

Good Morning!

North Bend Church

a Global Methodist Congregation

Sunday, December 28, 2025

Because God is worthy we worship

GATHERING AND WELCOME

Prelude

Announcements

POINSETTIAS: If you purchased poinsettias, please take them home with you today. If you do not wish to take them, please offer them to fellow church members or guests.

NEW START TIME: Beginning in January, Ed Gebhart will serve as pastor for both our church and Eden Chapel in Saylor Park, about four miles from here. To accommodate both Sunday services, we will be shifting our service start to 11 a.m. at a date to be announced. Our usual Bible Studies and other offerings will remain at their regular times.

(Are there any other Announcements?)

COME BEFORE THE LORD

***Call to Worship¹**

Leader: Come, let us recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the steadfast love God has shown from generation to generation.

People: The Lord has not abandoned us – He became our Savior, entering our sorrow and bearing our burdens.

Leader: Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him, sun and moon!
Praise Him, all you shining stars!

People: Let kings of the earth and all peoples, young and old together, lift their voices in praise!

Leader: For in Jesus Christ, God has drawn near – not ashamed to call us brothers and sisters but walking with us in joy and in suffering.

People: We come to worship the one who delivers, who redeems, and who leads us home from every Egypt.

All: Glory to God in the highest! Let heaven and earth rejoice – Christ is born, and Christ is with us!

***Singing**

Away in a Manger

UMH #217

(vs. 1, 2, 3)

**1. Away in a manger,
no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus**

laid down his sweet head.

**The stars in the sky
look down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus,
asleep on the hay.**

**2. The cattle are lowing,
the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus,
no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus,
look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle
till morning is nigh.**

**3. Be near me, Lord Jesus,
I ask thee to stay
close by me forever,
and love me, I pray;
bless all the dear children
in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven
to live with thee there.**

PRAY UNTO THE LORD

***Praying Together²**

Loving God, we come into your presence with joy in this holiday season. But we also come with sorrow for a world struggling in pain. Bring hope to our weary world. Bring love to our hearts. Bring joy to our lives. And help us bring hope, love, and joy, as we follow your Son, Christ Jesus. Amen.

Joys & Concerns

Silent & Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

Anthem

Blessing of Offerings

***Singing** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH #95

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.**

Reading the Scripture

Hebrews 2:10-18 (NIV)

- 2:10 In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered.
- 11 Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.
- 12 He says, “I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises.”
- 13 And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again he says, “Here am I, and the children God has given me.”
- 14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—
- 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.
- 16 For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants.
- 17 For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in

every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.

18 Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Proclaiming the Gospel

The God Who Draws Near

RESPOND IN THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD

***Singing**

What Child Is This

UMH #219

(vs. 1, 2, 3)

**1. What child is this
who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet
with anthems sweet,
while shepherds
watch are keeping?**

Refrain:

**This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard
and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.**

**2. Why lies he in
such mean estate
where ox and
ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear,
for sinners here
the silent
Word is pleading.**

Refrain:

**This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard
and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.**

**3. So bring him incense,
gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant,
king, to own him;
the King of kings
salvation brings,
let loving
hearts enthrone him.**

Refrain:

**This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard
and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.**

GO IN THE GRACE OF THE LORD

***Receiving the Blessing**

Postlude

***Singing**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

OGRP #195

UMH #224

(vs. 2, 3)

**2 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye hear of endless bliss;
Jesus Christ was born for this!**

**He hath opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!**

**3 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!**

¹*The Seedbed Worship Planner, December 28, 2025*

²*The Abingdon Worship Annual, December 28, 2025*