December 26, 2021  First Sunday after Christmas  10:00 A.M.

GATHERING MUSIC AND WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

CALL TO WORSHIP
Don Schmidt
Leader: Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy, which shall be for all people.

People: God has visited us; day has dawned upon us. For unto us a child is born this day, who is Christ the Lord.

Leader: The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who dwelt in darkness, on them light has shined. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and goodwill toward all!

*GATHERING HYMN #246 (red hymnal)
Joy to the World

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND LORD’S PRAYER

O God, we confess that we have sinned against you and one another. We make no room for Christ, and fail to welcome him. We turn the poor away and tell them we have no room for them. We sing sweet songs of Christ’s birth long ago, but we do not rejoice over his continued presence. God, who loves us and all the world, heal our wounded hearts. Forgive us and make us new. Help us to believe and share the Good News of Jesus Christ, born to us and given for us, in love and mercy. Hear as we pray in words that Jesus taught us:

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.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

RESPONSIVE PSALM 148

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*SONG OF PRAISE #238

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTIAN LETTER

Colossians 3:12-17

As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you
were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**GOSPEL**

Luke 2:41-52

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day’s journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends.

When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, ‘Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.’ He said to them, ‘Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?’ But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

**SERMON**

One: Our God is still speaking.  
**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Pastor Chip**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer

*Sung Response #2200 (black book)*

> O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me.
> O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come, and listen to me.

**OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES**

Invitation to Give

*Doxology #254*

> O star of wonder, star of light, star of royal beauty bright,
> Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

*Prayer of Dedication*

*PARTING HYMN #240 (red hymnal)*

> Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

**BENEDICTION**

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #251*

> Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
> Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

**FOLLOWING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD**

**MUSIC FOR SENDING FORTH**

* All who are able to stand, may do so.
The altar flowers this morning are given to the Glory of God by the church.

Welcome Visitors! Is this your first visit to United Church? Please sign our Guest Pad located in the Narthex. Immediately after the service, we invite you to continue down the central hallway and join us for Fellowship and Refreshment in our Fellowship Hall.

MINISTERING TO YOU TODAY

Senior Pastor: The Rev. Wallace A Hurd IV
Associate Pastor: The Rev. Paul Nesbit
Interim Music Director: Roberta Morkin
Technical and Artistic Director: Deb Trimble
Ushers: Jim Trimble
Greeters: Edna Colcord and Joyce Emerle

Please Pray For: Kathy Wheatley, Alice Belsky, Ross Karlson, Joe G., Tom, the Family of Audrey Hunt, Helene Pickett, the Gatchell family, Tim and family, Theresa Munn, Herb Vieira, Kathy and family, Daniel, Catherine, Lynne, Terry, Ray, Theresa, Ann, Jane Godfrey, Shey McAbee, Sharon McAbee, Patti Keiser, Sue Pereira, Bev Sawyer, Kathie Birkhaeuser. The victims of violence and their families in our country. Our troops, our country and our world.

To contact the church, please email:

Aimee Walat, Administrative Assistant (admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)
Pastor Chip (pastor@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)
Rev. Paul (christianed@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)

This Week at Wilbraham United Church

OFFICE CLOSED MONDAY DECEMBER 27 – THURSDAY DECEMBER 30

Friday, December 31
12pm-3pm Office Hours for last minute 2021 giving

Sunday, January 2
10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship (Sanctuary & Facebook Live)
Please bring a mask
Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
4. He rules the world with truth and grace,

Let earth receive her King; let
Let all their songs employ; while
nor thorns infest the ground; he
and makes the nations prove the

ev - ery heart prepare him room,
fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
comes to make his blessings flow
glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness,
and heaven and nature sing, and
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
as the curse is found, as the curse is found,
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,

heaven, and heaven, and nature sing,
peat, repeat the sounding joy.
as, far as the curse is found.
wonders, wonders of his love.

sing, joy, found, love,
Refrain

Glo - - - - - - - - - - - - - - ri-a,

in ex-cel-sis De-o! Glo

ri-a, in ex-cel-sis De-o!
O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.

When I call, answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer. O

Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.
Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;"
   peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!
   Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
   with the angelic hosanna claim, "Christ is born in Beth-le-hem!"

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
   late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
   Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate Deity,
   pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emanuel.

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
   Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
   Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
   born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

Refrain

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"