

**Second Sunday of Christmas
Covenant Renewal Service**

January 1, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Prelude - The First Noel -Mary McDonald

Call to Worship

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Opening Hymn No. 206 - I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light**

I want to walk as a child of the light

I want to follow Jesus

God sent the stars to give light to the world

The star of my life is Jesus

In Him there is no darkness at all

The night and the day are both alike

The Lamb is the light of the city of God

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus

I want to see the brightness of God

I want to look at Jesus

Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path

And show me the way to the Father

In Him there is no darkness at all

The night and the day are both alike

The Lamb is the light of the city of God

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus

I'm looking for the coming of Christ

I want to be with Jesus

When we have run with patience the race

We shall know the joy of Jesus

In Him there is no darkness at all

The night and the day are both alike

The Lamb is the light of the city of God

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus

Invocation

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. Before the mountains were brought forth, or you had formed the

earth, from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

God's Word for Young Disciples

(Those in grades K-4 may be excused for Children's worship during the 11:00 service. They may be picked up in Asbury Hall.)

Anthem - *Midwinter* - Bob Chilcott

Sermon

Pastor Jon Priebe

Covenant Prayer

Commit yourselves to Christ as his servants. Give yourselves to him, that you may belong to him. Christ has many services to be done. Some are more easy and honorable, others are more difficult and disgraceful. Some are suitable to our inclinations and interests, others are contrary to both. In some we may please Christ and please ourselves. But then there are other works where we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. It is necessary, therefore, that we consider what it means to be a servant of Christ. Let us, therefore, go to Christ, and pray:

I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you, praised for you or criticized for you. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service. And now, O wonderful and holy

God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, you are mine, and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it also be made in heaven. Amen.

Discipleship Moment

Apostles' Creed**

We believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offertory

(Please fill out the presence card found in the pews and place it in the offering plates in the narthex or bring it to the front during the offertory.)

Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayers of the People/The 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 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.

Communion

... And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

... Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God), now and for ever.

Amen.

Closing Hymn No. 254** - We Three Kings

*We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.*

Refrain:

*O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

*Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,*

*King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.
(Refrain)*

*Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high.
(Refrain)*

*Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
(Refrain)*

*Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies.
(Refrain)*

Benediction and Choral Response - (Hymn No. 221)

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Postlude - *Ding Dong Merrily on High* - Mary McDonald



The flowers on the altar are dedicated to the glory of God.

Service Music: Special Music

Music: One License A-731491

CHURCH NOTES

Hat & Mitten Mission - We are starting our Hat & Mitten mission now that the weather is growing colder. We are asking for new or gently-used gloves/mittens/winter hats, or new socks. The donation table is located across from the church office, outside of the chapel. Items may be left there, or if the line is empty, please feel free to bag the items, then place them directly outside on the line at the corner of Portage & 3rd.

Blessings Box - Our blessing box certainly lives up to its name by blessing those in the community who need assistance with food. If donating items, please avoid items in glass, as these may shatter and injure someone due to the cold weather. Items may be placed in the box directly, or brought inside and placed on the donation table located outside the church library.

2023 Altar Flowers: We are taking orders for altar flowers in 2023. The cost is \$38 and the church takes care of the ordering and delivery. If you would like to reserve a date, contact Christy Meyers at Ext. 210 or cmeyersfallsumc@gmail.com.

Women's Bible Study: Join us for a new study *Chasing Vines* by Beth Moore. In this study, Beth shows us from Scripture how all of life's concerns-the delights and the trials-matter to God. He uses all of it to help us flourish and be fruitful. There are two opportunities to participate: Tuesdays from 7-9 pm and Wednesdays from 10 am to noon. The study will last 12 weeks, beginning January 24 & 25. The study uses both the book *Chasing Vines*, and a study guide. The cost for the books is \$18.00. Please register with Kathy Kuzas at Ext. 212 or kkuzasfumccf@gmail.com by January 16.

Acme Receipts: Receipts dated through December 24 may still be turned in at the Welcome Center. All receipts will be due by the end of January.

Next Steps

What kind of Messiah is this?

Why wasn't Jesus, God's chosen King, born in Jerusalem?

In *Luke 3:1-2*, Luke names 7 different political and religious leaders

Instead, the Word of the Lord came in the desert to John the Baptist

In the Bleak Midwinter

With their gifts, the Magi show us that this King was not exactly as expected

He has not come to conquer the world through political or religious power

Instead, Jesus has come as a baby to conquer our hearts through love

Questions for Reflection: Despite there being an abundance of political power in Jesus's world, God chose that he should be born in Bethlehem. Not Rome, the seat of all political power in Europe. Not Jerusalem, the seat of political and religious power in Israel. This sign shows us what Jesus confirms later in his own teachings, "My Kingdom is not of this world." How am I tempted by political power? Do I seek to make the world better through political or social power rather than through prayer and spiritual discipline? Have I allowed my heart to be fully conquered by the Messiah?

Questions for Discussion: In what ways does the assumption that God would prefer to work through political and religious power still shape our understanding of the world? What examples can we find of God using the lowly or unexpected to accomplish the plan of salvation, rather than the powerful and mighty?

Memory Verse: *Matthew 2:11a* – "On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage."

Readings for this Week: Jeremiah 31:31-34, Matthew 3:13-17, Luke 17:20-21

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –
PRAYER BULLETIN
JANUARY 1, 2023**



MINISTERS & STAFF:

Forrest Waller & John Fox

HOSPITALIZED:

MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:

Scott Adie Bob Ahonen Debbie Amundsen Shirley Asher Mary Ellen Atwood Jim Bailey Behrman family Mark & Cindy Blaser Robert & Patsy Boyd	Larry Brimlow Don Corbett Tom Cully Jim Evans Jean Finnegan Rose Gregory Mary Griest Joyce Haberkost Jim Henes	Gerald Lewis Gus Mercurio Bonnie & Jerry Nine Pat Park Kathi Sawyer David Townsend Mary & Ken Tunstall Marilyn Waller
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DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:

Family of member Bill Hunt and his death on 12/11.