

Christmas Day
December 25, 2022

10:00 a.m.

Welcome

Prelude

On This Day Earth Shall Ring (Hymn 248)- H. Dean Wagner

Call to Worship

Do not be afraid.

For we have received good news of great joy for all the people.

For to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior.

He is the Messiah, the Lord.

*Opening Hymn No. 245** - The First Noel*

*The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.*

Refrain:

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.*

*They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
(Refrain)*

*And by the light of that same star
three Wise Men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.
(Refrain)*

*This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay.
(Refrain)*

*Then entered in those Wise Men three,
full reverently upon the knee,
and offered there, in his presence,
gold and myrrh and frankincense.
(Refrain)*

Invocation

O almighty God, by the birth of your holy child Jesus you gave us a great light to dawn on our darkness. Grant that in his light we may see light. Bestow upon us that most excellent Christmas gift of love to all people, so that the linkness of your Son may be formed in us, and that we may have the ever brightening hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Hymn No. 251 - Go, Tell it on the Mountain**

Refrain:

*Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills, and ev'rywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.*

*While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. [Refrain]*

*The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]*

*Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]*

First Scripture Reading

1 John 4: 7-13

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

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

Hymn No. 224 - Good Christian Friends, Rejoice**

*Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ was born today.
Ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!*

*Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!*

*Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!*

Second Scripture Reading

John 1: 1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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

Hymn of Response No. 232** - When Christmas Morn Is Dawning

*When Christmas morn is dawning
In faith I would repair
Unto the lowly manger;
My Saviour lieth there,
Unto the lowly manger;
My Saviour lieth there. A-men.*

*How kind, O loving Saviour,
To come from heaven above;
From sin and evil save us,
And keep us in thy love.*

*We need thee, blessèd Jesus,
Our dearest friend thou art;
Forbid that we by sinning
Should grieve thy loving heart.*

Offertory - Carol of Joy - Dan Forest

(Please fill out the presence card found in the pews and place it in the offering plates 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.

Closing Hymn No. 246 - Joy to the World**

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing.*

*Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love.*

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 - Noel Suisse - Louis-Claude Daquin

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

The roses on the altar are in honor of the birth of granddaughters Hazel and Heather Clayton by Brian and Tami Clayton.

CHURCH NOTES

Hat & Mitten Mission: we are starting our Hat & Mitten mission now that the weather is growing colder. If you are out shopping and you find gloves/ mittens/ winter hats, or socks, please consider purchasing them for this mission project. We will also collect very gently-used items. 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 Trail & 3rd Street.

Blessings Box: We are starting to run low on items, so please consider donating canned foods, individual oatmeal packets, ramen noodles, individual fruit cups, individual mac-n-cheese, travel size hygiene 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 near the library.

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. It 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: Continue to save your Acme receipts **through December 24** for their Community Cash Back program. The church receives 5% on qualifying products. Receipts may be turned in at the Welcome Center. All receipts will be due by the end of January.

ROCK Knitting Project: There are no regular children's programs until January 8, but anyone who would like to continue working on the knitting projects, which were started earlier this fall during ROCK, is invited to a session on Tuesday, December 27, at 2:00 p.m. We will learn how to finish the hats we started and have some time to work together. Anyone who would like to join us is welcome, children or adults

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –
PRAYER BULLETIN
DECEMBER 25, 2022**



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.