

# UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church Of Christ



Loving God. Loving Neighbor. Building Community.

**December 14, 2025   Third Sunday of Advent**  
**"One Christ, Many Cultures"**

\*Please rise in body or spirit.  
You are invited to join in the liturgy **in bold type**.

*Childcare is available on the first floor of this building for children ages 0-4. Children K-5th grade are invited to attend Sunday School after the lighting of the Advent wreath.*

*Please wear a name tag so we can greet one another by name (There are blank name tags in the back of the sanctuary).*

## **PRELUDE – Pastoral Symphony from *Messiah***

G. F. Handel

Mary Babiarz, Kathryn Chamberlain, Annelie Fahlstedt, & Nancie Lederer-Whiting, violin; Effie Yuen, viola; Laura Stuart, cello; and Darla Coolman, bass

## **WELCOME**

Rev. Katrina Forman

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We are halfway through Advent,

**All: We are ready for joy.**

One: We have worries about the future.

**All: We are ready for joy.**

One: We are seeking God anew today.

**All: We are ready for joy.**

One: With joyful hearts, let us worship God.

### **\*HYMN – May Joy Be in Your Hearts**

Ghanaian folk song

*May joy be in your hearts,  
May joy be in your homes,  
May joy be in your land,  
May joy be in our world.*

## **LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

Erin, Michael, and Miles Norton

## **PASSING THE PEACE**

*(Children are invited to attend Sunday School at this time)*

**SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:67-80**  
**MEDITATION**

Marcie Wallace  
Rev. Katrina Forman

**CANTATA – Lux: The Dawn from on High**

*See insert next page for translations, credits, and a note from the composer*

Dan Forrest

*Dan Forrest's*

# LUX

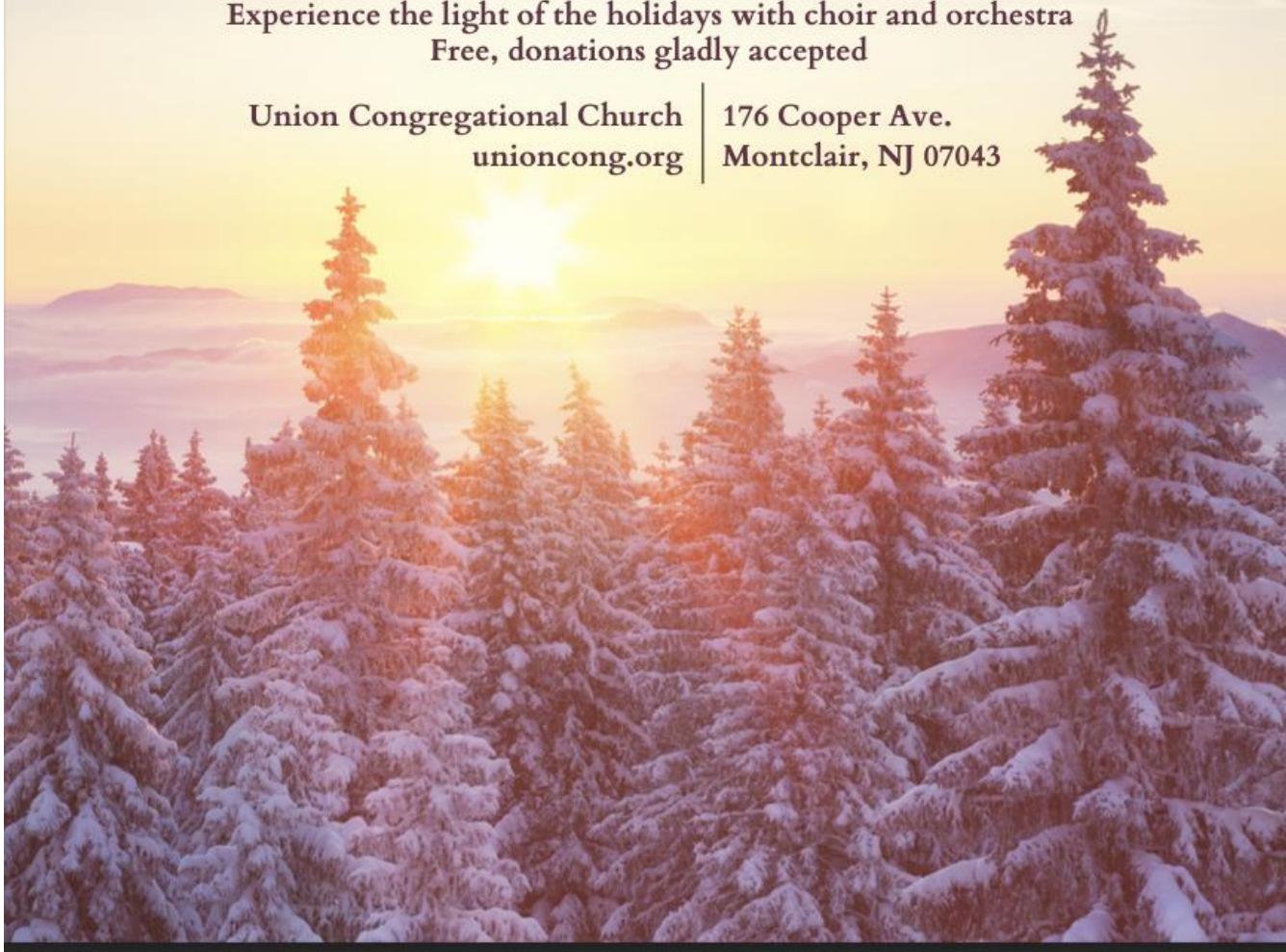
THE DAWN FROM ON HIGH

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup> 7 PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> 10 AM

Experience the light of the holidays with choir and orchestra  
Free, donations gladly accepted

Union Congregational Church | 176 Cooper Ave.  
[unioncong.org](http://unioncong.org) | Montclair, NJ 07043



*Dan Forrest's*

# LUX: THE DAWN FROM ON HIGH

## 1. Illuminare

Bill Amory, Kristine Hart, Sanctuary Choir

Per viscera misericordiae  
Dei nostri  
in quibus visitavit  
nos oriens ex alto  
illuminare his qui in tenebris  
et in umbra mortis sedent  
ad dirigidos pedes nostros  
in viam pacis.  
Lux ex alto,  
veni nos illuminare.

Lux de luce apparuisti Christe,  
cui Magi munera offerunt,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

By the mercy of our God  
the dawn from on high  
will break upon us,  
to give light to those  
who sit in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet  
into the way of peace.  
Light from on high,  
come illumine us.

You appeared as Light from light, O  
Christ, to whom the Magi offered gifts,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

## 2. Lux in Tenebris

Kimberly Martinez, Sanctuary Choir

Lux fulgebit hodie super nos,  
quia natus est nobis Dominus.

Lux in tenebris lucet  
et tenebrae eam non superaverunt.

A light will shine on us today,  
for the Lord is born unto us.

The light shines in darkness;  
and the darkness has not overcome it.

## 3. The Sun Never Says

Kristine Hart, Sanctuary Choir

Even after all this time,  
The sun never says to the earth,  
"You owe me."

Look what happens  
With a love like that,  
It lights the whole sky.

## 4. Gloria in excelsis

Sanctuary Choir

Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
et in terra pax.

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth, peace.

## 5. Creator of the Stars of Night

Kristine Hart, Jeremy Whitener, Sanctuary Choir

Creator alme siderum  
aeterna lux credentium  
Christe redemptor omnium  
exaudi voces supplicum.

Creator of the stars of night,  
Thy people's everlasting Light,  
O Christ, Thou Savior of us all,  
now hear Thy servants when they call.

When the whole world drew on toward night,  
Thou camest, not in splendor bright  
as sovereign, but the humble Child  
of Mary, blessed mother mild.

To God, Creator, God the Son,  
and God the Spirit, Three in One,  
laud, honor, might, and glory be  
from age to age eternally. Amen.

It lights the Whole Sky...

### Lux Composer's Note

LUX: The Dawn From On High is Dan Forrest's third major work for chorus and orchestra, (after Requiem For the Living and Jubilate Deo). This five-movement work explores various facets of LUX (Latin for "light"), in texts ranging from ancient liturgical chant to Scripture to modern secular love poetry. The music of LUX, written in 2018, was inspired thematically and spiritually by these profound texts; visually by the light in the Reims Cathedral in France and at the Poulnabrone Dolmen in Ireland; and musically by a variety of musical sources from ancient chant to modern minimalist composers.

The title invokes the dual meaning of the text of the first movement, where the light of dawn gradually ascends into the sky, yet the Light of the world descends from the sky—a “Dawn from on High”. As a whole, the five movements trace a symmetrical journey through time— from ancient prophecy, to today (“even after all this time”), and then back again; or from another perspective, from a day's dawn, through the sun's high point in the sky, and then to the setting of the sun on the horizon at the end of day.

The first movement offers the promise of future light, and the hope of dawn is repeatedly heard in the text and evoked by the music. The second movement uses contrasting musical meters and keys to portray its text about light courageously shining in darkness. This movement finishes somewhat open-ended, not with a glib ending, reflecting the nature of light that must continue to shine through darkness.

(continued on next page)

## Lux Composer's Note cont.

The third movement flashes ahead to today, seeing the sun as a metaphor for unconditional love that "lights the whole sky". The fourth movement continues the "light in the sky" motif with a joyful, jazz-influenced setting of the "Gloria in excelsis" text from the Scriptural nativity story. The fifth movement closes out the "day" with an ancient evening hymn, presented as a solo, then unison, then in increasingly complex canons, before a closing section provides closure and unity between these multiple facets of light.

## SANCTUARY CHOIR

### SOPRANOS

Diane Bentley  
Kristine Hart  
Linda Hall  
Jaclyn Heftler  
Kayla Jackson  
Meena Sandberg  
Beth Shepard  
Annalisa Winther

### ALTOS

Janet Frick  
Jade Holmgren  
Kimberly Martinez  
Barbara Ross  
Eugenie Temmler

### TENORS

John Bullough  
Ted LeFevre  
Thomas Schreck  
Kevin Shaw  
Jeremy Whitener

### BASSES

Bill Amory  
Larry Frick  
Carlos Valdes-Dapena

## ORCHESTRA

Emily Thomsen, flute  
Rose Petinelli, oboe (12/14)  
David Reinstein, oboe (12/13)  
Rob Middleton, saxophone  
Mary Babiarz, violin  
Kathryn Chamberlain, violin  
Annelie Fahlstedt, violin  
Nancie Lederer-Whiting, violin  
Effie Yuen, viola  
Laura Stuart, cello  
Darla Coolman, double bass  
Joe Bergen, percussion  
Michael Kozak, percussion  
Jeremy Carlisle, piano  
John David Whitener, conductor

**Joys and Concerns**

Josh Robeson  
Joan and Bill Icklan

Jonathan Grevatt

**Pastoral Prayer****Lord's Prayer**

**Our {name for God}, 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. 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****Invitation to the Christmas Offering**

Rev. Bob Chase

**Music for Meditation**

Jeremy Carlisle

**\*Response of Thanksgiving – Doxology for Advent**

*VENI EMMANUEL*

Words: Thomas Ken, adapt. William B. Abernathy      Music: Trad. French Tune

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow.***

***Praise God, all creatures here below.***

***Praise God for all that love has done. Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.***

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**\*Prayer of Dedication (unison)**

**Gracious God, thank you for the gifts of this congregation. Thank you for the joyful noise we lift up and bless these gifts given with joy that we might share your Advent light with all. Amen.**

**\*HYMN #106 – My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise**

*MARIAS LOVSÅNG*

Words: Magnificat, paraphrased by Ruth Duck

Music: Swedish Folk Melody

**\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Katrina Forman

**\*CHORAL BENEDICTION - Go in Peace, Beloved**

*CRANHAM*

Words: Anon.

Music: Gustav Holst

***Go in peace, Beloved. God be with you all.***

***Wait for grace with patience, as for rains that fall.***

***Go and share God's blessing. Be a sign of hope:***

***Bear the love of Jesus, love to one and all.***

**POSTLUDE – L'Aube**

C. Szczepanek

Jeremy Carlisle

\*\*\*

*This liturgy was adapted from the work of by Rev. Amber Henry Neuroth.*

**THANK YOU** for joining us this morning. Please complete a welcome card if you are visiting and put it in the offering plate, or scan the QR code on the back of the pew.

Please join us in the Assembly Room after worship for fellowship.

**TODAY AFTER WORSHIP**

**Petting Zoo and Shared Coffee Hour with Grace Presbyterian Church, and fair-trade market with Bethlehem Fair Trade Artisans**

After worship, we will share coffee hour with Grace Presbyterian and have the opportunity to visit with animals on the church lawn. Bethlehem Fair Trade Artisans will also be present, selling handmade, fair trade items to support their work.

**THANK YOU** to the Sunday Welcome Team, Sanctuary Choir, And Orchestra!

**LIVESTREAM VIDEO:** Nkenge Jones

**SOUND OPERATOR:** Joe Cristiani

**THE WOMEN'S RETREAT IS CLOSE TO CAPACITY.**

They are starting a waiting list in case they can accommodate a few more people. Please contact Suzanne Tuck at 973-222-9121 if you are interested.

***Tuesday, December 16***

**Daytime Bible Study is on Tuesday at 12:30pm in the Guild Room.**

***Wednesday, December 17***

**Chair Yoga is every Wednesday at 10:30am (Alternates Guild Room/Zoom)**

Email Sara T. (sgtamargo@gmail.com) for location.

**Union Sages will meet at noon on Wednesday, Dec. 17 in the Guild Room.**

**Handbell Rehearsal takes place every Wednesday at 7pm in the Sanctuary.**

**NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21**

**10am Children's Christmas Pageant (in sanctuary and live-streamed)**

based on the beloved Mexican and Spanish Christmas custom Las Posadas!

Together, we'll journey with Mary, Joseph, AND A SASSY DONKEY as they search for shelter, while sharing music, light, and hope along the way.

**11:30am Youth Group (in the Guild Room)**

**3pm Blue Christmas (in chapel and live-streamed)**

If this holiday season feels more like a shadow than a light, you are not alone. This quiet, reflective service offers space for whatever you are feeling, where your feelings are honored, and we seek the quiet, steady presence of God.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

**5pm Christmas Eve Service (in sanctuary and live-streamed)**

**9pm Christmas Eve Service (in sanctuary)**

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING 2025**

We are celebrating Christmas traditions from around the world in our worship series, "One Christ, Many Cultures." In that spirit, we invite you to offer some tangible

support to Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank this Christmas as we pray for the fragile ceasefire to grow into a just, lasting peace. Our Christmas offering will go to Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City, and to Roots of Resilience, a local organization which supports farmers in the West Bank. You can donate to the Christmas Offering by using a Christmas Offering envelope in the pew, by using the donate/pay button on the church website, or scanning the QR code. If you donate online, be sure to select "Christmas Offering" as your donation's purpose.

SCAN ME



**The church office will be closed from noon on Wednesday, December 24 through Monday, January 5, 2026.**

**CHURCH CONTACT INFO: Church Office: 973-744-7424**

Rev. Katrina Forman, Lead Minister, 973-744-5802, [kforman@unioncong.org](mailto:kforman@unioncong.org)

Rev. Leah McCullough, Minister of Pastoral Care and Faith Formation,  
973-746-4285, [LMcCullough@unioncong.org](mailto:LMcCullough@unioncong.org)

Jon Thomsen, Executive Director, 973-744-7426, [jthomsen@unioncong.org](mailto:jthomsen@unioncong.org)

Kim Crabtree, Member Engagement and Communications Manager, 973-233-4563,  
[kcrabtree@unioncong.org](mailto:kcrabtree@unioncong.org)

Albert Fenske-Williams, Operations and Space Use Manager, 973-417-3408,  
[afenskewilliams@unioncong.org](mailto:afenskewilliams@unioncong.org)

BJ Carter, Children And Youth Ministry Associate, 973-447-4593,  
[bjcarter@unioncong.org](mailto:bjcarter@unioncong.org)

John David Whitener, Co-Director of Music, 973-707-3248, [jwhitener@unioncong.org](mailto:jwhitener@unioncong.org)

Jeremy Whitener, Co-Director of Music, [jeremy@unioncong.org](mailto:jeremy@unioncong.org)

**Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ  
An LGBTQ+ Open and Affirming Congregation**

176 Cooper Avenue, Montclair, NJ      973-744-7424      [www.unioncong.org](http://www.unioncong.org)