

First Sunday after Christmas

10:30 a.m.

December 31, 2023

GATHERING

The people of God come together in the Lord's name

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

Call to Worship

With mighty mountains and crashing seas,

praise the name of the Lord.

With rolling valleys and lush forests,

praise the name of our God.

With tiny ants and majestic eagles,

praise the name of the Holy One.

With innocent children and wise elders,

praise the name of Love.

Opening Hymn 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

Almighty creator, we come to shout and rejoice in the wonderful gift of your Son for our world. It is a miracle that fills our lives with your glory. On this last day of the year, may our celebration honor the good we have received from your hand, even as we look forward to walking faithfully with you in the year ahead. As those who came before us, we will not be silent in our love for you; we will not mute our pure joy for what you have brought to our lives. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

The Word of God is read and proclaimed for all ages.

Scripture Reading - Luke 2:22-40 (New Testament p. 59/55)

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

God's Word for Young Disciples

Sermon - *Who Do You See?*

Pastor Howard Pippin

RESPONSE

The people of God respond to the Word

Offertory - *See Amid the Winter's Snow* - Pepper Choplin

(Please fill out the attendance sheet found in the pew.)

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 (Hymnal p. 13)

SENDING FORTH

The people of God are sent forth to serve others and witness to their faith

Closing Hymn 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 Congregational Response (Hymn 224)

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

Postlude - *Noel Suisse* - Louis Claude Daquin



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

Music: One License A-731491

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –
PRAYER BULLETIN
DECEMBER 31, 2023**



MINISTERS & STAFF:

Forrest Waller

HOSPITALIZED:

MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:

Scott Adie	Mark & Cindy Blaser
Bob Ahonen	Lee Minier
Debbie Amundsen	Kathi Sawyer
Glenn Atwood	Christina Shaw
Jim Bailey	Martha Shoults
Bill & Janet Blank	Ken Tunstall
Mark & Cindy Blaser	

DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:

Dudley (Lori) Turner and family on the death of his brother, Darcy Turner on 12/17.

Ann (Terry) Lewis and family on the death of her father, Thomas Misiak on 12/2.