

***The vision of Dover UCC is to seek justice, love kindness
and walk humbly with our God.***

Dover Congregational United Church of Christ

December 21, 2025



***Rev. Melinda Quellhorst, Senior Pastor
An Open & Affirming Congregation
A Just Peace Congregation
Fourth Sunday of Advent
LOVE***

Announcements

Prelude

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" arr. Cindy Berry

Centering

***Song**

"Emmanuel, Emmanuel" Hymn tune: McGee

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.

God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

***Call to Worship**

One: Listen.

All: Deep

One: Listen. It is coming closer.

All: A bell in the distance,

One: A drum beat of hope.

All: A vision of peace.

One: Shalom, God's peace.

All: Standing for justice

One: Feeling God's love

All: Emmanuel

One: God with us!

All: Listen.

***Hymn #110**

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Pilgrim Hymnal

Advent Wreath (Please be seated)

Corrie Purdum

One: Love's memory is long. As we come to the last Sunday of Advent, we recall the many times we have been here before with still so much to do and so much love left unexpressed. The Hebrew Bible recalls a promise to King David, which the church has often understood to be fulfilled in the birth of Jesus. Love's promise is often kept in unexpected ways.

All: God's love endures forever. In a world where even evergreens turn dry and brittle, God's love is the one reality on which we can rely. Today we prepare for the greatest expression of that love, as we listen once more for the Word in the words.

One: A reading from II Samuel 7:16, "Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me: your throne shall be established forever."

All: God's love endures forever. Through acts as simple and common as the birth of a baby, God transforms the world, and God's promises are kept. It is that expression of faithful love we anticipate and celebrate this day. It is that promise that brings light to our deepest night. (Light all 4 candles)

One: We relight the three candles of HOPE, PEACE and JOY, and we light the fourth candle in eager anticipation of God's greatest promise fulfilled, what else can we do but name this candle LOVE?

***Gloria #116 vs 1** *"Angels We Have Heard on High"* Pilgrim Hymnal

Scripture

Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." ¹³ Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Offering of music (10:00 AM)

"A Question for Christmas" *Ed Rush & Douglas Nolan*

Children's time (10:00 AM)

Hymn #109 vs 1 *"Watchman, Tell Us of the Night"* Pilgrim Hymnal

Scripture

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

Carol #128

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

Pilgrim Hymnal

Sermon

Rev. Melinda Quellhorst

Pastoral Prayer / Silent Prayer

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.

Invitation to Gratitude (10:00 AM)

Offering our Gifts

Offering Music "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" *arr. Danny Calhoun*

***Doxology**

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter
One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen***

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

***Hymn #120** *"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"* Pilgrim Hymnal

***Benediction**

Postlude "Sing We Now of Christmas" *arr. Cindy Berry*

Serving You in Church Today

Sermon: Rev. Mindy Quellhorst

Liturgist: Jeff Davis

Music Director: Jamie Kunselman

Organist: Bret Tassone

Media: Dave MacKeigan

Join us after the 10:00 AM worship for Coffee Hour in Thomas Hall—your hosts are Dave & Judy MacKeigan.

Stream Events at Dover

~The **worship service** will be live on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. on the Dover Congregational UCC website (<https://www.doverucc.org>) and Facebook page and the recording will be posted immediately after the service.

~Monday thru Friday, the office will be open from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Please call the office to ensure someone is in to assist you.

~If you have a care or concern you need to discuss, please contact Rev. Quellhorst at revmql@gmail.com or call her on her cell, 330-717-5357

~During the 10:00 AM service, child care is available for children five years and younger in room 104, on the lower level, Faith Formation for older children.

Large print bulletins and hearing amplifications are available in the back.

**PLEASE CHECK THE BOX IN THE NARTHEX—
You may have some Christmas greetings in there!**



Faith Formation and Faith Explorers are in full swing. Come grow with us—there's something for every age!

Any questions—please contact Jacquie DelMonte
440-463-6460

~ **Contributions** ~ At the home page click on the **"Give"** button and follow the directions



OR you can easily connect to our online donation page by scanning this QR code with the camera on your phone or a QR app--will take you directly to our online donation page!

Open and Affirming Statement

Dover Congregational United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming congregation. We affirm that God's grace is available to all. We welcome people of all ages, genders, races, views, abilities, sexual orientations, expressions and identities, ethnic educational and economic backgrounds into the full life and ministry of our church. We declare this in the name of God, whose Son, Jesus Christ, welcomed all people into God's circle of grace.

Approved by the congregation September 21, 2008
Additions approved by the congregation April 13, 2014

Just Peace Covenant

As a Just Peace church continuing the work of Jesus, we commit to work toward a world where all persons are treated with dignity and equality, where societies are structured in ways that promote the well-being of all people, and where conflicts are resolved through communication and negotiations, without resorting to exploitation or violence. We strive to embody these principles in our lives and witness as individuals and as a congregation. Our specific focus is: Just Peace in the community- so that all may live free from fear. Just Peace with the Earth – so that life is sustained. Just Peace in the marketplace- so that all may live with dignity. Just Peace among nations- so that human lives are protected. Through our worship, programs, and outreach we seek to be a community of reconciliation, hope, and courage as we work for peace and justice in our world.

Adopted and approved by congregation September 14, 2025