

Grace United Church of Christ

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 13, 2020

Worship



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Worship

We Gather

Prelude

Jonas Dawson

Preparing of our Hearts

Call to Worship

In this season of expectation
we prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah.

Into the bustle of our lives
and the hard to find moments of solitude
we prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah.

Into our homes and situations
along with friends and families
we prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah.

Into our hearts, and those often hidden parts of our lives
we prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah.

For beneath the surface of your story
is an inescapable fact:
You entered this world
as vulnerable as any one of us
in order to nail that vulnerability to the cross.
Our fears, our insecurities and our sins—
all that can separate us from God—
exchanged by your Grace for Love.
We cannot comprehend the reasoning,
only marvel that Salvation comes to us
through a baby born in a stable,
and reaches out to a world in need.

In this season of anticipation
We prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah

Opening Hymn

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

NCH # 120

Es ist ein' Ros entsprungen

(Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming)

Isa. 11:1

German, 15th century; transl. Theodore Baker, 1894; alt.

1 Es ist ein' Ros ent - sprun - gen aus ein - er Wur - zel zart,
 1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem has sprung!
 2 I - sa - iah had fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,

wie uns die Al - ten sun - gen: von Jes - se kam die
 Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as saints of old have sung.
 With Mar - y we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Moth - er kind.

und hat ein Blüm - lein bracht mit - ten im kal - ten
 It came a flower - et bright, a - mid the cold of
 To show God's love a - right, she bore to us a

der . . . hal - ben
 Win - ter wohl zu der hal - ben Nacht.
 win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 Sav - ior, when half spent was the night.

Possibly dating from the fifteenth century, this anonymous hymn was first published in a Catholic hymnal in Germany, where the rose was held in special regard and was employed as a symbol for Mary or for Christ.

Tune: ES IST EIN' ROS 7.6.7.6.6.7.6.
 Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Cologne, 1599
 Harm. Michael Praetorius, 1609

Opening Prayer

Lighting the Advent Candle:

Sung Response: ***Rejoice, Rejoice Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel!***

Reflection Video Advent JOY

We Listen

First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Responsorial Psalm 126

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

**The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.
Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb.
May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.
Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.**

Special Music

Jonas Dawson

Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Children's Message

Sermon

The Gift of Joy

Rev. Rob Apgar-Taylor

We Respond

Pastoral Prayers

The Lord's Prayer (in 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

We are Sent

Announcements

Closing Blessing

Closing Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem

NCH #133 (1&4)

Dismissal

Ringling of the bell

Postlude

Jonas Dawson

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## O Little Town of Bethlehem

Mic. 5:2; Luke 2:4-7

Phillips Brooks, 1868; alt.

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see you lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!  
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove your deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
 While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the glo - rious love of heaven.  
 Cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

Yet in your dark streets shines forth the ev - er - last - ing light,  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!  
 No one dis - cerns God's com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in you to - night.  
 And prais - es sing, and voic - es ring with peace to all on earth.  
 Where yearn - ing souls long to be whole, the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

*Inspired by a visit to Bethlehem, Phillips Brooks, minister of Holy Trinity Church, Philadelphia, wrote this hymn for the Sunday School's Christmas service. The tune was hastily sketched by the church organist in time for the service.*

Tune: ST. LOUIS 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6.  
 Lewis H. Redner, 1868  
 Alternate tune: FOREST GREEN



*Grace United Church of Christ*

**Advent**

**Mission Project**

# *Socks* *& Coats* **DRIVE**



**Please donate now through December 23:**

- \* **New or gently used men's and women's coats**
- \* **New socks (unisex, white or black)**



Collection box will be outside on Sunday mornings,  
and M-F during daytime hours at the west-side door (left side of church).

Questions? Email [tonyhemler0@gmail.com](mailto:tonyhemler0@gmail.com) or [admin@grucc.com](mailto:admin@grucc.com)

# Advent Book Study

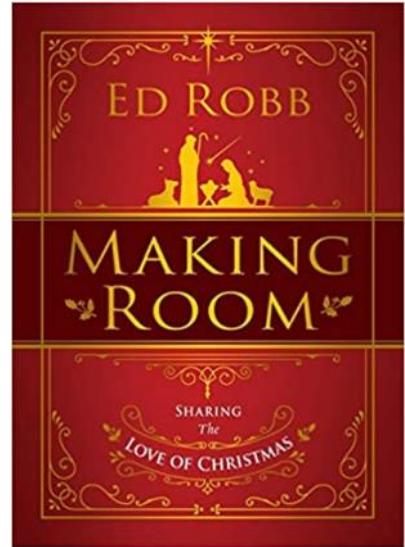
*Making Room* by Ed Robb

Thursdays @ 7 PM via Zoom

(see below)

Dec 17th

This study explores the warmth of welcome at Christmas following interactions with the Holy Family, The Shepherds, and the Magi. Learn how to make room in your heart for God and neighbor this Christmas.



The book can be found at [cokesbury.com](http://cokesbury.com) or on Google Playbooks

Join us and invite a friend!

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Here is the zoom invite

Rob Apgar-Taylor is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Making Room Advent Study

Time: Dec 3, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Thu, 3 occurrence(s)

Dec 3, 2020 07:00 PM

Dec 10, 2020 07:00 PM

Dec 17, 2020 07:00 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZErdOmqrDkoG9R8ajphDIJZ4Uepo7nZ_WMm/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGtqDgqGNaxShiHRpwMBIjCc-rznpnBjfpvxvB7vEyh3SynMYtdHlr0oHuLv

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85630222210?pwd=UHJaR1pOMjMxUIF2aGVrSEJZa3VIQT09>

Meeting ID: 856 3022 2210

Passcode: 968920



Order and dedicate a
Poinsettia for Advent or
Make a donation to the
Frederick Food Bank

As we look to the advent and Christmas season, we normally look to poinsettias in memory or honor of a loved one. This year has been a different year so we are doing things a bit differently. We will have a limited number of poinsettias in the chancel (probably 12 or so); but, with restrictions the way they are, it seems silly to order 40 poinsettias for a nearly empty church with no Church tour and frankly no way to deliver them to shut-ins afterward. If you would like a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one, you are welcome to have that be one of our 12.

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**To DEDICATE a POINSETTIA**

Email [admin@grucc.com](mailto:admin@grucc.com) First come first serve for the 12 poinsettias.

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**POINSETTIAS are from The Dutch Plan Farm
Red 6.5" Pot Single Plant/Multi-Bloom Poinsettia - \$11.00
They are decorating the altar for Advent and Christmas.**

or MAIL THIS PAGE TO THE CHURCH OFFICE WITH YOUR CHECK

Name: _____ email: _____ ph# _____

How many? _____ 6.5" pot(s) at \$11 each = \$ _____ TOTAL

Dedicated to: _____

By: _____

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*BUT..... this year has caused great hardship for people in our community. What I am recommending is that instead of poinsettias, you donate the cost (or more) of the poinsettia to the church and we will make a donation in that amount to the Frederick Food Bank.*

(see next page)

# **Frederick Food Bank**

<https://www.cityoffrederickmd.gov/462/Food-Bank-Program>

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To PLEDGE your DONATION to the Frederick Food Bank

Email admin@grucc.com to pledge a donation
to the Frederick Food Bank and dedicate your donation.

Or make your **donation by check and mail** to the church office or go to
<http://www.grucc.com/giving.html> and use the **PayPal** button.

or MAIL THIS PAGE TO THE CHURCH OFFICE WITH YOUR CHECK

Name: _____ **email:** _____ **ph#** _____

Frederick Food Bank Donation amount: \$ _____ **TOTAL**

Dedicated to: _____

By: _____

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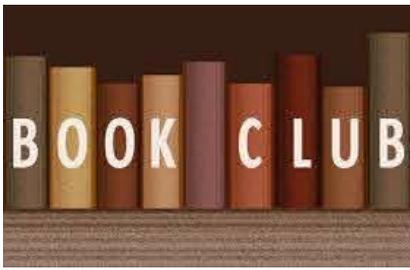
*Flowers are lovely, but we can easily give \$400 to help feed people this way.  
And this year there is such need.*

*So if you'd like a poinsettia, by all means!*

*But, if you really don't care about a poinsettia and you'd like to still donate,  
we will gladly make the donation in memory or honor of your loved one.*

*Thanks! Pastor Rob*





**Grace UCC  
(Virtual) Book Club  
Wednesdays @ 7PM**

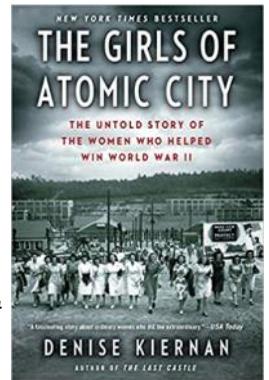
*Join us if you'd like to socialize, stretch your mind, or just leave the daily grind of life behind for a bit.*

*We start a new book at the beginning of December.*

Book title:  
**The Girls of Atomic City  
by Denise Kiernan**

*An incredible true story of the top-secret World War II town of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and the young women brought there unknowingly to help build the atomic bomb.*

*At the height of World War II, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, was home to 75,000 residents, and consumed more electricity than New York City, yet it was shrouded in such secrecy that it did not appear on any map. Thousands of civilians, many of them young women from small towns across the U.S., were recruited to this secret city, enticed by the promise of solid wages and war-ending work. What were they actually doing there? Very few knew. The purpose of this mysterious government project was kept a secret from the outside world and from the majority of the residents themselves.*



*Drawing from the voices and experiences of the women who lived and worked in Oak Ridge, The Girls of Atomic City rescues a remarkable, forgotten chapter of World War II from obscurity. Denise Kiernan captures the spirit of the times through these women: their pluck, their desire to contribute, and their enduring courage*

Please Email the church office at [admin@grucc.com](mailto:admin@grucc.com) to be added to the list for email notices.  
***Look for your all church email or check the church website for zoom link.***

Questions? Contact Missy Moxley at: [nehoneybee@gmail.com](mailto:nehoneybee@gmail.com)  
or Doris Moxley at: [Dorismoxley@gmail.com](mailto:Dorismoxley@gmail.com)

# Candlelight Tour of Historic Houses of Worship

Presented By [VISIT FREDERICK](#)



This year's annual Candlelight Tour of Historic Houses of Worship in Downtown Frederick will not take place in the same way it typically would. However, Visit Frederick is excited to share that a special encore presentation of the tour's anniversary special will be available on the Visit Frederick page beginning on December 14, 2020!

Virtual Event will launch December 14 at 9am, and can be viewed here: <https://www.visitfrederick.org/events/annual-events/historic-houses-of-worship/>

This special tour celebrates Frederick's tradition of religious diversity, local history, and the holiday season. This is a free virtual presentation and is a great opportunity to peek inside some of its most beautiful buildings.

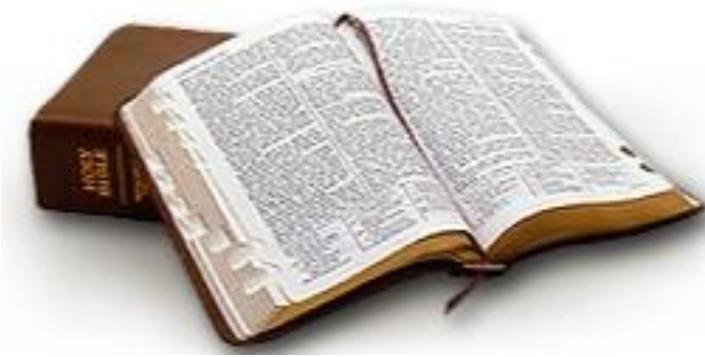
*The Candlelight Tour of Historic Houses of Worship is made possible through the generous support of:*

*The Plamondon Companies, Tourism Council of Frederick County, Inc., Bella Trattoria, Pistarro's, Ayse Meze Lounge, Brewer's Alley, Isabella's Taverna & Tapas bar, PNC Bank, and Everedy Square & Shab Row.*

Visit Frederick is working diligently to design the webpage that will be hosting the links to your wonderful videos.

We have also created a Facebook Event that can be seen and shared, this can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/728530584458489/> . The Facebook event will run December 14-28.

This event marks our 34<sup>th</sup> annual tour!



**Sunday, December 13, 2020: Third Sunday of Advent**

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

**Monday, December 14, 2020:** Psalm 125; 1 Kings 18:1-18; Ephesians 6:10-17

**Tuesday, December 15, 2020:** Psalm 125; 2 Kings 2:9-22; Acts 3:17-4:4

**Wednesday, December 16, 2020:** Psalm 125; Malachi 3:16-4:6; Mark 9:9-13

**Thursday, December 17, 2020:** Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; 2 Samuel 6:1-11;  
Hebrews 1:1-4

**Friday, December 18, 2020:** Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; 2 Samuel 6:12-19;  
Hebrews 1:5-14

**Saturday, December 19, 2020:** Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Judges 13:2-24;  
John 7:40-52

**Sunday, December 20, 2020: Fourth Sunday of Advent**

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55; or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26;  
Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38



## *Grace United Church of Christ*

*An Open and Affirming Congregation*  
25 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Frederick, Maryland, 21701  
301-662-3312 ~ Office Hours: 9AM-3PM/M-F  
[admin@grucc.com](mailto:admin@grucc.com) ~ [www.grucc.com](http://www.grucc.com)

|                                                           |                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rev. Dr. Rob Apgar-Taylor, Pastor                         | <a href="mailto:pastorrob@grucc.com">pastorrob@grucc.com</a>         |
| Jessica Townsley, Youth Minister                          |                                                                      |
| Jonas Dawson, Director of Music                           | <a href="mailto:music@grucc.com">music@grucc.com</a>                 |
| James Taylor, Bell Choir Director                         | <a href="mailto:bells@grucc.com">bells@grucc.com</a>                 |
| Taylor Whidden, Jennie Huntoon, Donald Toms, James Taylor |                                                                      |
| Choir Section Leaders                                     |                                                                      |
| Joan Princler, Nursery Attendant                          | <a href="mailto:joan.dancer@comcast.net">joan.dancer@comcast.net</a> |
| Mat Lutman, Caretaker                                     | <a href="mailto:trainhouse13@gmail.com">trainhouse13@gmail.com</a>   |
| Sarah Petermann, Church Admin                             | <a href="mailto:admin@grucc.com">admin@grucc.com</a>                 |

### SUNDAY WORSHIP – 11:00 AM — Virtual

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of every month.

### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Scripture Reader: ONLINE  
Children's Message: N/A  
Children's Church: N/A  
Altar Guild: N/A

*If you would like to serve as a greeter, or host fellowship time after worship, please add your name to the sign up sheet in the Good Shepherd Room.*

**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

