**Community Congregational Church of Clinton Heights, UCC**

**December 11, 2022**

**Pastor: Retired Local Pastor Ed Whited**

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship.**

One: Let us rejoice at the coming of the Lord.

**ALL: Let us rejoice with joy and singing.**

One: Let us raise our voices in glory.

**ALL: Singing loudly and clear.**

One: The Mighty One has done great things for us.

**ALL: and Holy is the name of the Lord.**

**Opening Prayer:**

All mighty God, who looked upon us when we had fallen into sin and resolved to save us by the advent of your only-begotten Son: Grant, we ask you, that all who confess his having come in the flesh may be counted in the fellowship of him, our Redeemer Jesus Christ; Who with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God in glory everlasting. Amen.

**Hymn –** Living Hope

**Children’s Time**

**Lighting the Advent Wreath - Hope**

# **Scripture Reading**

 Matthew 11: 2-11 (New Living Translation)

**Hymn -** Ancient Words

**Sermon: What Difference Did Jesus Make?**

**Prayers for others and ourselves**

**Lord’s Prayer** (using debts/debtors)

**Hymn** – Light of the World 469

**Invitation to Offering - Doxology**

**Hymn –** One Candle is Lit 128

**Announcements**

**Commission and Benediction**

**Prayer**

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**Manage your giving online:**

Community Congregational Church is excited to announce that you can now manage your giving online! Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet. Simply follow these easy steps:

1) Visit the church website at **www.clintonheightsucc.org**,

2) Click on the **Donate Now** button,

3) Click on the **Create Profile** button, then

4) Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contribution.

Matthew 11: 2-11 NLT

**2**John the Baptist, who was in prison, heard about all the things the Messiah was doing. So he sent his disciples to ask Jesus, **3**“Are you the Messiah we’ve been expecting,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2011:2-11&version=NLT#fen-NLT-23439a)] or should we keep looking for someone else?”

**4**Jesus told them, “Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen— **5**the blind see, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor.” **6**And he added, “God blesses those who do not fall away because of me.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2011:2-11&version=NLT#fen-NLT-23442b)]”

**7**As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began talking about him to the crowds. “What kind of man did you go into the wilderness to see? Was he a weak reed, swayed by every breath of wind? **8**Or were you expecting to see a man dressed in expensive clothes? No, people with expensive clothes live in palaces. **9**Were you looking for a prophet? Yes, and he is more than a prophet. **10**John is the man to whom the Scriptures refer when they say,

‘Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
    and he will prepare your way before you.’[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2011:2-11&version=NLT#fen-NLT-23446c)]

**11**“I tell you the truth, of all who have ever lived, none is greater than John the Baptist. Yet even the least person in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he is!