

**December 10, 2023**

**9:30 a.m.**

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**



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## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Sunday, December 10, 2023

### Joys and Concerns

Sharla Hulsey

*In order to respect privacy, joys and concerns will be discussed before the public livestream. Please fill out a prayer request form and place in the offering tray during communion.*

### Welcome and Announcements

Justin Quick, Elder

*If you are joining Sunday worship via Facebook Live, let us know you are tuning in by leaving a comment on the live stream video or visit [fccbutler.org](http://fccbutler.org) and click the Register Attendance button.*

## WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

### Prelude

Mary Coffman, Accompanist

*Bringing the Light of Christ into the Sanctuary*

### \*Call to worship (please rise as able)

Justin Quick & Congregation

L: O Wisdom, you came from the lips of God most high,  
and you reach from one end of the universe to the other,  
powerfully and gently ordering all things:

**P: Come to teach us the way of prudence.**

L: O Adonai and Leader of the house of Israel,  
you appeared to Moses in the flame of a burning bush  
and at Sinai you gave him the law:

**P: Come with your outstretched arm to save us.**

### \*Opening Hymn

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

CH #150 (All)

### \*Invocation

Justin Quick & Congregation

**O God of peace, send your Spirit to the wild corners of our hearts.  
Grant us wisdom and understanding, so we may learn the way of  
peace.**

**Quiet our minds, so that we may prepare well for the coming of  
Jesus. Amen.**

### Advent Candle Lighting

"Peace"

Allan Bopp

"Voices of Advent – The Man Who Overcame the Wind"

"One Candle Is Lit"

CH #128 (v. 2)

### Prayer Hymn

"Come, O Long-expected Jesus"

CH #125 (All)

### Silent Meditation

### Pastoral Prayer - "The Lord's Prayer"

Sharla Hulsey

**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.**

### Musical Interlude

Mary Coffman

### Responsive Reading

Justin Quick & Congregation

Psalm 131 (NRSV)

L: O LORD, my heart is not lifted up,  
my eyes are not raised too high;

**P: I do not occupy myself with things  
too great and too marvelous for me.**

L: But I have calmed and quieted my soul,  
like a weaned child with its mother;

**P: my soul is like the weaned child that is with me.**

L: O Israel, hope in the LORD

**P from this time on and forevermore.**

### Special Music

"See the Baby"

Adult Choir

### Scripture

*Luke 8:22-39*

Carol Hedrick

### Message

"Silent Night"

Sharla Hulsey

### Invitation to Discipleship

Sharla Hulsey

### \*Invitation Hymn

"What Child Is This?"

CH #162 (All)

### Musical Interlude

Mary Coffman

### Offering Meditation

Diana Rich

<u>Tithes &amp; Offerings</u>	Diaconate
<i>Offering trays will be passed in the pews.</i>	
<u>*Doxology</u>	CH #47
<b>Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.</b>	
<u>*Prayer of Dedication</u>	Justin Quick
<u>Call to Communion</u>	Sharla Hulsey
<u>Communion Hymn</u>	CH #153 (1,3,4)
<i>"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"</i>	
<u>Words of Institution</u>	Sharla Hulsey
<u>Communion Prayer</u>	Justin Quick
<u>Distribution of the Elements</u>	Diaconate
<i>Everyone is welcome at Christ's Table. Those who are comfortable doing so, please come forward down the center aisle to partake at the table. Deacons will serve those who remain seated.</i>	

**WE DEPART TO SERVE**

<u>*Benediction</u>	Sharla Hulsey
<i>Taking the Light of Christ into the World</i>	
<u>*Closing Hymn</u>	CH #143 (1,3)
<i>"Joy to the World"</i>	

\* Please rise as able

**SERVING TODAY**

<b>Pastor:</b> Sharla Hulsey	<b>Greeter:</b> Carol Hedrick
<b>Elder:</b> Justin Quick	<b>Scripture Reader:</b> Carol Hedrick
<b>Deacons:</b> Everett McBrayer, Judy Daniel	<b>Choir Director:</b> Carol Ann Winburn <b>Accompanist:</b> Mary Coffman

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **OUTREACH MISSION**  
This December, we will be supporting Coats for Kids in Bates County. You can participate in the project by making a monetary contribution payable to Coats for Kids.
- **KETCH-UP CAMPAIGN**  
The Stewardship Committee is starting a “ketch-up” campaign to help replenish FCC reserve funds.
- **ELDERS & DEACONS MEETING** - TODAY FOLLOWING WORSHIP
- **BHS ALUMNI HOLIDAY HOMES TOUR** - TODAY FROM 1 PM TO 4 PM
- **BOARD MEETING** - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 FOLLOWING WORSHIP
- **COMMUNITY CAFÉ** - TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19 AT 5:30 PM
- **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**  
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 AT 6:30PM
- **OFFICE CLOSED/CHRISTMAS DAY** - MONDAY, DECEMBER 25
- **NEW YEAR’S EVE BREAKFAST** - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 AT 8:30 AM

**THIS WEEK’S EVENTS**

Sunday, Dec. 10:	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Worship Life Group/ <b>Elders Meeting</b> <b>BHS Alumni Holiday Tour</b>
	1 p.m.—4 p.m.	
Wednesday, Dec. 13:	12 p.m. 6 p.m. 7 p.m.	Rotary Club Luncheon Youth Group Choir Practice
Friday, Dec. 15:	9 a.m. - 12 p.m.	SonShine Ladies

**NEXT WEEK’S EVENTS**

Sunday, Dec. 17:	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Worship <b>Board Meeting</b>
Tuesday, Dec. 19:	5:30 p.m.	<b>Community Café</b>
Wednesday, Dec. 20:	6 p.m. 7p.m.	Youth Group Choir Practice
Friday, Dec. 22:	9 a.m. - 12 p.m.	SonShine Ladies

# ABIDE WITH US



## CHRISTMAS OFFERING

A Special Day Offering of Disciples Mission Fund  
supporting the ministries of our Regional church



Abide With Us  
when we gather to  
discover friendship and faith  
in summer camps

Abide With Us  
when we welcome a new pastor  
to our congregation

Abide With Us  
when we nurture one who feels called to serve you in ministry

Abide With Us  
when we seek to break down barriers of race, gender,  
and sexual identity

Abide With Us  
when we hold one another accountable and ethical

Abide With Us  
when we engage in mission together

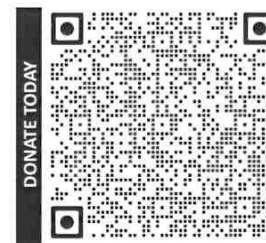
Abide With Us  
when we gather for assemblies and celebrations

*"Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel."*

*Your Christmas offering equips our Regional church to provide an abiding presence in summer camp settings, congregational life, and leadership gatherings. Your gift enables our shared ministry to give support to Elders, Sunday School teachers, youth group sponsors, worship leaders, seminarians, and pastors. With your gift, connections are made between congregations and among Disciples across our Regional geography and around the world.*



You are invited to make a gift to  
equip the Mid-America  
Region's presence with your  
congregation.



## Christmas Offering

2023 Special Day Offering of Disciples Mission Fund supporting the ministries of our  
Mid-America Regional church

