The Start of Something New!

December 27th, 2020

**Chimes**

**Greeting**

L: Praise be to God who has given God’s light to us.

**P: Let us continually praise God with great joy and thanksgiving.**

**Prelude** Good Christian Friends, Rejoice, Setting by M. Bedford

**Welcome & Sharing the Life of the Church**

* Becoming a Neighbor: Meaningful Community

Wednesdays 10:00 am & 7 pm, Jan 20-Feb 10

Daytime: [https://zoom.us/j/91080944329](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://zoom.us/j/91080944329&sa=D&source=calendar&usd=2&usg=AOvVaw3ZFoj9mrJq5FaaXyXoQyzv)

Evening: [https://zoom.us/j/99915630303](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://zoom.us/j/99915630303&sa=D&source=calendar&usd=2&usg=AOvVaw1CTHrqOyY-g-qWl1hrOzLR)

* Thou Shalt Not Be A Jerk: Navigating Faith & Politics

Thursdays at 10:00 Jan 7th

<https://tinyurl.com/BibleStudyGraceLB>

**\*Invitation to Worship**

L: Let everything praise God!   
**P: All the mountains and hills, the valleys and plains shall resound with praises to God.**   
L: Let everything that has breath praise God! P: All creatures on earth, in the skies, in the seas shall sing praise to God! L: Let us, here and now, praise God!   
**P: We praise God with our whole heart and soul and strength! AMEN.**

**\*Opening Hymn** O Come, All Ye Faithful UMH #234

**\*Opening Prayer**

Lord of mercy and joy, You have given to us the blessing of your Son Jesus who will make known your presence, forgiveness, and love to each one of us. Be with us this day and keep our hearts and minds open to receive your love and peace. Enable each of us to be people of joy and hope as we encounter others. We ask this in Jesus’ Name. AMEN.

**Christmas Carol** Away in a Manger UMH #217

**Special Music** Karen Joy Smith

**Scripture Luke 2:22-40**

22When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), 24and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

25Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. 26It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. 27Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, 28Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

29 “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,

according to your word;

30 for my eyes have seen your salvation,

31 which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles

and for glory to your people Israel.”

33And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 34Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed 35so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

36There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, 37then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. 38At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

**Response:**

L: The word of God for the people of God.

**P: Thanks be to God!**

**Message** That’s a Long Time Coming!

**\*Response** Angels We Have Heard on High! UMH #238

**Prayer Time**

* *Pastoral Prayer*
* *Lord’s Prayer:* ***Our Father, which 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.***

**Offering**

*Offertory Sentence:* *As God has so richly poured gifts of love, peace, hope, and joy into our lives; let us receive the morning’s offering as tokens of our gratitude for all these blessings. AMEN.*

* *Offertory:* He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child,

Arr. R. Parks and H. DeCou

* *Doxology:* ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise, God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

*Offertory Prayer:* *Lord, you have blessed our lives in so many ways. Receive these tokens of our blessings and cause then to work in this world which you have loaned to us to make light shine in the darkness and peace an attainable goal in all conflicts. We offer these gifts in Jesus’ name. AMEN.*

**\*Closing Hymn** Joy to the World! UMH #246

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude** Joy to the World!