



**December 24, 2023**

**9:30 a.m.**

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



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## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Sunday, December 24, 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: Come, you who are sinners, searching for wholeness.

**P: Come, you for whom law-keeping is death.**

L: Come, you who cannot save yourselves.

**P: God has done what neither the law nor we could do.**

L: God the life-giver has kept the law for us.

**P: God the self-giver has taken up the cross for us.**

L: God the love-giver renews our souls.

**P: Come, let us worship our God**

**who in Christ has given us love and life,**

**and whose Holy Spirit empowers us**

**to share love and life with the world.**

### \*Opening Hymn

CH #148 (All)

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

### \*Invocation

Justin Quick & Congregation

**Great God of love, we praise you: You wash away the dust of death, you kiss away the shame of sin, and you anoint us with your Holy Spirit. Pour out your blessing in this place, and let your grace flow through our lives as we spread the news of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### Advent Candle Lighting

“Love”

Carol Ann Winburn

“Voices of Advent: The Woman Who Washed His Feet with Tears”

“One Candle Is Lit”

CH #128 (v. 4)

### Prayer Hymn

CH #147 (All)

“Away in a Manger”

### 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

Isaiah 49:13-16a (NJPS Translation)

L: Shout, O heavens, and rejoice, O earth!

Break into shouting, O hills!

**P: For the LORD has comforted His people,  
And has taken back His afflicted ones in love.**

L: Zion says,

“The LORD has forsaken me,  
My Lord has forgotten me.”

**P: Can a woman forget her baby,  
Or disown the child of her womb?**

L: Though she might forget,  
I never could forget you.

**P: See, I have engraved you  
On the palms of My hands.**

### Special Music

Adult Choir

“Star of Advent”

### Scripture

Carol Roberts

*Luke 7:36-50*

### Message

Sharla Hulsey

“I don’t know how to thank you.”

### Invitation to Discipleship

Sharla Hulsey

### \*Invitation Hymn

CH #161 (All)

“I Wonder as I Wander”

Musical Interlude

Mary Coffman

Offering Meditation

Diana Rich

Tithes & Offerings

*Offering trays will be passed in the pews.*

Diaconate

\*Doxology

CH #47

**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.**

\*Prayer of Dedication

Justin Quick

Call to Communion

Sharla Hulsey

Communion Hymn

CH #151 (All)

“The First Noel”

Words of Institution

Sharla Hulsey

Communion Prayer

Distribution of the Elements

Diaconate

*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.*

### **WE DEPART TO SERVE**

\*Benediction

*Taking the Light of Christ into the World*

Sharla Hulsey

\*Closing Hymn

CH #143 (1,3)

“Joy to the World”

**\* Please rise as able**

### **SERVING TODAY**

**Pastor:** Sharla Hulsey

**Greeter:** Gary Coffman

**Elder:** Justin Quick

**Scripture Reader:** Carol Roberts

**Deacons:** Carol Lewis,  
Kathy Wood

**Choir Director:** Carol Ann Winburn  
**Accompanist:** 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.

### **• CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE - TONIGHT AT 6:30PM**

### **• OFFICE CLOSED ON CHRISTMAS DAY & NEW YEAR'S DAY**

### **• NEW YEAR'S EVE BREAKFAST - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 AT 8:30 AM**

### **• DISCIPLES WOMEN - TUESDAY, JANUARY 2 AT 6:30 PM**

### **• ELDERS FELLOWSHIP SUPPER - FRIDAY, JANUARY 5 AT 6:30 PM**

Fellowship supper for Elders and their significant others at John and Judy Daniel's house.

## **THIS WEEK'S EVENTS**

Sunday, Dec. 24: (Christmas Eve)	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Worship Life Group Candlelight Service
Monday, Dec. 25:	<b>Office Closed</b>	
Wednesday, Dec. 27:	7p.m.	Choir Practice
Friday, Dec. 29:	9 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Son Shine Ladies

## **NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS**

Sunday, Dec. 31: (New Year's Eve)	8:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Fellowship Breakfast Worship Life Group
Monday, Jan. 1:	<b>Office Closed</b>	
Tuesday, Jan. 2:	6:30 p.m.	Disciples Women
Wednesday, Jan. 3:	7p.m.	Choir Practice
Friday, Jan. 5:	9 a.m. - 12 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Son Shine Ladies Elders Fellowship