussion from prior meetings, which have concentrated on the importance of retreats and the retreat house and on the physical plant. A special congregational meeting for decisions is anticipated after the turn of the year. Members and friends are invited to come to all of these meetings and help in this discernment process.

Families with Young Children: Today After Church!

If you have a child from newborn to Grade 2, please join us **today** right after church in the Social Hall for our monthly luncheon and Bible study. We'll have fellowship over lunch, then send the kids out to play (under the care of our Granny Brigade volunteers!) while Jane von Maltzahn leads us in a study of Scripture. Jane says about today's study: "At the beginning of the church year in Advent, experience together how the church seasons are actually symbols of our own spiritual journey -- a journey of perpetual motion and change -- and how the transition from one liturgical season to another prepares us for new stages of faith." Newcomers and older siblings are welcome. (Contact: Holly Stephens)

CCC Book Group

The CCC Book Group will next read and discuss a classic, *Kim* by Rudyard Kipling. This is Kipling's well regarded story of a street urchin in British-governed India, who is not what he seems. We will discuss the book on **Sunday, January 8, at 7 p.m.**, at the home of Mary and Clarence Stone. Contact Mary Stone.

PPRC News Update: Next meeting December 13

The Pastor Parish Relationship Committee was established to create proactive communications between the pulpit and pew. We welcome input from the members of the congregation as we continue to improve communication between the congregation and the Senior Minister. The PPRC will meet monthly on the **2nd Tuesday of the month** during the regular church year. Members of the PPRC Committee are: Pastor Matt Braddock, Tom Ault, Merlene Bagley, Ruth Prindle Lehman and Lynn White. We will meet in Pastor Matt's office at 7:15 p.m.

Attention New Members: Outreach & Engagement Meeting

Are you interested in learning more about CCC and how to become a member of this faith community? The Outreach and Engagement Board will be hosting an information meeting **Tuesday, January 3, at 7:30 p.m.** in the Conference room. Members of the O&E Board and Pastor Matt will present information and answer questions on the church's theology, structure, organization, finances and membership expectations. New members will be received on Sunday, January 29th during the 10:30 am service of worship. If you would like attend the information meeting and/or join the Church, please contact Trish Esposito. Please note: Attendance at the information meeting on January 3rd does not commit you to joining the church, nor are you required to attend the information meeting to join the church.

CCC Scrapbooking Club

Are you interested in scrapbooking? Or eager to get your photos out of boxes and into albums that others can enjoy? The CCC Scrapbook Club is hosting a Scrapbook Workshop on **Tuesday, January 10th**, with Karen O'Steen, who is a "Creative Memories" consultant. We will meet in the Conference Room at 7:30 p.m. The event is open to everyone!

Newcomers are welcome to come at any time, and there is no need to feel that you must attend regularly – just come when you have the time or the spirit moves you! Also you do not have to be working on a scrapbook to attend – you can always just come to sort and label your photos. For more information, please contact: Priscilla Peterson

Lost & Found

Have you lost something recently? Please look at the Lost & Found box in the Church Office. We have a growing collection of coats, glasses, sunglasses ... even a retainer! If it isn't claimed soon, we'll be donating the clothing to Goodwill.

2011 Advent-Christmas Orchestral and Singing Opportunities at CCC

As we approach the Advent and Christmas seasons, please know that there are various music ministries in which to participate and share your gifts of music. Here are two ways that you can offer your "joyful sounds" unto God. Continue to watch this space for more opportunities!

I. Intergenerational Orchestra

The Intergenerational Orchestra is for all ages and levels of playing! From beginner to intermediate to advanced players---you have a place in this orchestra! Come and join the joyful noise!

- Plays for: **CCC Christmas Music Sunday, December 18 at 9:00 a.m. service for all ages.**
 - This service will feature familiar, traditional carols for all ages.
 - The Chapel Choir (k-5th grade) and the Chancel Choir will sing at this service as well.
 - Orchestral Warm up at 8:30 a.m. in the church on this Sunday.
- Also plays for: **Christmas Eve, December 24th worship at 5:00 p.m.**
 - The Intergenerational Orchestra will lead the congregation in familiar carols for this annual celebration of the Nativity story!

Here's the rehearsal schedule for the Intergenerational Orchestra:

- **Rehearsal 1.--Sunday, December 4** from 12 noon until 12:45 in the church.
(Music distributed at this rehearsal)
- **Rehearsal 2.--Sunday, December 11** from 12 noon until 12:45 in the church.
- **NO rehearsal on Sunday, December 18th**--(Because you are playing at the 9:00 a.m. service that day!)
- **Rehearsal 3.--Saturday, December, 24th** (Christmas Eve) at 4:15 p.m. in the church. We move right into the 5:00 p.m. Nativity Service from this rehearsal!

II. The Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir is for singers from high school through senior adults. This choir sings weekly in worship and rehearses each Thursday evening in the choir room from 7:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. The choir is just beginning rehearsals for Christmas music and will present the *Gloria* of Antonio Vivaldi on Sunday, December 18th at the 11:00 a.m. worship service. (Note the change of time on the second service for this Sunday only!) Singers who may not be able to sing with the choir on a "full-time" basis are encouraged to join us for this season of rehearsals and to enjoy preparing this choral work and other Advent and Christmas favorites.

III. The Chapel Choir (K-5th grades, and ALL are welcome!)

The Chapel Choir continues with our regularly scheduled rehearsals on Sundays from 11:45 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. in the choir room. This choir sings at the 10:30 a.m. worship service on the first Sunday of each month and at other special seasonal worship celebrations. We are just beginning to work on our Christmas music for the 9:00 a.m. worship celebration on Christmas Music Sunday, December 18th and for the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Nativity service on December, 24th. Come and join this extraordinary group of young singers in the choir room following church each Sunday.

IV. Advanced Orchestra

The Advanced Orchestra is comprised of Intermediate-Advanced players and includes strings, brass, woodwinds, and percussion. This year the Advanced Orchestra will play on Christmas Music Sunday, December 18th at both the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship services. (Note the change of time on the second service for this Sunday only!) The Advanced Orchestra will also play for the 9:00 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve, December 24th.

Interested orchestra personnel, please find below a list of the services in which the Advanced Orchestra will participate and a rehearsal schedule

Services on **Christmas Music Sunday, December 18th** at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. and on **Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24th**, 9:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols

Here is a listing of the upcoming rehearsals:

Thursday rehearsals: December 8 and 15 at 7:30 -- 8:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Final rehearsal: Saturday, December 17 at 9:00 -- 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Copies of the music will be available at each rehearsal. For more information about these and many other music ministry opportunities, or for copies of music, contact Dr. Nae Pearson, Minister of Music, at 301-585-8010, ext. 224 or by email at: Holymusic@aol.com

**Christ Congregational Church
A United Church of Christ**

9525 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD 20901

Office: 301.585.8010 FAX: 301.585.3868

<http://www.cccsilverspring.org>

E-mail: cccoffice@cccsilverspring.org

Pastor Matt's Blog: www.drybonesarise.blogspot.com

The Church Office is open 9:00-3:30 Monday through Friday.

The Rev. Dr. Matthew Braddock, Senior Minister, Ext 223, matt@cccsilverspring.org

The Rev. Amy L. Lewis, Minister for Adults, Ext 226, amy@cccsilverspring.org

Dr. Nae Pearson, Minister of Music, Ext 224, nae@cccsilverspring.org

Dr. Sue Wilson, Children's C.E. Coordinator, Ext 227, sue@cccsilverspring.org

Veronica Bailey, Executive Assistant, Ext. 228, cccoffice@cccsilverspring.org

Dianne Abraham, Church Administrator, Ext 222, PropertyAdmin@cccsilverspring.org

Kristen Brown, Administrator for Youth Ministry, brown.jk@verizon.net

Stephanie Helsing, Coordinator for Camping Ministry, nizwa328@rcn.com

The Rev. James A. Todhunter, Minister Emeritus