

## December 19, 2021

(\*\*Indicates, please stand as able)

Prelude Flo Harner and Carol Stewart, piano-organ duet  
"God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen" arr. by Gail Leven Pollock

Greeting/Life of the Church Pastor Andy Wagner

Introit Chancel Choir

\*\*Call to Worship

L: Before the majesty of God, we gather to worship; in quiet expectation, we come to hear God's promises.

**P: This is where we belong; here we are warmly greeted. Surely God will feed our deepest hunger.**

L: Before God's strength and power, we bow down; in hesitant anticipation, we listen for God's judgment.

**P: This is our home, where our lives are redirected. Surely God will show us new ways to live.**

L: Before the mercy of God, we lift our hearts; in humble imagination, we welcome a new visitation.

**P: This day God is present with us; we feel it. Surely God is preparing for us a time of joy.**

\*\*Opening Hymn "Angels We Have Heard on High" UMH#238

Opening Prayer (unison)

**Holy God, whose coming to us in Jesus Christ we celebrate with joy and whose mercy is from generation to generation, visit us today to restore our memory of all your goodness to us. Trample our vanities and lift up our crushed and timid spirits so we all can participate fully and equally in the inheritance we have received from your hand. Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Chad and Karen Mossing

Prayer Hymn "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" (see insert)

Prayers of the Faithful & the Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Worship with Tithes and Offerings

Flo Harner and Carol Stewart, piano duet  
Offertory "Still, Still, Still" Austrian

\*\*Doxology UMH #95

\*\*Prayer of Dedication Pastor Andy Wagner

**God, we bring our gifts to you with cheerfulness and a joyful heart. Grant that with our gifts we may also offer a ready mind and a willing spirit to show forth in our lives the truth of the Gospel. Amen.**

\*\*Gospel Lesson Luke 3: 39-45

L: The Word of God for the People of God.

**P: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Ministry of Music Chancel Choir  
"What Is This Brightness Shining" John Purifoy

Sermon "Leaping for Joy" Pastor Andy Wagner

\*\*Closing Hymn "Joy to the World" UMH#246

Sending Forth

Choral Benediction Chancel Choir

\*\*Postlude Flo Harner and Carol Stewart, piano-organ duet  
"The First Noel" arr. by Gail Leven Pollock



*Altar Flowers are given by Gary & Chris Allen in memory of Jennifer Burdick and Brad Huffman.*

# DECEMBER

Monday 20	Men of Faith Cub Scouts Boy Scouts	6:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Rm 16 A-B Rm 15 A-B Rm 15C
Tuesday 21	Xenia Winter Guard Mission Outreach Girl Scouts	3:30 pm 3:30 pm 6:00 pm	FCC Rm 8 Rm 15 A,B,C 16 A
Wednesday 22	Cancer Support Handbell Practice Praise Band Practice Choir Practice	12:00 pm 6:15 pm 7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Parlor Music Room FCC Sanctuary
Thursday 23	Prayer Shawl Magic Volleyball Game	11:00 am 6:00 pm	Parlor FCC
Friday 24	<b>OFFICE</b> Christmas Eve Worship	<b>CLOSED</b> 8:30 pm	Sanctuary
Saturday 25			
Sunday 26	Traditional Worship Sunday School Contemporary Worship	9:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am	Sanctuary Rm 11, 15 C, 16A, Parlor, Library FCC

## Sunday School Studies

**Double I** meet in 15C, Leader Wayne Cook, study of **"The Heart That Grew Three Sizes."**

**Open Doors** meet in Parlor, Leader Sandy Pramer study **"The Heart That Grew Three Sizes."**

**Friends & Followers** meet in the Library, Leader Chad Mossing.

**Grades 6-12** will meet in Rm 16 A-B, Leader Joyce Smith.

**Preschool – Grade 5** Join the children in Rm 11 under the leadership of Kiley Fleming and Karen Mossing for Bible Stories and activities to reinforce the Bible Story of the day.

## Leaping For Joy



**FAITH Community**  
Sharing Faith, Building Community

Rev. Andy Wagner  
(937) 372-7601 ext. 13

[pastorandy@fcum.org](mailto:pastorandy@fcum.org) ♦ [www.fcum.org](http://www.fcum.org)

Like and Follow us on Facebook @ FCUM.Xenia  
**We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation**

## December 19, 2021

### Worship Team

Ushers	Bob Whipp, Rick Smith, Edward Stidham, Grant Smith
Greeters	Paul Pinkerton, Virginia Pinkerton
Liturgist	Chad Mossing
Acolytes	Micah Fleming, Will Mossing
Organist	Carol Stewart
Bell Director	Jim McPeck
Choir Director	Glen Shaw

## Gospel Lesson – Luke 3: 39-45

### Mary Visits Elizabeth

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

### Announcements

**CAROLING OPPORTUNITY:** If you haven't had a chance to go caroling this year, several of us plan to meet at the church **TODAY, Sunday, December 19 at 4:00 p.m.**, to sing to our neighbors in the condos adjacent to the church. We expect to be done within an hour. Please join us and feel free to spread the word. All are welcome!

**CALLING ALL MEN!:** All men in Greene County are invited and welcome to join our group. The Men of Faith will be meeting **December 20th at 6:00 PM** in rooms 16 A & B. Each person will bring his own meal and beverage. We will have a social time during the meal. The program will start at 7:00 PM with the election and installation of officers for 2022. We will then sing Christmas Carols followed by communion in the Chapel. Come at 7:00 PM if you want to come just for the program. Hope to see you there and you may bring a friend.

**MATERIALS TO HELP MAKE A DIFFICULT CHRISTMAS EASIER:** Our Stephen Ministry team wants you to know that there is literature available to help those who are grieving or who feel that Christmas might be difficult for them this year. Care Notes can be found in the narthex and in the Community Center. There is also a table filled with helpful items in the narthex across from the parlor. Please help yourselves and consider taking some for others.



### Week 4 – The Candle of Joy

The Prophet Isaiah, in 35:10, promised, "The ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

An angel of the Lord proclaimed to shepherds in the field, "Behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

Happiness is fleeting, but not joy. Joy is not based on the circumstances of this world but comes as a gift from God, a benefit of our salvation in Jesus Christ. With hearts filled with a joy that comes only from God, we light the candle of joy.

Let us pray.

God of our salvation, in the gift of Jesus Christ you have redeemed us, turning all of our sorrow into joy.

May we always be rejoicing in the peace, hope, and love that you have given us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

### Next Sermon – Sunday, December 26

"In My Father's House"  
Gospel Lesson

Pastor Andy Wagner  
Luke 2: 41-52

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## God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen 3052



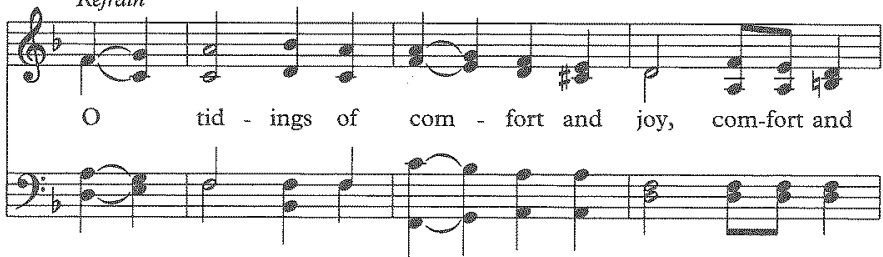
1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may,
2. In Beth - le - hem in Ju - dah this bless - ed babe was born,
3. From God our heav - en - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came,
4. The shep - herds at those tid - ings re - joic - ed much in mind,
5. Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,



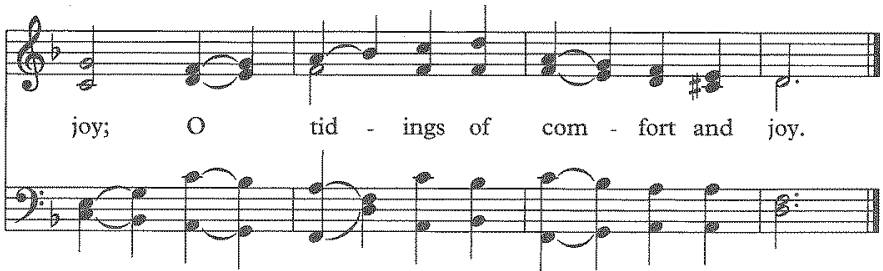
for Je - sus Christ our Sav - ior was born up - on this day,  
and laid with - in a man - ger up - on this bless - ed morn:  
and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same,  
and left their flocks a - feed - ing in tem - pest, storm, and wind,  
and with true love and broth - er - hood each oth - er now em - brace;



to save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.  
for which his moth - er Ma - ry did noth - ing take in scorn.  
how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.  
and went to Beth - le - hem straight - way, the bless - ed babe to find.  
this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas all oth - ers doth de - face.

*Refrain*

O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and



joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy.

WORDS: Traditional English carol, 18th cent.  
MUSIC: Traditional English melody

GOD REST YOU MERRY  
Irr. with Refrain



## CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

ALL ARE WELCOME

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

We will have our regular **CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**  
with music at 8:30pm and Service at 9:00pm.



## God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen 3052



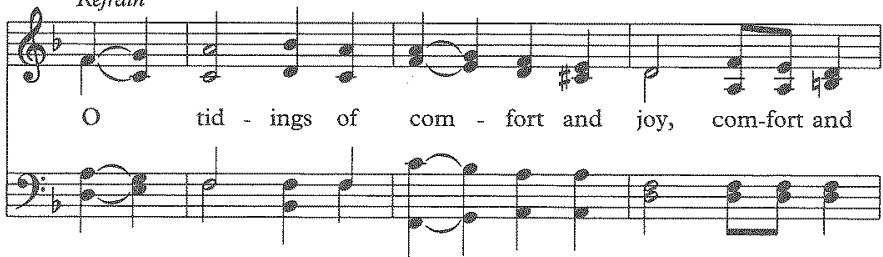
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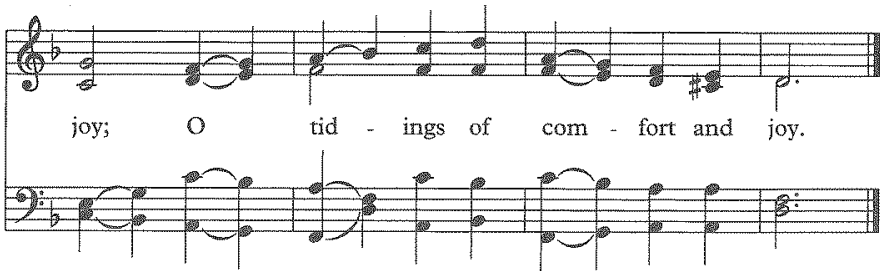
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