

# UNITY CHURCH UNIVERSAL

Candlelighting Service

Thursday, December 22, 2016 at 7:00 PM

This Is Your Life!





# Christmas, 2016

Dear Friend,

When Jesus was born his name was a common one in the East. It is the same name in Aramaic as Joshua, which means “savior.” There was no family or last name used at the time; so, to distinguish one Jesus from another the name was tied to the father or to a particular town. He was known as “Jesus, son of Joseph” or “Jesus of Nazareth.” His name was not “Jesus Christ”; Christ is not a last name, but a title which means “the anointed.” Priests, kings, and prophets were anointed. Aaron was anointed a priest of Israel by his brother, Moses; Saul and David were anointed kings by Samuel, and Isaiah was anointed a prophet by the Lord.

In Aramaic, the word for Christ is Misheekha, which means “the anointed.” This word was translated into Greek as Christos which comes from the verb chrio, meaning “to rub with oil”—the way one was anointed. It is a symbol for enlightenment. Whenever you read the word Christ, substitute enlightened and you will have a clearer understanding of the term.

The Christ is not born in the sense that something comes into being that did not exist before. The birth of the Christ is really an awakening or enlightenment that takes place within the individual soul or consciousness. It is an awakening to the divine nature expressing as the true, spiritual, higher self. God’s perfect spiritual man has always been, and will always be, for it is eternal. This spiritual awareness does not come upon us; we awaken to recognize within ourselves what has been since before the foundation of the world—Christ in you the hope of glory!

Matthew said, “Jesus was born, who is called the Christ.” (1:16) Bodies are born, personalities are formed, but the image-likeness of God is not born. The Christ has always been and continues to be “the true light that enlightens every man.” (John 1:9)

It was not Jesus the man who healed the sick or spoke Truth or ministered to the multitudes. It was Jesus “the anointed” or enlightened who healed and spoke and ministered. The anointing has never ended. Just as Isaiah said, “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me” (Isa 61:1), so you can know that the same spirit of

the Lord is upon you. You have within you the Christ just as Jesus had within him. You must look within to recognize your divine origin and birth. When this light dawns, you see yourself and life in a whole new way; not as a mere person, but as a projection of Divine Mind; not only as a physical being, but as Spirit. Jesus the Christ affirmed his true self and that self came into expression. Reveal your Self to yourself by affirming: I AM the Christ, an expression of the living God!

At this time of year, we seem to have a hunger for light—from candles, Christmas trees, and decorations hanging from our homes. How fitting it is that one of the main symbols for the Christmas season is light. It reminds us that we hunger and thirst for enlightenment, to finally glimpse the powers and potentials that have been ours since the beginning. This Christmas, open wide your inner eyes and behold the Spirit of the Lord upon you.

**Merry Christmas!**

Greg Neteler



Rev. Greg W. Neteler, Minister

Rev. Carole Lunde, Co-Minister

Wednesday, December 22, 2016 7:00 PM

## Christmas Candlelighting Service

Rev. Carole Lunde, Soprano Soloist

Lesly Lewandowski, Soprano soloist

The Carray Ensemble:

Eric Williams, Violin - Robin Prinzing, Violin

Monty Carter, Viola - Trilla Ray-Carter, Cello

*Thank you for participating in tonight's service. **Please refrain from applause.** Take care in handling lighted candles. Be aware of your individual candle and those of the people around you. Please assist small children.*

**Prelude**.....The Carray Ensemble

**Video**.....*Breathe Deep*

**Welcome**.....Rev. Greg Neteler

**Hymn**.....O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri-um-phant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Beth-le-hem;  
Come and be-hold Him, born the King of an-gels;  
O come, let us a-dore Him, O come, let us a-dore Him,  
O come, let us a-dore Him, Christ, the Lord!

(Interlude)

Sing, choirs of an-gels, sing in ex-ul-ta-tion,  
O sing, all ye cit-i-zens of heaven a-bove;  
Glo-ry to God, all glo-ry in the high-est;  
O come, let us a-dore Him, O come, let us a-dore Him,  
O come, let us a-dore Him, Christ, the Lord!

(Interlude)

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this hap-py mor-ning,  
Je-sus, to Thee be all glo-ry given;  
Word of the Fa-ther, now in flesh ap-pear-ing;  
O come, let us a-dore Him, O come, let us a-dore Him,  
O come, let us a-dore Him, Christ, the Lord!

## THE CHRIST LIGHT

Minister: *Fiat lux—"Let there be light!"*

Response: **And there was light.**

Minister: *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it—*

Response: **The true light that enlightens everyone who comes into the world.**

Minister: *To all who are receptive to the light and believe in its inner presence.*

Response: **We receive the power to live fully as children of God.**

Minister: *Born, not of physicality, nor of the will of man, but of God. Lumen Christi.*

Response: **Light of the Christ, the light within me.**

Minister: *Christ within you is the light of the world.*

Response: **I AM the light of the world.**

Minister: *Christ within you is the way, and the Truth, and the life.*

Response: **I AM the way, the Truth, and the life.**

Minister: *Christ within you is the bread of life.*

Response: **I AM the bread of life.**

Minister: *From the center of your Being radiate the life, wisdom, and intelligence of Christ. It is for you to remember and call upon it.*

Response: **I call forth the Christ light in all I think, and say, and do.**

Minister: *No one and no thing can extinguish the eternal light within.*

Response: **Only I can impede the light by forgetting my true nature.**

Minister: *Remember and be saved from error's pain and human limits.*

Response: **I remember my true Self—the Christ of God—forever in me.**

Minister: *Fiat Lux! Let there be light!*

Response: **And there is light—first in my mind and heart and then in my world.**

Minister: *The light shines in the darkness and the darkness is no more.  
Lumen Christi—Light of the world!*

Response: **I AM!**

Minister: *Fiat Lux!*

Response: **Let there be Light!**

**The Christ Candle**.....Rev. Greg Neteler

**Solo**.....Rev. Carole Lunde, Soprano  
*O Holy Night - arr. Mark Hayes*

**Christmas Message**.....Rev. Greg Neteler  
*This Is Your Life!*  
*Video: Hymn to Life*

**Meditation**.....Rev. Carole Lunde

**Video**.....Isaiah 9

**Hymn**.....The First Noel

The first No-el, the an-gel did say,  
Was to cer-tain poor shep-herds in fields as thay lay;  
In fields where they lay keep-ing their sheep,  
On a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.

*Refrain:* No-el, No-el, No-el, No-el, Born is the king of Is-ra-el.

They look-ed up and saw a star  
Shin-ing in the east, be-yond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it con-tin-ued both day and night.

*Refrain:* No-el, No-el, No-el, No-el, Born is the king of Is-ra-el.

This star drew nigh, to the north-west,  
O'er Beth-le-hem it took its rest,  
And there it did both stop and stay,  
Right ov-er the place where Je-sus lay,

*Refrain:* No-el, No-el, No-el, No-el, Born is the king...  
Born is the king...  
Born is the king of Is-ra-el.

**Announcements**.....Rev. Carole Lunde

**Offertory Blessing**.....Congregation

*Divine love, through me, blesses and multiplies  
all that I give and all that I receive.*

**Offertory**.....The Carray Ensemble

**Consecration of Offering**.....Rev. Carole Lunde

**Candle Blessings**.....Rev. Greg Neteler

## CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHTING SERVICE

**The Twelve Disciple Candles**.....Rev. Carole Lunde

Minister: *This candle is lit for the disciple: (repeat before each disciple)  
Peter, who represents Faith.*

Response: **The Christ in me is directing my faculty of faith to what is of  
God, good, and Truth. I say, "yes" to God's good.**

Minister: *Andrew, who represents Strength.*

Response: **The Christ in me is directing my faculty of strength in still-  
ness and a right balance in thinking and feeling.**

Minister: *James, son of Zebedee, who represents Judgment.*

Response: **Through Christ in me, I grow in wisdom and judgment and  
I grow in favor with God and man.**

Minister: *John, who represents Love.*

Response: **The infinite love of God is now made manifest in and through  
me.**

Minister: *Philip, who represents spiritual Power.*

Response: **All power is given unto me. I am strong in the Lord and in  
the power of His might.**

Minister: *Bartholomew, who represents Imagination.*

Response: **Through the faculty of imagination I see myself as God sees  
me, perfect, whole, and free.**



Minister: *Thomas, who represents spiritual Understanding.*

Response: **The light of divine understanding allows me to see clearly and take right action.**

Minister: *Matthew, who represents Will.*

Response: **Not my will, but God's will is done through me for the highest good of all. What God wills, He also fulfills.**

Minister: *James, son of Alphaeus, who represents divine Order.*

Response: **By the power and authority of the Christ Spirit, perfect divine order is established in my mind, body, and affairs.**

Minister: *Simon, the Canaanite, who represents Zeal.*

Response: **Guided by the Christ within, I go forward with zeal and enthusiasm to meet my good.**

Minister: *Thaddaeus, who represents Renunciation.*

Response: **Through Christ in me, I release and let go all that no longer serves my highest good.**

Minister: *Judas, who represents generative Life.*

Response: **The pure, unlimited universal life energy of God flows through me in an unending stream.**

**Solo**.....Lesly Lewandowski, Soprano  
*What Child Is This?* - arr. Mark Hayes

**Hymn**.....Silent Night, Holy Night

Sil-ent night, ho-ly night, All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon vir-gin moth-er and child.

Ho-ly in-fant so ten-der and mild,  
Sleep in heav-en-ly peace, Sleep in heav-en-ly peace.

Sil-ent night, ho-ly night, Won-drous star, lend thy light;  
With the an-gels let us sing

Al-le-lu-ia to our King,  
Christ the Sav-ior is born, Christ the Sav-ior is born.

**Carrying the Light Into the World**.....Congregation

*Please proceed to the salt box as directed by ushers.*

*Incidental Music*.....*The Carray Ensemble*

**Benediction and Christmas Greeting**.....Rev. Greg Neteler

*Christmas Greeting - Fra. Giovanni, A.D. 1513*

*O Magnum Mysterium - Lauridsen*..... The Carray Ensemble

Merry Christmas!

Video.....*Hymn to Life Finale*

**Postlude**.....*The Carray Ensemble*

**Special Thanks to All Who Helped to Make This Night Beautiful:**

Rev. Carole Lunde, Sue Edwards, Bud and Jacquelyn Bowles, Bob and Chris Urie, Mike and Anneliese DeJanes, Curt Straub, Chris Hull, Charles Carter, Randy Gist, Esta Broderick, the Carray Ensemble and all of you who added your light to this night!

**We thank all who were able to join us for this event. We trust you were blessed by this service as we were by the power of your added light. A video of this service will be available later at [www.913tracy.org](http://www.913tracy.org) and at our Youtube channel, Unity Church Universal Kansas City. Live streaming of services will continue at our web site of all Sunday services at 11:00 AM CST on January 1 with the Burning Bowl Service. Video streaming of other special services and classes will be announced throughout 2017. Check out our Twitter and Facebook pages from the direct links at our [913tracy.org](http://913tracy.org) home page.**

# UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

**Holiday Office Hours:** The church office will be closed December 23<sup>rd</sup> through January 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you have an urgent need during this time, please call (816) 550-0736 and Sue Edwards or Rev. Greg will get back to you as soon as possible.

**Sunday, December 25.....No Service**  
The Candlelighting Service will be on the website (913tracy.org) available for view on demand instead of a live stream this day.

## Sunday, January 1, 2017

**11:00 AM.....Burning Bowl Service.....Rev. Carole Lunde**  
Start the new year by taking part in this unique and powerful experience. Discover the attitudes and beliefs that no longer serve you, write them down on paper and release them to the transforming flame. During a time of meditation, realize the new good you wish to accept in the coming year. You will be given an opportunity to write these things in a letter, seal it and address it to yourself. If you wish, you may leave it in our prayer box for the entire new year. At the end of 2017, we will mail it back to you.

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*Though Christ a thousand times in Bethlehem  
be born, if he's not born in thee, thy soul is all  
forlorn.*

—Angelus Silesius (1624-77)

*It is more worth to God his being brought  
forth spiritually in the individual virgin or good  
soul than that he was born of Mary bodily.*

—Meister Eckhart (c. 1260-1328)