

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



Dover Congregational United Church of Christ

December 24, 2025

Rev. Melinda Quellhorst, Senior Pastor
An Open & Affirming Congregation
A Just Peace Congregation
Christmas Eve

***Please Stand if able**
Pilgrim Hymnal is red

Prelude

"Do You Hear What I Hear?"

arr. Jamie Kunselman

Centering

***Carol #132 verses 1-2** "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

***Call to Worship**

One: We are watchful and waiting,

All: A child is born in a manger.

One: A gift of peace to troubled souls and dangerous streets.

All: A gift of joy to sad hearts and cautious lives.

One: A gift of hope to wearied brows and oppressed peoples.

All: A gift of love, a gift of God.

***Carol #130** "Joy to the World!"

Advent Wreath (Please be seated)

Kim and Ken Delfing

One: For four weeks, we have listened to messages from the prophet Isaiah. In Isaiah's words, we have caught glimpses of the light that is promised. (*Light advent candles, all except Christ candle*) The wreath is ablaze, all the candles of expectancy have been lit, still there is one last prophecy to hear.

All: With eyes, wide open, ears attuned and hearts unguarded,

One: we gather around the wreath, to light one more candle, longing to receive the Word within the words.

All: Hope... Peace... Joy... Love...

One: The Prophet Isaiah 9:6, For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

All: This night these words are fulfilled in our hearing.

One: We pause...and in our pausing, in our living the promise of God has come to us. Our lives are the manger in whom the Christ child is born. No longer do we seek light from another source;

All: now the light burns in our hearts and we become love's lamp.

One: We light the candle at the center of our wreath and our faith. We light it in the name of the One who is the light, and, as Mary did so long ago, we name this light Jesus.

Carol #116

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Scripture

Titus 2:11-14

Ken Delfing

Offering of Music

"At Christmas Time All Christians Sing"

arr. Patrick M. Liebergen

Christmas Prayer

All: Loving God, deep in the night, when the entire world had locked the doors on love and closed the shutters on hope, you pierced the darkness with Light and a baby's cry. Never again shall we be alone. No more shall we sit in fear. For Christ, the Light of the World is born. God of angels, open us again to this miracle, the wonder that you became one with us. Let the angels sing; let the star shine, let the child smile— on this holy night.

Silence

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.

Carol #129 verses 1-2 *"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"*

Scripture

Isaiah 9:2-7

Jeff Davis

Carol # 129 Verses 3-4 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"*

Children's time

Carol # 137

"Away in a Manger"

The Christmas Story

Story from the Gospel

Luke 2:1-7

Carol# 128 verses 1 and 4

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

Story from the Gospel

Luke 2:8-14

Carol # 120 verse 1

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Carol #134 verses 1 and 4

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Story from the Gospel

Luke 2:15-20

Solo

"O Holy Night"

Kia Frank

Homily

The Rev. Melinda Quellhorst

Invitation to Gratitude**Offering our Gifts****Offering Music**

"Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine"

Robert J. Hughes

***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**Carol #138/139***"Silent Night"*

Guitar

*Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Alles schaft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar Holder Knabe im lockingen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh, Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!*

*Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!*

*Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.*

Benediction*Postlude**

"For Unto Us a Child is Born"

arr. Mark Hayes

Serving You in Church Today**Sermon:** Rev. Mindy Quellhorst**Music Director:** Jamie Kunselman**Organist:** Bret Tassone**Media:** Dave MacKeigan

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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