



*Worshipping God in Christ, Welcoming all, working for justice and peace*

# Veradale United Church of Christ

## *The Messenger*



### **“In the Bleak Midwinter”**

By Christian Rossetti, 1872, public domain

- 1 In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.
- 2 Our God transcends all heaven, earth and its domain; heaven and earth shall flee away when Christ comes to reign. In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the sovereign God Almighty, Jesus Christ.
- 3 Angels and archangels may have gathered there, cherubim and seraphim thronged the air; but his mother only, in her maiden bliss, worshiped the beloved with a kiss.
- 4 What can I offer, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise one, I would do my part; but what I can I offer: all my heart.

# DECEMBER 2020



## Thoughts from the Pastor –

We have entered the season of Advent. The first Sunday in Advent celebrates hope as we enter into a new Christian year. Many of us hope for a marker, a new year's line, to let us know that the hardship of the past year is gone. However, entering into our Christian new year is a practice of looking forward, not back. With Advent our spiritual journey begins again. In the practice of our faith, ideally, we place ourselves on a quest to deepen our relationship with God and all that God loves.

This Advent's new beginning comes with fatigue, grief, anger, and fear. More than 268,000 Americans have died to Covid-19. The empty places at the holiday table remind their families just how costly this pandemic has been. Others are on the edge due to losses of work or home or the comfort of the way things used to be.

Sometimes, when we feel that there is nothing we can do, that the problems have become so big and we are too tired, we call out in our prayers, "Lord, come and fix this world!"

Long ago, God heard this prayer from our ancestors. God's answer was Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us. God's answer is still Jesus who shows us what it means to make things just, compassionate, and humble on this life's journey.

During Advent, we imagine the world waiting for the coming of Jesus. We look for the light to guide us through the cold nights. Come now, God, and be with us on this journey. Show us again how you come as one of us, poor, cold, and vulnerable. Come now, show us again how to walk through the valley of the shadow of death. Come now, and reveal to us again how all of creation, all people, all creatures, rivers, mountains, reflect you. May this new Christian year be a journey where we find ourselves aware of the God who is with us, Emmanuel!

With blessings,  
Pastor Gen

## Please, Try Zoom

Here are directions from Scotty

Since some of you may not have used Zoom, here is a little how-to.

To sign onto Zoom, you need to have the Zoom app installed on your computer or smartphone.

- Once this is done, signing onto Zoom is super easy!
- The quality is a little better, both audio and video.
- We can see each other, and you can turn on your camera, or keep it off if you prefer.

Download the App:

- Smartphone: go to the App Store (iPhone) or Play Store (Android) and search for/install the *Zoom Cloud Meetings* app
- Mac and Windows OS:
  - Go to <https://zoom.us/>
  - Click the link *SIGN UP, IT'S FREE*
  - Choose the free personal plan
  - Download and install

Once you have the app installed, you open it and create a *username* and *password*. Usually you can have your phone or computer remember them. Then, when you want to join a meeting, just open the app, and click *Join* (in the Home tab). Then enter the *meeting ID*, and then the password, until you are in the meeting.

Here is a little hint: in the place where you enter the number, you see there is a little down arrow on the right – tap on it to see your recent meetings by name. If you would like to do this but need help getting started, you can let Pastor Gen or Scotty know, and we will help set you up (email Scotty at [scottyp333@yahoo.com](mailto:scottyp333@yahoo.com)). You can also check out how-to videos on the Zoom website or on YouTube.

**‘REMINDER’**  
**CONTACT PASTOR GEN IF ATTENDING WORSHIP IN PERSON**  
**(We may not be there)**

Please be sure to call or email Pastor Gen each time you plan to attend Sunday Worship service in person. Worship will also be seen and heard on Facebook, Zoom, and Radio Daniel Station 89.3FM (from our parking lot). Keep flexible about in-person. We are weighing the risks on a week-to-week basis. We are practicing all Covid responsible protocols

Pastor Gen: 1-408-593-9556 – Cell or 509-919-3768 - Home

**VUCC ‘ONLINE’ AUCTION**  
**(FACEBOOK- ‘17 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS’**

We are holding a ‘17 Days of Christmas’ **Online Facebook Auction** from November 27 – December 12<sup>th</sup> where we will offer a Gift Basket each day for your bidding. **Bids accepted from 10:00 am–6:00 pm** each day at:

[https://www.facebook.com/VeradaleUCC/?view\\_public\\_for=268756849922788](https://www.facebook.com/VeradaleUCC/?view_public_for=268756849922788) and **type your bid in the ‘comments’** section of the presented Basket. If you ***do not have Facebook*** bid by contacting Don Young (509) 979-0228 or Jan Young (509) 979-0224 or Marvin Wilson (509) 218-7332. Final highest bid winner will be notified in the Facebook comments after 6:00 pm or contacted by one of the people above taking the bids. **December Baskets being offered during the Auction are available for viewing on our Facebook page and on Pages 8-9 in this Newsletter!**

Payments may be made in cash at the church or go to [www.veradaleucc.org](http://www.veradaleucc.org) and use the ‘Donate’ button for PayPal. **For all payments, please indicate ‘Auction’ so we know what the payment is for.**

All winner baskets must be picked up by appointment at the church no later than December 20<sup>th</sup>. Contact the church office at 926-7173 or one of the people above for pick up appointments.

*Thank you, Longevity Committee.*

**PLUM PUDDING**



**We boldly go where we have never gone before!**  
**Only on Zoom, Sunday, December 6th at 4:00 pm.**  
*(See Plum Pudding Recipes on email from Pastor Gen 11/25/2020)*

Oh, I’m guessing that when we get through this pandemic, we will have become so flexible that we could join a circus!

If you are adventurous, try making your own plum pudding and join us at 4pm on Zoom.

We will share stories, songs, and more. Bring your talent or just yourself and meet us there!

## HOPE HOUSE 'WISH LIST'

(Every donation gives a woman hope!)

**(Our giving at least thru December 2020)**

*Please hold your VUCC donations at home or contact Hope House (535-3155) to see if they are excepting donations at this time. We will resume our VUCC Collections once we are meeting again at the church.*



Socks	Soap
Underwear	Cough Drops
Sugar	Razors
Creamer	Hair Ties
Peanut Butter	Coffee
Tampons	Toilet Paper
Blankets	Milk
Bus Passes	Butter
Shampoo	Breakfast Cereal
Conditioner	Ladies Clothing
Dog Food & Biscuits	Bras

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH 'WORSHIP IN PERSON' COVID-19 REQUIREMENTS

Due to these requirements in keeping everyone safe and well the Worship Team is looking for a person to volunteer for one Sunday a month (5 Sundays means we would like to have 5 volunteers). **We still need 2 volunteers.** Contact Wayne Shull. Supplies will be available.

**Here is what to expect on Sundays at  
'in person' Worship Services:**

1. Enter through front door (church wings will both be closed).
2. Only the one bathroom by the front doors will be used.
3. Temperature and names will be taken at the door.
4. Masks are required (we will have masks for forgetful folk).
5. Chairs will be set at 6' apart. Please, do not move chairs. **Those in same household family may sit together.**
6. No Bibles, Hymnals, Pens, Pencils, or Coloring Table items available during worship services. Please bring your own Bible.

Please, let Pastor Gen know if you are coming in person so that she can be certain we have enough chairs set out. Thank you, Gen.



## SPOKANE VALLEY FOOD BANK DONATIONS

**(Our giving at least thru December 2020)**

*Please hold your VUCC donations at home or contact SVP at 927-1153 to see if they are excepting donations at this time. We will resume our VUCC Collections once we are meeting again at the church.*

You may drop off items 8am-4pm (M-F) at 10814 E. Broadway or Mail money to SVP, PO Box 141360, Spokane Valley, WA. 99214.

Please, contact SVP directly to arrange dropping off food. **SVP: 927-1153**

## DECEMBER COUNCIL



Our Council Meeting will be **through on December 14th at 7:00 p.m.** on 'Go to Meeting'. Watch your email or announcements for any additional details. Email or call the office 926-7173 if you wish to contribute any information, concerns, ideas, etc. to the council. Wayne Shull, Moderator.

## 2021 PLEDGE CARDS ARE AVAILABLE



Pledges are coming in for 2021 and are greatly appreciated as we plan for the coming year. There are blank Pledge Cards on the foyer table outside the sanctuary along with related letters from our VUCC Council. **If you need the card mailed or emailed to you let me know.** Fill out the Pledge Card and return it to the office by mail or place it in the Sunday offering plate. **You may also email or call in your Pledge at 926-7173 or [veradaleucc@gmail.com](mailto:veradaleucc@gmail.com).**

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



# DECEMBER 2020



**Attend Worship Services on  
Facebook (Zoom) or listen on  
Radio Station 89.3 FM  
(from our Parking Lot)**

1  
Facebook Auction  
Basket

2  
Facebook Auction  
Basket

3  
Facebook Auction  
Basket

4  
Facebook Auction  
Basket

5  
Facebook Auction  
Basket

6 ADVENT - 'PEACE'

10:30 -11:30 a.m.  
Worship  
w/Communion  
(Remote-Zoom)

**4pm- 5:30pm**  
**PLUM PUDDING**  
(Remote-Zoom)

Facebook Auction  
Basket

7

Facebook Auction  
Basket

8

9-9:25 a.m.  
Prayer-Pastor Gen  
  
Facebook Auction  
Basket

5-6 pm  
Truthful Tuesday  
(Remote)

9

Facebook Auction  
Basket

10

Facebook Auction  
Basket

11

Facebook  
Auction  
Basket

12

9:30 a.m.  
Saturday Coffee  
Fellowship on  
(Go-to-Meeting)

Facebook Auction  
Basket

13 ADVENT - 'JOY'

10:30 -11:30 a.m.  
Worship w/  
(Plymouth Church Visit)  
(Remote-Zoom)

14

7:00 p.m.  
Council Meeting

15

9-9:25 a.m.  
Prayer-Pastor Gen

16

  
**Articles Due for**  
**January 2021**

17

9:00-11:30 am  
FLLC Meeting  
(Remote)

18

19

20 ADVENT - 'LOVE'

10:30 -11:30 a.m.  
Worship  
(Poetry Sunday)  
(Remote-Zoom)

21

**First Day of**  
**WINTER!**



22

9-9:25 a.m.  
Prayer-Pastor Gen

23

24

**7:00 p.m.**  
**Candlelight**  
**Worship Service**  
(Remote-Zoom)  
**with a**  
**VIRTUAL**  
**Nativity Play**  
(Remote-Zoom)

25

**Office Closed**  
**Merry**  
**Christmas**



26

27

10:30 -11:30 a.m.  
Worship  
(Remote-Zoom)

*Closing Financial Books*  
*for 2020. All Donations*  
*to be given today to count*  
*for 2020. Thank you.*

28

29

30

31

WISHING YOU ALL A  
JOYFUL ADVENT AND  
CHRISTMAS SEASON  
AND A SAFE AND HAPPY  
NEW YEAR!  
Joyce Walker  
Office Manager



Date	Worship Services	Time	Access Services <i>If 'in-person' attending, notify Pastor Gen.</i>
December 6	Advent – 'Peace' Candle	10:30 a.m.	(remote) Facebook (Zoom) or Radio 89.3FM, Phone
December 13	Advent – 'Joy' Candle	10:30 a.m.	(remote) Facebook (Zoom) or Radio 89.3FM, Phone
December 20	Advent – 'Love' Candle	10:30 a.m.	(remote) Facebook (Zoom) or Radio 89.3FM, Phone
<u>December 24</u>	<u>Christmas Eve – Candle Light Service w/Nativity Play</u>	<u>7:00 p.m.</u>	<u>(remote) Facebook (Zoom) or Radio 89.3FM, Phone</u>
December 27	Worship Service	10:30 a.m.	(remote) Facebook (Zoom) or Radio 89.3FM, Phone

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR JANUARY ARTICLES

Please have your information and articles to Joyce by **Wednesday, December 16th**. If you need assistance with your article call or email at 926-7173 or [veradaleucc@gmail.com](mailto:veradaleucc@gmail.com). I can access the emails from home. Thank you, Joyce

### WEEKLY TUESDAY MORNING PRAYER WITH PASTOR GEN HEYWOOD (REMOTE)

Remember we have silent prayer every Tuesday morning from 9:00 a.m. – 9:25 a.m. Pastor Gen Heywood will hold prayers remotely on the Veradale UCC Facebook page.

### END OF YEAR OFFERINGS PROCESSING NOTIFICATION

We will be closing the financial books by **Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup>** this year in order to have all 2020 offerings accounted for in the current tax year.

Please have your **offerings** (all types) for 2020 completed **by Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup>**. *If you are mailing your donation please mail early enough for VUCC to receive them in the mailbox by 12/27.*

Any donations after that date will be counted towards 2021 because we cannot deposit them until January 4, 2021. **Questions:** Call the Office at 926-7173 or talk to Diane Smith, Treasurer.

### Prayers of concern for

Marvin Wilson's **Dad** who is in the hospital.  
Healing for Barbara Paro's daughter, **Jen** diagnosed with an invasive malignant tumor.  
Requested Sunday, 11/29 by Naomi for our community to have a spirit of unity to work together to face the pandemic.  
**Bert Porter's family** grieving Bert's passing 11/4.

## POINSETTIA DONATIONS



We are using our **silk poinsettias** and making this a way to give to the three offerings for the UCC, One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors In Need and the Christmas Fund. **For a donation of \$15, a Poinsettia will be placed in memory of those you want to recognize. A 'special tag' will be attached to each plant identifying the name(s) of those in 'honor' or 'memory' of. *All those donating we will get the special tag to you after Epiphany for your tree next year.***

**To donate a Poinsettia email or phone the office with your request including the name(s) for the 'Special tag'.** Checks may be made to VUCC and mailed or use the 'Donate' button on our [veradaleucc.org](http://veradaleucc.org) website. **Indicate what the donation is for either way you make your payment. 926-7173 or veradaleucc@gmail.com**

A list of those remembered will be printed for the bulletin of Christmas Eve. **The money will be divided between the three special offerings** and the poinsettia will be available to be used next year.

## FRED MEYER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM

1. Obtain a Fred Meyer (FM) Rewards Card from any cashier or customer service at your Fred Meyer store. If you already have one, skip this step.
2. Got to [www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards) to link your Rewards Card to the church.
3. On the community rewards page **Click** on the **Rewards** tab. On the menu that drops down **Click** on **Fred Meyer Community Rewards**.
4. On this page, scroll down to "Are you a Fred Meyer Customer?" & **Click Re-enroll or link your rewards card now**. Follow the instructions & enter your card number.
5. It will ask you to sign in, you may have to set up an account using your email address and a password, if you don't already have an account. Then **Click** on **Sign In**.
6. On the page that comes up after you sign in, under **Find Your Organization** **Enter** **LN110** or at least the first 3 letters of the church name in the box. **Click Search**.
7. **Select** Veradale United Church of Christ and **Click Enroll**.
8. An Account Summary will come up. There will be a box at the top that has a checkmark and states "Your enrollment in the community rewards program has been updated. Thanks for participating. Your account info can be edited on this page."

## NOVEMBER FINANCIAL UPDATE

Our **Monthly goal is \$8,800**. We had **\$7,731** in donations towards that goal as of **November 30<sup>th</sup> in Deposits including PayPal**.

We are tracking our Monthly Goal. If you have questions, email or contact the office at 926-7173.

### Offerings

Please, remember offerings can be given through the church website at <https://veradaleuucc.org> There is an orange donate button on the right side of the page.

or

Send checks to Veradale UCC, 611 North Progress

## SATURDAY COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



Our meeting will be **Saturday, December 12th at 9:30 a.m. through 'Go-to-Meeting'**. We will be discussing "*Just Mercy*" by Bryan Stevenson. The author is a young lawyer whose mission is to help innocent black men on death row. There is a movie by this title at Valley Library, and they have several copies of the book too.

**New to GoToMeeting?** Install app:  
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/168492205>

**Join our meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.**

<http://global.gotomeeting.com/join/168492205>

**You can dial in using your phone:**

+1 (646) 749-3122 / Access code: 168-492-205

Let me know if you have questions.

In the meantime, "Take Care of Yourself, and Each Other".

Becky

## DECEMBER - BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



Tim Leadingham – B	Dec. 14
Kay Hult & Al Torres – A	Dec. 16
Ron & Trudy Lambert – A	Dec. 20
Betty Prescott – B	Dec. 23
Bob & Darlene Turner – A	Dec. 27



# '17 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS' – DECEMBER AUCTION BASKETS







**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**  
**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> AT 7:00 P.M.**  
**WITH NATIVITY PLAY**



Bring your own candles to our ‘virtual’ Christmas Eve Pageant. Dress your pet or yourself as a part of the nativity. If you are open to a speaking part, let Pastor Gen know at (408) 593-9556.

**VERADALE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
611 N. PROGRESS ROAD  
SPOKANE VALLEY, WA 99037**

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Ministers: People of the Church  
Pastor: Genavieve (Gen) Heywood  
Office Manager: Joyce Walker  
Music Director: Wayne Shull  
Phone: (509) 926-7173  
Email: [veradaleucc@gmail.com](mailto:veradaleucc@gmail.com)  
Website: [veradaleucc.org](http://veradaleucc.org)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/Veradaleucc](https://facebook.com/Veradaleucc)

### **Worship Service Sundays at 10:30 a.m.**

*Join us on Facebook-Zoom & (Radio 89.3- from the Parking Lot) and open for 'in person' attendees by contacting Pastor Gen prior to each Sunday date per Covid-19 safety regulations of arrangement of chairs and spacing.*