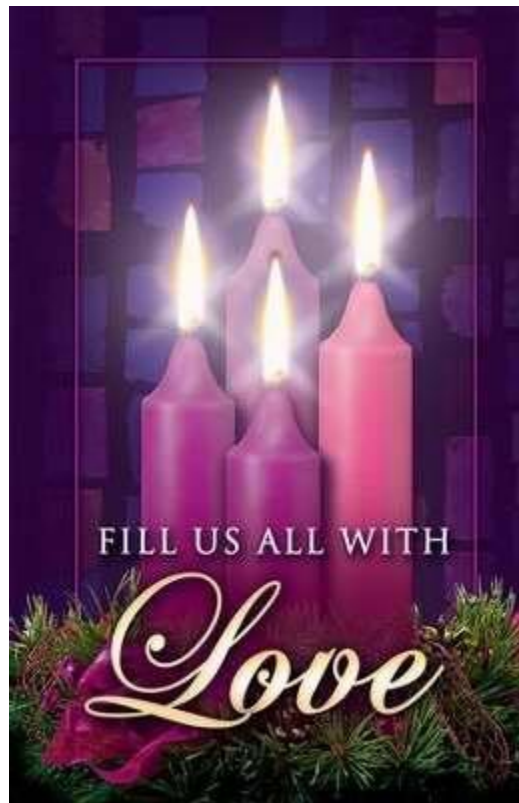




118 W. Ashley Street, Jefferson City, MO 65101  
Phone: 635-1041 E-mail: [office@centralucc.com](mailto:office@centralucc.com)  
Website: [www.centralucc.com](http://www.centralucc.com)



**December 20, 2020**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**PRELUDE**

*"In Dulci Jubilo"*

- Drischner

**OPENING HYMN** "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"

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 host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark, the herald angels sing  
"Glory to the new-born King."

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and Life of all He brings,  
Risen with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.  
Hark, the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King."

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Greetings, favored ones. The Lord is with you.  
Greetings, in the name of Christ. God is with us.

**GATHERING PRAYER**

Mighty God, pour out your Holy Spirit on all of us gathered here. As we follow in Mary's footsteps, open our hearts, that we might be filled with your goodness and your love. Amen.

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 1:26-38  
Romans 16:25-27

**SPECIAL MUSIC** "The Shadows Are Falling (Tyrolean Carol)"

– Central UCC Choir

**SERMON**

Rev. Dr. Judith Scott

## **\*THE NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost and of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried, and the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; from thence he shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spake by the prophets. In one holy catholic and apostolic Church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

The Nicene Creed, as we know it, actually is named the "Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed." It was produced at the Council of Nicaea (325). It was assumed that the version with which we are familiar was decided upon at the Council of Constantinople (381) with the objective of bringing the Creed of Nicaea up-to-date with regard to heresies about the Incarnation and the Holy Spirit that had arisen since the Council of Nicaea. More recent research suggests that its development is somewhat more complex. The so-called *Filioque* clause (Latin *filioque*, "and the son"), inserted after the words "the Holy Spirit,...who proceeds from the Father," was gradually introduced as part of the creed in the Western church, beginning in the 6<sup>th</sup> century. It was accepted by the papacy in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, and has been retained by the Roman Catholic, Anglican, and Protestant churches; however, the Eastern churches have rejected it on theological grounds and consider it an unauthorized addition to a venerable document.

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

### **OFFERTORY SCRIPTURE**

1 Thessalonians 5:15b "Always seek to do good to one another and to all."

### **CLOSING HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie;  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by:

Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The ever-lasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem!  
Descend to us we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel!

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*"In Dulci Jubilo"*

- Drischner

*(All Hymns and Songs reprinted under CCLI)*

***Our WORSHIP is ended...our SERVICE now begins.***

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Rev. Scott's contact information:

Rev. Dr. Judith Scott  
2407 S. Holloway Road  
Oak Grove, MO 64075  
816-690-0042  
[scottjudy@centurylink.net](mailto:scottjudy@centurylink.net)

Ministers – Every Member  
Pastor – Rev. Dr. Judith Scott  
Young Youth Director/Bell Choir Director – Rene Miserez  
Organist – Shirley Klein

*Please keep each other in prayer, particularly those for whom God's healing touch is of special comfort.*