



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

There's a Song in the Air
Heather Vicevic, soprano ♦ Glenn Basham, violin

Arr. James H. Laster

CALL TO WORSHIP

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #154

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

One: Today is the first Sunday in Advent. It is the beginning of our celebration of the birth of Jesus, who brought light into the lives of all people. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; those who follow me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

All: **(sung) (How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ enters in.)**

One: The Gospel of Matthew tells us that when Jesus was born, a star shone over the place where Mary and Joseph and the baby were. It was so bright it gave light and direction to the sages who had come from the East to worship him. And just as the night didn't seem to be so dark anymore, so Jesus' birth itself brought light of new meaning into the world. That new beginning is the hope that we celebrate this Advent season.

TIME FOR COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the register book to your neighbor.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

O Dayspring
Sanctuary Choir ♦ Glenn Basham, violin

Karen Marrolli

PASTORAL PRAYER AND RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

OT pg. 821 (NRSV)

SERMON

Great Expectations of Hope

Rev. Dr. Dawson B. Taylor

OFFERTORY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Immanuel
Sanctuary Choir ♦ Clayton Morell, soloist ♦ Glenn Basham, violin

Benjamin David Knoedler

LORD'S SUPPER

At this table all are welcome guests. Jesus is our host. We hold the bread and cup until all are served and then we commune together. Our cups contain grape juice. There are gluten-free wafers in the center of each bread plate.

INVITATION

PRAYER OF BLESSING AND 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.

BREAKING AND SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Serenity (Magnum Mysterium)
Chamber Choir ♦ Glenn Basham, violin

**O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the
new-born Lord, lying in a manger! Blessed is the Virgin whose womb
was worthy to bear the Lord, Jesus Christ. Alleluia!**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*RECESSIONAL HYMN #176 *Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates*

TRURO

*WORDS OF BLESSING

*POSTLUDE *Nun komm', der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661*
Savior of the Nations Come

J. S. Bach

If you have a concern and would like a word of prayer or quiet conversation, stop by the parlor after the service for a visit with today's Stephen Minister. The parlor is to the right as you are leaving the sanctuary.

Today we welcome our guest instrumentalist, Glenn Basham, Concertmaster of the Naples Philharmonic His presence is generously underwritten by the Music Gift Fund. And we welcome Alexandra Carlson as our guest accompanist.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION, THE EUCHARIST, THE LORD'S SUPPER

In the United Church of Christ, several terms are used to refer to our sharing of the bread and the cup. Historically, views concerning Communion in our tradition have run the gamut from those who believe that Christ is symbolically present in the blessed bread and cup, to those who believe that we are sharing in a simple memorial meal as Jesus asked us to do "in remembrance of me." It is not unusual for some members of UCC congregations to hold views on Communion which stress the "real" presence of Christ in the bread and the cup (a traditional Roman Catholic view) or to believe that sharing the bread and the cup is a simple way to express our oneness as a faith community. Our theological differences enliven rather than divide.

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP SERVICES:

Rev. Dr. Dawson B. Taylor, Senior Minister

Rev. Dr. David Kaiser-Cross, Executive Minister

Rev. Dr. Deborah Kaiser-Cross, Minister for Congregational Care

Dr. Becky Weese-Rumpf, Director of Music and Organist

Sanctuary Choir

Brad Van Houten, Audiovisual

Advent Wreath Lighters:

9 a.m.: Ronnie Bellone and Jen Rainey

11 a.m.: Ron and Sherry Palmer

GREETERS: 9 a.m.: Provided by the ushers.

11 a.m.: Josephine Morse

USHERS:

9 a.m.: Richard Ryder, head usher; David Bogin, Bob and Louise Brown, June Hart, Carolyn Keller, Dick and Jean Ann Lynch, Joseph Rickard, Katy Serr

11 a.m.: Bill Rumpf, head usher; J Cunha, June Hart, Susan Melick, Bob Miller, Bob Nordland, Richard Ryder, Ron Sanson, Cheryl Turner, Pat Wiedner

STEPHEN MINISTERS: 9 a.m.: Fred Gridley 11 a.m.: Joyce Cameron

Chancel Flowers are given by Cathy Moses in happy, wonderful memory of her husband, Fred, and their parents.

Today in the Gathering Place

- Social Activities Sign ups
- PCA Bake Sale
- NUCC Volunteer Day Sign up
- Art Basel Sign up
- Concert Tickets
- Class Sign ups and book sales

THIS WEEK AT NUCC (DECEMBER 2-9)

- Sunday 12/2** First Sunday of Advent
8 a.m. Cans for Communion Staging Area (MH)
9 a.m. Worship Service (S)
10 a.m. Visitor Information Brunch (N104)
10 a.m. Stephen Ministry Pastoral Care (P)
11 a.m. Worship Service (S)
12 p.m. Visitor Information Brunch (N104)
12 p.m. Stephen Ministry Pastoral Care (P)
- Monday 12/3**
9:30 a.m. Monday Morning Ladies (N104)
9:30 a.m. Campus Christmas Decorating (S)
9:30 a.m. Gentle Yoga with Shannon (MH)
10 a.m. Beginner Mah Jongg Class (N205)
10 a.m. Palette Pals Meeting (N202/N101)
5 p.m. Youth Choir (BH)
5:30 p.m. Winter Retreat Planning Meeting (N101)
- Tuesday 12/4**
3 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry (P)
3 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting (ACR)
5:30 p.m. Board of Christian Education Meeting (N104)
6 p.m. Diaconate Meeting (ACR)
- Wednesday 12/5**
9 a.m. Palette Pals Open Studio (N202)
10 a.m. Chair Yoga (BH)
11 a.m. New Chapters Men's Study Group (N104)
12 p.m. Mid-Week Advent Meditation (S)
1 p.m. Stephen Ministry Meeting (Off-site)
3 p.m. Junior Disciples (N207)
4 p.m. Alleluia Singers (Grades 3 - 5) (BH)
4:45 p.m. Joyful Noise (4yr - 2nd Grade) (BH)
6 p.m. An Evening with Your Pastors (Off site)
7 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (BH/S)
- Thursday 12/6**
7:30 a.m. Into the Everglades Tour and Lunch (Off site)
9 a.m. Stephen Ministry Interviews (P)
9:30 a.m. Gentle Yoga with Shannon (BH)
12:30 p.m. Mah Jongg (N207)
5:30 p.m. Task Force on Justice and Witness Ministries (N101)
- Friday 12/7**
9:30 a.m. Christmas Decorating (S)
10 a.m. Stephen Ministry Interviews (P)
10 a.m. Beginner Mah Jongg Class (N205)
12 p.m. Al Anon Meeting (N207)
4 p.m. Horton/Kahrs Wedding Rehearsal (S)
- Saturday 12/8**
5 p.m. Horton/Kahrs Wedding (S)
- Sunday 12/9** Second Sunday of Advent
9 a.m. Worship Service (S)
9 a.m. Angel Tree Packing Event (MH)
10 a.m. Stephen Ministry Pastoral Care (P)
10 a.m. Family Brunch for PCA (MH)
11 a.m. Worship Service (S)
12 p.m. Stephen Ministry Pastoral Care (P)
3 p.m. Holiday Cheer with Dr. Becky and Friends Concert (S)

STAFF

Ministers

Rev. Dr. Dawson B. Taylor,
Senior Minister
dawson@naplesucc.org

Rev. Dr. David Kaiser-Cross,
Executive Minister
david@naplesucc.org

Rev. Dr. Deborah Kaiser-Cross,
Minister for Congregational Care
deb@naplesucc.org

Rev. Beverly Latif Duncan,
Minister for Visitation
beverly@naplesucc.org

Music Ministry

Dr. Becky Weese-Rumpf,
Director of Music
becky@naplesucc.org

Administration

Sharon Magiera, C.P.A.,
Finance Administrator
sharon@naplesucc.org

Wendy Gayarre,
Executive Assistant to Clergy
wendy@naplesucc.org

Megan Black,
Office Manager
megan@naplesucc.org

Julia Simeone,
Communications Manager
julia@naplesucc.org

Tony Falco,
Technology Director,
tony@naplesucc.org

Susan Melick,
Events Coordinator

Pat McGee,
Volunteer Coordinator

Georgia Lundy,
Sunday Fellowship/Kitchen Coordinator

Daniel Brower,
Director of Campus Operations

Rich Mancini,
Facilities

Precious Cargo Academy

Leanne Badham,
Director
leanne.badham@outlook.com

Bargain Box Thrift Store

Sandy Goldstein,
Manager

Anthony Bandy,
Assistant Manager

S = Sanctuary | P = Parlor | N = Nelson Hall
MH = McSpadden Hall | GC = Gates Chapel
GP = The Gathering Place
MG = Memorial Garden
ACR = Administrative Conference Room

YOUTH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CHURCH SCHOOL (Ages 4 to 5th Grade) meets during 9 a.m. service in Nelson Hall Room 207.

JUNIOR DISCIPLES will meet on Wednesday, December 5, from 3 - 5:15 p.m. in Nelson Hall Room 207.

YOUTH CHOIR meets on Mondays, 5 p.m., in Beverly Hall.

PRAYER LIST

Nicholas Vincent Adamo

Alan and Susan

Joel Basham

Joe Bejcek

Roberta and Ben

Jared Billips

Carolyn Briggs

Al Cahen

Jay Cahill

Dr. Richard and Barbara Carter

Steve Chalfant

Carol Chidister

Christopher and Family

Robert Clement

Ann Culshaw

Cynthia and Family

Ken Davis

Diego

Jamie DePalo

Eric Downs

Gill Doyle

Barbara Dunnigan

Ben Dyals

Beth Endres

Erin and Leslie

Tom and Kate Frantz

Betty Freimann

Gayle

Debbie Graham

Calvin Grayson

Henry

Shelly and Katie Hull

Edie Horney

Karen Howick

Alley Hoza

Jill

Mario Jimenez

Sheila Jung

Tom Jung

Sandra Johnston

Cecil Jones

Jennifer Jolls

George Kessel

Keith

Kathy Kircher

Irv Koehler

Anne Kruse

Walter Lathe

Mary Ellen LeMasters

Paul Leutert

Jon Lindblom

Lynn and Marilyn

Susi Martinsen

Mervyn Maxwell

Helene Melnick

John McGowan

Dinny Nemachek

Sara Nonken

Jean Partridge

Tracie Pustizzi

Sharon Rainey

Ray

Dave Remley

Tara Reynolds

Rose and Jim

Roger Rhodes

Bob Robida

Carol Rudolph

Carol Saul-Smith

Sean, Jo and Kevin

Rose Schmigle

Bud Schroeder

Deb Scott

Carol Sellman

David and Andrew Silver

Mary Simeone

Dean Smith

Derek Smith

Donna Stevens

Damon Surgener

Dawn Teston

Brenda Taylor

Tor and Sunny

Bill Uhlemann

Vera L

Monika Vincent

Helen Weese

Debbie White

Joshua Wills

Nancy Wyckoff

Darlene Zoretich

Our Children

Maggie Bella

Maxwell Bost

Clayton

Ella

Emmanuel

Gracie Faith

Michael Jerrold

Garrett Kaulbars

John Kennedy

Laila Grace

Baby Miles

Olin

Phoebe

Rosie

Finn Sears

Vanessa

Jackson Varty

Violet

In Service to our Nation: CPT Keagan Callanan, SSG Corey Cunningham, CPT Robert Cook, TSgt Donovan Fredericksen, MSgt Matthew Fredericksen, LCDR Timothy Minor, SPC Austin Payne, LCDR Erik Sand and MG Matthew Wright.



SUNDAY STEEPLIGHTS

PCA BAKE SALE TODAY

There is a PCA Bake Sale today after worship services in the Gathering Place. Come purchase sweet homemade treats for a great cause.

ANGEL TREE

Wrap your gifts with the angel attached, and return it to the church on or before Dec. 9. Donations are also accepted (cash, check, or credit card) for grocery gift certificates. See the donation snowflakes on the tree.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2019 are available in the narthex after Sunday services today. They will remain in the narthex until December 21. We will remove them for the holiday season and put them back out for the month of January. If you do not see your name on a box of envelopes and would like to receive them, please contact Sharon in the office.

BOOKS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY CLASSES

Books for December and January classes are available in the Gathering Place today.

MID-WEEK ADVENT MEDITATIONS ARE HERE

Our first mid-week advent meditation will be this Wednesday, December 5, at 12 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The meditation will be given by Rev. Dr. Dawson B. Taylor, and Heather Vicevic will be our guest artist with Dr. Becky Weese-Rumpf as organist.

INTO THE EVERGLADES TOUR AND LUNCH

Thursday, December 6, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Led by Susan Melick, susanmelick@gmail.com or 239-293-8446. Cost: \$109. The bus leaves Crossroads Shopping Center at the Vineyards at 9 a.m. and returns at 6 p.m. 5 seats left.

HARRY CHAPIN SERVICE PROJECT

On Saturday December 8 from 9:00-11:00 we will be packaging food at the Harry Chapin Food Bank here in Naples. We have a few spots left so if you would like to participate please sign up in the Gathering Place. The address is 3940 Prospect Ave. Naples, Fl. 34104. If you previously signed up but did not receive a T-shirt, they are now available.

HOLIDAY CHEER WITH DR. BECKY AND FRIENDS!

Sunday, December 9, at 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Please join us for this fun concert of carols, Christmas music, and Santa. The concert is free, and a freewill offering will be accepted to support the Christmas Fund.

LUNCH AND LEARN

Our next Lunch and Learn will be on Thursday, December 13, from 12 to 1 p.m. in McSpadden Hall. The Topic: *How Is Global Warming Affecting Life in Paradise?* Join Rob Moher, CEO of the Conservancy of Southwest Florida. Bring lunch.

SAVE THE DATE:

Rev. Martie McMane will be here January 25-26 to lead us in a winter retreat with the theme – “Fully Alive! Deepening Spirituality for Life’s Changes and Challenges.” Sign-ups will begin in early January.

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

Friday, December 14, from 2 - 3:30 p.m. in Nelson Hall Room 104.

“LIGHTS IN THE GARDEN” BOTANICAL GARDEN TOUR

Friday, December 14, 2018, 6:30 p.m. Cost: \$18. Maximum: 30 people. Optional happy hour as a group at 5 p.m. at Bistro La Baguette restaurant. Prior registration for happy hour as well as the tour is essential. Limited seating left. Sign up today.

NEW CHAPTERS MEN’S STUDY GROUP is a weekly men’s spirituality forum with David Kaiser-Cross every Wednesday, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m., N104. Please sign up in the Gathering Place. We are currently exploring the book *Speaking of Faith*.

PALETTE PALS AND GALLERY NEWS

Palette pals will resume Wednesday morning workshops from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. All are welcome. This month in the NUCC library/gallery, members of the Seibert family are displaying their art.

BOOK CLUB

The next book club meeting will be Monday, December 17, at 2 p.m. in Nelson Hall 104: *The Child in Time* by Ian McEwan.

STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING

Stephen Ministry is having their bi-annual training starting Jan. 8 for 12 weeks and three Saturdays (Jan, Feb and March). If you are interested in applying to our Stephen Ministry training program, please contact Ronnie Bellone (238-216-2300) or Louise Brown (617-640-3003).

BARGAIN BOX VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Bargain Box is in need of volunteers. Call Sandy at 239-262-3802 for more information.

BOCA GRANDE AND THE GASPARILLA INN AND CLUB TOUR

Wednesday, February 6, 2019. Bus leaves Crossroads Shopping Center at Vineyards at 7:30 a.m. and returns at 6 p.m. Cost: \$119. Information: Susan Melick at 239-293-8446 or susanmelick@gmail.com.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS!

How do you re-tell a 2,000-year-old story?

Sometimes the Christmas story can be magical and sometimes it can be mundane. Just like our expectations of Christmas. Each year we hope that this Christmas will be different. That our families will act differently or that the story will somehow jump off the pages of the Bible differently. No matter your expectations – great or not – we hope you'll make plans to join us at Naples UCC for the Advent and Christmas season as we make room in our hearts for the Christ child and the difference that Jesus can make.

HOLIDAY GIFT-GIVING OPPORTUNITY: LUCI LIGHTS

Naples United Church of Christ is offering you an opportunity during this Advent season to purchase Luci Lights that will be sent to our global mission partners who will then distribute them to those in need.

What are Luci Lights?

In 2012, a company named MPOWERD, created Luci Lights, the first inflatable solar lights. Their goal was making an affordable clean-energy product. Luci taps into a source of light that is limitless and readily available to everyone on our planet — the sun. Advancements in renewable technology have given us the means to literally put the power of the sun into a device that fits in the palm of your hand. MPOWERED wants to empower people around the world who still live without reliable access to electricity.

We have already sent over two hundred Luci Lights to mission partners in Guatemala and in Haiti. It is the perfect gift-giving option for those on your list who would be excited to hear that you have donated Luci Lights in their honor this Christmas. Luci Lights cost \$10 each. With your donation, you will receive a card that can be given to a loved one indicating that a donation was made in their name. These alternative gifts will be available in the Gathering Place on Sunday, December 9 and 16.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS PROGRAM

You are invited to donate in memory (M), honor (H), or celebration (C) of a loved one for our poinsettia memorial program. A portion of the money will be used to decorate the chancel, but most of the funds will be donated to the The Shelter for Abused Women and Children.

All donors will be listed in the bulletin on December 23.

Amount of check to help the shelter \$ _____
(Include offering with your form and make checks payable to NUCC)

Your name(s) as you wish it to appear in the bulletin:

Gifts may be given:

In Memory of, in Honor of, or in Celebration of

(Please circle one.)

Name of person you are recognizing: (Please print clearly)

M H C _____

M H C _____

M H C _____

All orders must be received in the church office no later than Monday, December 17, 2018.

WELCOME, FIRST-TIME WORSHIPERS

First-time guest information cards are located in the pew racks, and can be brought to the first-time-guest welcome kiosk in the narthex, or placed in the offering plate. We invite you to journey with us as a visitor or unite with us as a Full or Associate Member.

Our sanctuary is equipped with the T-Loop (Telecoil Loop) Hearing System. Additional hearing devices are available in the narthex. Please ask an usher for assistance.

Though children of all ages are welcome in our worship services, there is nursery care for infants and toddlers available. There is also a "cry room" near the nursery if you wish to stay with your child and observe the service. Please ask an usher for assistance.

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Today: Visitor Information Brunch | After 9 and 11 a.m. worship in Nelson Hall room 104.

Wednesday, December 5: An Evening With Your Pastors at Dr. Taylor's Home.

Sunday, December 9: New Member Sunday

Mid-Week Advent Meditation

December 5 at 12 p.m. in the Sanctuary
Meditation by Rev. Dr. Dawson B. Taylor
Heather Vicevic, soprano
Dr. Becky Weese-Rumpf, organ/piano

Next Sunday - Second Sunday of Advent

December 9 at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Great Expectations of Peace
Luke 3:1-6
Rev. Dr. Dawson B. Taylor, preaching
Glenn Basham, guest artist

The 2018 and 2019 flower calendar is available on the reception desk. Please enter the date (or call the office) to reserve your Sunday for donating chancel flowers.

Our Services are livestreamed and recorded. DVDs from today's service are available for a suggested donation of \$5. Please fill out the order envelope located in the church office on the reception desk and place it either in the offering plate or leave it on the reception desk. A recording of today's service may be found at www.naplesucc.org.

Cans for Communion - We welcome your donations of nonperishable food items on the first Sunday of each month as we celebrate Communion together. These donations will be delivered to the Grace Place food pantry.

Weekly Steeplelights arrives via email each Friday. If you are not receiving it, please contact Wendy in the church office, or at wendy@naplesucc.org to sign up.

Come visit our Bargain Box Thrift Store at 3906 Tamiami Trail E, Naples, FL 34112 to find great items for any occasion or to volunteer! We also accept lightly-used donations. We can also assist in the pickup of larger donated items. If you have questions, please contact the store at (239)262-3802.

4 WAYS TO GIVE

Envelopes are available in worship



Online via our website



Text to Give
Text NAPLESUCC to 73256 and click on the link in the reply text to complete your gift.



Stocks & IRA's

Please call Sharon in the church office.



As a **mission-driven congregation**, Naples United Church of Christ strives to show that actions speak louder than words. We are not only active in community outreach, but passionate about social causes. As an **intergenerational congregation**, we engage with people of all ages and stages of life to be a place where people not only believe, but also belong. As a **growing church**, we do not ask people to "check their brains at the door," rather to ask deep questions of faith of each other and of God.

We are an Open and Affirming congregation that not only welcomes, but celebrates all people. We are proud to be one of more than 5,000+ congregations in the United Church of Christ and of our identity as a "Traditional Church for Progressive People."

5200 Crayton Road, Naples, Florida 34103
(239) 261-5469 | Pastoral Emergency: (239) 595-2141

info@naplesucc.org

WiFi username: Nucc_guest WiFi Password: nuccguest