



**December 31, 2023
Sunday Gathering
The Sunday After Christmas
“The Gift of Being Present with Assurance”**

.....

-SPECIAL MUSIC-

“What Can I Give Him”

-WELCOME-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

“What Can I Give Him”

WHAT CAN I GIVE HIM, 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;
YET WHAT CAN I GIVE HIM?
I WILL GIVE MY HEART.

-OPENING THE GIFT-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

“What Can I Give Him”

WHAT CAN I GIVE HIM, 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;
YET WHAT CAN I GIVE HIM?
I WILL GIVE MY HEART.

-CALL TO WORSHIP-

Holy God, we come into this place
confident that you will meet us here.
WHERE THERE IS DESPAIR, BRING HOPE;
WHERE THERE IS TURMOIL, BRING PEACE;
WHERE THERE IS SADNESS, BRING JOY;
WHERE THERE IS RESENTMENT, BRING LOVE.

Let this place be a sanctuary, a safe place,
a home for holy words and songs and prayers.

UNWRAP OUR HEARTS AS A PRECIOUS GIFT.
REVEAL YOUR HOLY ASSURANCE IN US TODAY.

***-OPENING PRAYER-**

Holy God, we might need to confess that we have forgotten what this story is about. We've been confused, so we wrap ourselves with so much planning and shopping and gift giving, with so much decorating and card-writing and partying that we haven't any time left to sit in the dark, to sit in silence, to contemplate the Incarnation, to give thanks for this one life that changed the world. We have celebrated so many Christmases, and yet we still need you to remind us what this is all about, to turn us around and set us in the right direction. May the generosity that drives us this season be present all year. May the intentional reaching out to the far-flung and to the stranger continue past the holidays. May our hearts, so full of so much, be mostly full of love for you, for each other, and for ourselves.

Heal us, we pray.

Holy Living Light of God, you are our reassuring presence. Let this assurance grow in our lives each day, so we can be a present of assurance to others. Unwrap and open our hearts.

May it be so.

Amen.

-GREETING ONE ANOTHER-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Blessed Assurance"

BLESSED ASSURANCE; JESUS IS MINE!
O WHAT A FORTASTE OF GLORY DIVINE!
HEIR OF SALVATION, PURCHASE OF GOD,
BORN IN GOD'S SPIRIT, WASHED IN GOD'S LOVE.

THIS IS MY STORY, THIS IS MY SONG,
PRAISING MY SAVIOR ALL THE DAY LONG;
THIS IS MY STORY, THIS IS MY SONG,
PRAISING MY SAVIOR ALL THE DAY LONG.

PERFECT SUBMISSION, PERFECT DELIGHT,
VISIONS OF RAPTURE NOW BURST ON MY SIGHT;
ANGELS DESCENDING BRING FROM ABOVE
ECHOES OF MERCY, WHISPERS OF LOVE.

THIS IS MY STORY, THIS IS MY SONG,
PRAISING MY SAVIOR ALL THE DAY LONG;
THIS IS MY STORY, THIS IS MY SONG,
PRAISING MY SAVIOR ALL THE DAY LONG.

PERFECT SUBMISSION, ALL IS AT REST,
I IN MY SAVIOR AM HAPPY AND BLEST;

WATCHING AND WAITING, LOOKING ABOVE,
FILLED WITH GOD'S GOODNESS, LOST IN GOD'S LOVE.

THIS IS MY STORY, THIS IS MY SONG,
PRAISING MY SAVIOR ALL THE DAY LONG;
THIS IS MY STORY, THIS IS MY SONG,
PRAISING MY SAVIOR ALL THE DAY LONG.

-SCRIPTURE-

2 Timothy 3: 16-17 (CEB)

Every scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for showing mistakes, for correcting, and for training character, so that the person who belongs to God can be equipped to do everything that is good.

-THE MESSAGE-

"Questions..."

Pam Lee-Miller & Kenny Bishop

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Emmanuel"

EMMANUEL, EMMANUEL,
HIS NAME IS CALLED EMMANUEL.
GOD WITH US, REVEALED IN US,
HIS NAME IS CALLED EMMANUEL.

-COMMUNION-

"Manger Lullabies" - arr. D. Wyrzten

-OFFERING-

"Some Children See Him" - Hutson/Burt

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

-THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE-

-INVITATION TO RESPOND-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"What Can I Give Him"

WHAT CAN I GIVE HIM, 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;
YET WHAT CAN I GIVE HIM?
I WILL GIVE MY HEART.

LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS,
LOVE SO DIVINE;
LOVE WAS BORN AT CHRISTMAS,
STARS AND ANGELS GAVE THE SIGN.
LOVE WILL BE MY TOKEN,
LOVE MY GIFT SO FINE.
YES, WHAT CAN I GIVE HIM?
LOVE, MY GIFT SO FINE.

WHAT CAN I GIVE HIM, 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;
YET WHAT CAN I GIVE HIM?
I WILL GIVE MY HEART.

I WILL GIVE MY HEART.

-BLESSING & BENEDICTION-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"What Can I Give Him"

LOVE WILL BE MY TOKEN,
LOVE MY GIFT SO FINE.
YES, WHAT CAN I GIVE THEM?
I WILL GIVE MY HEART.

*Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, "Hold Fast to What is Good,"
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