

UNION CHURCH OF HINSDALE

137 S. Garfield Avenue, Hinsdale, IL 60521 • UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Love Actually

First Sunday of Advent
10:00 A.M. Worship Service
November 30, 2025

Our Welcoming Statement, adopted January 28, 2024:

We are all called by God as disciples of Christ. We affirm & welcome all persons as precious to God, just as they are. As a community of faith, in the service of God, we are enriched by our differences including diversity of gender identity & expression, age, marital & economic status, ethnicity, sexual orientation, race, and physical & mental abilities and qualities. We affirm that the Holy Spirit gathers us as a congregation in which all persons are invited to participate equally in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, concerns, & joys of our community of faith. We pledge to love, encourage, & support one another as the Body of Christ.

As Union Church, one of our core commitments is:

We find meaning, and ultimately peace, through our shared commitment for justice and community outreach

You are welcome here!



PRESERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME AND LIFE OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY

Rev. Grant Glowiak

PRELUDE

O Come Little Children

arr. Bish

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We are always looking for evidence that God is with us.

All: That sign is in the One to come--the One that God is sending.

One: We want to know for sure that everything is in God's care.

All: And so we cry to the heavens in our distress. Our cries are heard! God is responding in love and hope.

One: Let us come before God with expectant hearts and spirits!

All: Let us be ready to receive the blessed gift of the Savior.

*** HYMN #104**

We Hail You God's Anointed

*** INVOCATION PRAYER**

Waiting God, as we begin in this Holy season may we pause often and give thanks for your amazing love. May we be mindful that during this season there are so many that are hoping, hurting, and helping. Open our eyes, that we would see what you see and give us the courage to reach forward and demonstrate your love in our actions and words. In your wonderful and precious presence we pray, Amen.

*** RESPONSE # 793**

Glory to God in the Highest

Haas

(Soloist sings, congregation joins second time)

Glory to God in the highest, sing glory to God.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

ADVENT HYMN

Light the Candle

(Advent 1 - choir sings, congregation joins second time – music on next page)

INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER

PRAYER SONG

Waiting for You

Grundy

(Soloist sings, congregation joins second time)

We are waiting for you, knowing that you always abide.

***We are waking to your presence and our hearts are open wide,
open wide, open wide***

PASTORAL PRAYER, ENDING WITH A PRAYER WE LEARNED FROM JESUS

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 sins as we forgive those who sin 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.

ANTHEM

Come to Set Us Free

Lloyd Larson

Chancel Choir

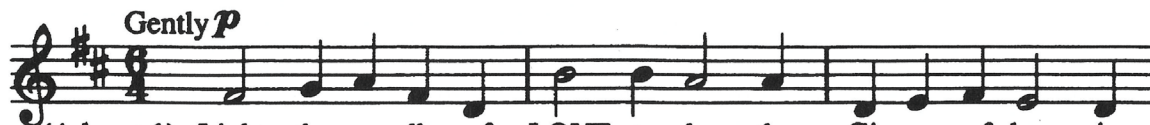
* = Those who are able and willing, please stand

An Advent Candlelighting Carol

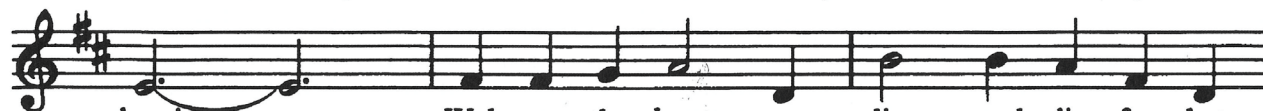
Light the Candle

Jaroslav J. Vajda

Carl Schalk



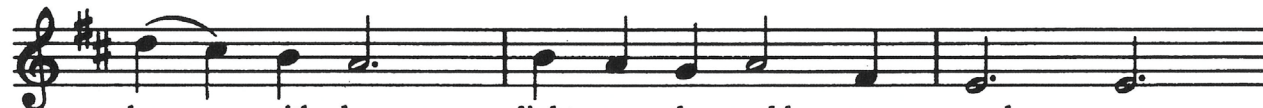
(Advent 1) Light the can-dle of LOVE to-day, the Giv-er of love is
 (Advent 2) Light the can-dle of PEACE to-day, the Giv-er of peace is
 (Advent 3) Light the can-dle of JOY to-day, the Giv-er of joy is
 (Advent 4) Light the can-dle of HOPE to-day, the Giv-er of hope will
 (Christmas) Light the can-dle of CHRIST to-day, the Giv-er of light is



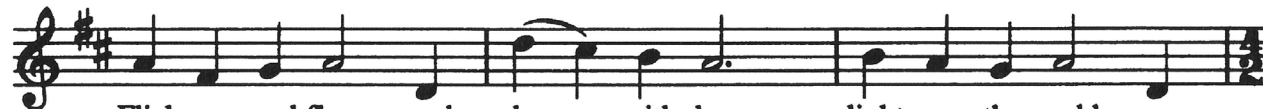
here! _____ Wel-come the love we live and die for, but
 here! _____ Wel-come the peace we fight and cry for, but
 here! _____ Wel-come the joy we crave and pray for, but
 come! _____ Wel-come the hope we long and wait for, but
 here! _____ Wel-come the light we grope and sigh for, but



on - ly Christ can give. _____ Flick - er and flame and
 on - ly Christ can give. _____ Flick - er and flame and
 on - ly Christ can give. _____ Flick - er and flame and
 on - ly Christ can give. _____ Flick - er and flame and
 on - ly Christ can give. _____ Flick - er and flame and



glow _____ with love, light up the world a - round you.
 glow _____ with peace, light up the world a - round you.
 glow _____ with joy, light up the world a - round you.
 glow _____ with hope, light up the world a - round you.
 glow _____ with light, light up the world a - round you.



Flick-er and flame and glow _____ with love, light up the world a -
 Flick-er and flame and glow _____ with peace, light up the world a -
 Flick-er and flame and glow _____ with joy, light up the world a -
 Flick-er and flame and glow _____ with hope, light up the world a -
 Flick-er and flame and glow _____ with light, light up the world a -

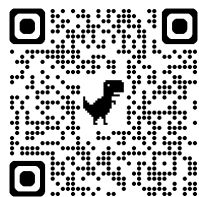


round _____ you. _____
 round _____ you. _____
 round _____ you. _____
 round _____ you. _____
 round _____ you. _____



CHILDREN DEPART FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

OFFERING



Zelle (preferred)

Please memo designated fund/special offering

*At this time, also please sign and pass the Attendance Sheets –
they help us care for members & welcome visitors.*

*For e-giving, use the QR code on the right for Zelle (no transaction fees),
the QR code on the left to give through Realm, or text "GIVEUCH" to 73256.*

Thank you for contributing to the life & work of Union Church!



* HYMN #109

With Joy Draw Water

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 24:36-44

David Hess

SERMON

Love Actually

Rev. Timothy C. Rhodes

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

* HYMN #110

Now Bless the God of Israel

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

FLOWERS - Today's flowers are given in loving memory of Gayle Trask and Donald Trask by their daughters, Nancy Trask and Elizabeth Jung and their families.

STAFF AND WORSHIP LEADERS

*(h = he/him/his, s = she/her/hers, t = they/them/theirs)**

Bridge Pastor – Timothy C. Rhodes (h)

Dir. of Christian Education – Penny Johnson (s)

Section Leaders

Associate Pastor – Grant Glowiak (h/t)

Dir. of Audio & Visual Media – Adam Nakutis (h)

Manda Gervase (s)

Associate Pastor – Robb Knuepfer (h)

Dir. of Handbells – Elizabeth Jung (s)

Tierra Whetstone-Christian (s)

Dir. of Music & Worship – Stephen C Edwards (h/t)

Organist – Oliver Townsend (h)

Adam Fane (h)

9:00 a.m. Worship Leader – Bree Gordon

Jess Koehn (h)

Ushers –Christy Weimer, Randy Weimer

Trap Set – Kalyan Pathak (h)

Guitar – Andrew Sudhibhasilp (h)

* Go to <https://tinyurl.com/ymabnh5t> for a guide to gender identity terms

Bass – Ben Dillinger(h)

RESTROOMS

To find the gender-neutral restroom, exit through the main doors of the *Sanctuary* into *The Gathering Place*. Follow the glass doors on your left until a hallway opens on your left. It is a few steps down that hallway on your right.

Gendered restrooms are located just off The Gathering Place – complete with changing tables on the lower and main levels.

FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH

We welcome children and their energy in all aspects of worship! We're glad you're here!

Is it helpful for your child to move around? Consider sitting near the Narthex (under the balcony) and using that space. Also, help yourself to the red activity bags hanging in the Narthex designed to educate and engage the youngest amongst us.

For Sunday School, Children K - 5th grade will begin in the Sanctuary with their families. Later, the children will leave and go upstairs to our Sunday School space, returning before the last song. There is always Sunday School & nursery care for younger children (under 5) in classroom 129 on the lower level during the 10am service. You may drop off children before the service.

Don't hesitate to ask an usher for help!

GENEROSITY CORNER

UNABASHED GRATITUDE

In the third week of our Unabashed Gratitude series, we focus on The Ministry for Change which is led by James Roeschlein. Every month The Ministry for Change partners with DuPage PADS to feed over 250 guests who are homeless at the interim housing center in Downers Grove.

DuPage County is one of the wealthiest counties in Illinois, but it is also home to the second largest food insecure population in the state. Hinsdale Community Services Family Services provides over 500,000 meals to men, women and children at risk of hunger in our community. They assist over 400 people each week.

Below are upcoming opportunities to show our Unabashed Gratitude by sharing what God has given us with those who are less fortunate.

- Humboldt Park Soup Kitchen meets weekly in the church kitchen to cook and then deliver the soup to area churches
- Church members prepare food on the 4th Tuesday evening of the month at DuPage PADS shelter for the homeless in Downers Grove
- Dec 21st @ 11:15a - the Night Ministry's will make sandwiches and provide approximately 150 sack lunches monthly to children and families in need. This recurs every 3rd Sunday and it's a commitment of less than 2hrs.
- Eleanor's Stocking - stuffs stockings with winter items such as gloves and caps for our neighbors in need on Sunday, December 7th after both the 9am and 10am services
- Bring in mittens, scarves, and gloves to benefit the children of our Mission Ministries, Nov 30, 2025 – Jan 6, 2026.

SPECIAL THANKSGIVING OFFERING

THE NIGHT MINISTRY

For our Thanksgiving Offering this year, we encourage you to make a special contribution to our Ministry for Change partner, The Night Ministry of Chicago.

Homelessness and poverty can be incredibly isolating and lonely experiences. The Night Ministry works to address these needs by providing youth engagement Services, working to meet and build relationships with youth and young adults experiencing homelessness.

Union Church been a long-term supporter of The Night Ministry, both giving monetary support, and providing sandwiches for distribution monthly. The need is elevated now because recent government funding cuts will reduce the Ministry's ability to purchase and distribute food. In addition, many of the Ministry's clients depend on SNAP benefits for nutritional support, and these benefits are also being cut

1) Give online through the church website. On the giving page, under "fund," select either "Thanksgiving Offering – The Night Ministry" (all amounts donated under this selection will be donated to The Night Ministry) or "Thanksgiving Offering - Union Church Ministries" (all amounts donated under this selection will be shared by ministries of the church generally) and complete the rest of the information. To give to both, please complete two separate donation transactions.

2) Deposit a check in the offering basket during service OR send in a check. If some or all of your donation is intended for The Night Ministry, please tell the church office of the split in the memo line or in a separate note. If all of your gift is intended solely for Union Church, just send the check.

CHURCH NEWS

SENIOR MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Senior Minister Search Committee wrapped up their multi-week training on Sunday, November 9th, and elected the following positions:

Co-Chairs - Trayce Biancalana, Chris Chacko, Lavina Gross

Chaplains - Jake Haunty and Anne Langguth

Secretary - Jake Haunty

Corresponding Secretary - Tom Shively

Co-Communicators - Chase Culbertson and Anne Langguth

Karen Botsoe and Joel Pundmann will support each member in their roles and contribute meaningfully to the search process.

Each member is excited to embark on this journey and now moves on to Search & Call Meetings with Rev. Shernell Edney Stilley of the Illinois Conference United Church of Christ, who oversees pastoral transitions. Please continue to keep the entire committee in your prayers.

2026 MINISTRY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

We need your talents and contributions! We are currently recruiting for 2026 members to all UCH Ministries. There are many ways to get involved, and a wide variety of interests, experience and talents needed. Please take a look at the ministry descriptions linked in the weekly newsletter and think about where you can join. Contact information is included for each ministry, and we would be happy to answer any questions. You may also contact Erin Keyser Norton, emkn312@gmail.com, with any questions.

FOR EVERYONE

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! "UNION EXPRESS" WINTER EVENT

Help us make UCECP's "Union Express" winter event on Friday, December 12 truly magical for our families! We're seeking volunteers for:

- Set-Up: 2:00-4:00 PM
- Event Stations (crafts, treats, and more): 4:00-6:00 PM
- Takedown: 6:00-7:00 PM



Please use the QR code on the right to choose the volunteer spot (or spots) that fit your schedule and interests. All assistance is greatly appreciated. Please contact Marissa Schultz, Marissa.c.schultz@gmail.com with any questions.

RUDOLPH'S BOUTIQUE: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



December 6, 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in the Dining Room

At Rudolph's Boutique, children can shop to find Christmas gifts for their families and friends. We are collecting new and gently used items that will bring a smile to someone's face when a child proudly presents their gift. Collection bins can be found in the Gathering Place outside of the Sanctuary.

Youth helpers: We are also looking for middle schoolers and high schoolers to assist our young shoppers while parents/guardians enjoy coffee and snacks upstairs in the Gathering Place. Adult helpers, we need your help with setup, sorting items, gift wrapping, and checkout. Please scan the QR code on the left for volunteer signups.

POINSETTIAS

Christmas is coming...SOON! Again, we are taking orders for poinsettias. Forms can be found throughout the building to be filled out and turned in with payment to Adriana in the church office by December 15! If you are more of an online person, you can order poinsettias through our website under the giving tab and by finding "poinsettia" in the dropdown menu. The poinsettia cost is \$25.00. This is a wonderful way to honor or memorialize your loved ones and/or gift a plant to loved ones.

All those honored and memorialized will be included in our Christmas Eve bulletins along with their donors' names. Help us make the Union Church Sanctuary even more beautiful for Christmas Eve! Members of the Worship Ministry will be available for taking poinsettia orders in the Gathering Place after the worship services December 7 and December 14.

If you have ordered a poinsettia plant and have indicated you want to take it home, you may do so after the 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

Music

CAMERATA CHICAGO ORCHESTRA AND CHOIR: HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Sunday, December 14, 3:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary



Enjoy the outstanding musical artistry of the Ensemble-in-Residence Camerata Chicago Orchestra and Choir, Ensemble-in-Residence!

Join us for a family friendly performance which will include a Hallelujah Chorus sing along! We welcome Delta David Gier, guest conductor and soloists: Emily

Richter, Lauren Decker, Daniel Espinal and Laureano Quant.

Please use the QR code to purchase tickets. UCH members Use coupon code **UCOH** for a **15% DISCOUNT**. Discount for online purchases only.

Handel's Messiah

Delta David Gier, Conductor



3 pm December 14
Union Church, Hinsdale

