



**December 28, 2025**

**10:00AM**

**1st Sunday of Christmas**

**T O D A Y**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**



**DURING WORSHIP**

**Moment of Quiet Reflection**

**Welcome and Greeting**

**Prayer for Peace**

Lord, lead us from death to life, from lies to truth.  
Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust.  
Lead us from hatred to love, from war to peace.  
Let peace fill our heart, our world, our universe,  
**Peace, Peace. Peace. Amen.**

**Prelude**

**Call to Worship**

We gather together in this place:  
**prophets and dreamers, singers and poets,**  
we who dare to imagine a world renewed;  
**we who dare to dream God's dream.**  
We witness with Anna.  
**Jesus is our hope!**  
We hold fast to our faith,  
**trusting God's promises.**  
Young and old, declare it together:  
**love is born and salvation is here!**  
Come and worship, all you who dream and imagine.  
**We have come to wonder and praise.**

**Opening Prayer**

God of hopefulness,  
give us lives of holy anticipation,  
that we remain fervent in faith, and persistent in love,  
as we await the revelation of your redemption.  
Bless us, in every stage of life, with your unfailing presence,  
promised through the birth of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

**•Music**

*Love Has Come*

#110



## Christ Candle Lighting

Person A: Jesus is born!

**All: Immanuel! God is with us!**

Person A: So what is different? For Mary and Joseph, everything changed. They were parents now, tasked with caring for a fragile infant. But we aren't witnesses to the actual birth; rather, we are celebrating a memorial of a momentous event. We live this side of the crucifixion and resurrection, and through the Holy Spirit, God is with us every day. So what is different?

Person B: With the new year upon us, take a moment and name injustices, difficulties, and systemic changes that harm our community and world. (pause)

Person C: Naming what is wrong is a sacred task of the church known as lament. We can't work toward making things right if we don't understand and name what is wrong.

Person D: Struggles, however, are not the only reality. Blessings are also present and deserve attention. Like the candles of Advent, blessings brighten when gathered and displayed for all to see.

Person E: As we approach a new year, we will now share aloud blessings that have taken place over the past year and ones we anticipate for the coming year.  
(pause for a time of people speaking out loud)

**All: Immanuel, God-with-us, thank you for being present when life unravels and giving us the strength to keep going toward your blessings.**

Light the Christ candle.

## AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

### •Call and Prayer of Confession

One: Longing to see God's promised salvation,  
we confess our sins  
and pray for peace in our hearts.

All: **God of the covenant,  
you inspire all people to sing your praises  
and to proclaim your justice.  
We confess that we make judgments  
about which voices are worthy.  
We ignore the witness of those whose narratives  
make us uncomfortable or skeptical.  
We favor the voices of majority populations.  
We privilege ideas that reinforce our own opinions  
and validate our own experiences.  
Make us better listeners,  
ready to encounter your messages  
and your presence in all people.  
We pray in the name of Jesus.  
Amen.**

### A Time of Silence

### •Declaration of Forgiveness

God remains faithful and steadfast,  
drawing near to us  
with boundless forgiveness.  
You are redeemed and you are loved,  
in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.



## •Giving Glory to God

**Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, Amen.**

## Passing of the Peace

Where two or three of us are gathered, the prophetic Spirit is among us, inspiring our imagination and creating peace in our midst. Greet your fellow travelers now with the peace of Christ, and let these small doses of repair and reconciliation ripple out into a world in need of transformation.

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

## Children's Time

### LISTENING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

#### Prayer of Illumination

**God of newborn cries and shouts of justice, you proclaim the good news of God-with-us from all corners of creation. As we turn to our scriptures, may the words inspire us to dream of a world where hope, peace, joy, and love thrive among us. Amen.**

#### Scripture

*Psalm 148*

#### Music

*My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

#100

#### Scripture

*Luke 2:22-40*

#### Sermon

*Generational Praise*

## •Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm God's gifts of faithful presence and persistent prayer.

**We believe the true life, the good life, is "a long obedience in the same direction." We look to the example of Anna, who modeled faithfulness founded in slow, persistent, daily presence.**

**We believe close connection to God often comes not through what's flashy or visible, but through holy attentiveness, daily prayer, and the commitment to keep showing up.**

**We believe in countering a world that pushes elders and women to the margins and instead celebrate generational wisdom and spiritual mothers.**

**We believe in speaking up in a world that claims only the productive and young have worth, and instead bless how quiet presence and spiritual wisdom grow stronger with time.**

**We believe eyes to see and a heart to sense the subtle miracle of God's love are the richest gifts we could receive.**

**And so with gratitude for these gifts and those who have modeled persistence for us, we will sit at the feet of our elders, believing we, too, can carry on the legacy of faithfulness, one day at a time.**

## •Music

*Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

#753



## Prayers of the People

God of generations, we know that in the temple, at the table,  
elders speak from sacred experience.  
In the classroom, at the park,  
children enact the realities they imagine.  
On the canvas, in the wilderness, at the bus stop,  
your people share their dreams for a world healed and made whole.

One: Holy One,

**All: we pray in gratitude for deep faith, courageous wisdom, and enduring hope.**

When we are tempted to listen to the loudest, to trust the strongest,  
to give our attention to those who buy and sell it,  
call us back to you, and to those whose witness points to you.  
Remind us that your revolution chooses prophets we might not expect  
to deliver good news we couldn't have dreamed up.

One: Holy One,

**All: we pray in gratitude for deep faith, courageous wisdom, and enduring hope.**

Make us attentive to each other's needs, curious about each other's visions.  
In each other's cries of pain and proclamations of blessing,  
may we hear your heart for our world.

One: Holy One,

**All: we pray in gratitude for deep faith, courageous wisdom, and enduring hope.  
Amen.**

## Invitation to the Offering

### Offertory

#### •Doxology

#606

#### •Prayer for the Offering

**Holy God, we bring our gifts and offerings to you because the voices of the prophets  
remind us of something bigger, something greater than any system this world offers  
us. We believe when we trust you with our resources, the kingdom of God comes  
much closer to reality on earth. Help us steward these gifts to create abundant life  
and love. Amen.**

#### •Music

*May the God of Hope Go with Us*

#765

### Charge: A Call to Advocacy

As we go forth from this place,  
may we be grateful for the wisdom of those who have been faithful  
over decades of their lifetime.  
May we hear the testimony of our elders  
as we long for and dream about what is to come with our youth.  
May we value all people, at every step of life and faith,  
as God does.

### Benediction

Go out into the world, embracing the will to dream,  
and unable to remain quiet about all that is good and hopeful in the  
Christian faith we share.

### Postlude

**• PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE**



LAY READER THIS MORNING  
**Babs DeMarco**



ONLINE  
PRAYER SERVICE  
12:00PM

Monday thru Wednesday

### Happy Birthday

December 28 - Amy Feidt

December 29 - Mary Bauer

December 30 - Tina Jackson

January 03 - Barbara Vollick

January 04 - Kathy Sojka

January 07 - Mike Roth



### ONLINE SONG & SCRIPTURE

5:00PM

Monday



### TGIF COFFEE HOUR

**WILL RESUME**

9:30AM **Friday, January 9th**

Join us *THEN* for coffee & conversation!

**BAKERS for NEXT Sunday,**  
January 4th

Team #4

Patty Geist, Christine Stevenson



Thank You!



Recent Deaths: Bettie LaMacchia

Our Shut-Ins: Jean Aureli, Mary Bauer, Wade Bowen, Shirley Brocious, Sylvia Davis, Jodi Masters, Jane Siever, Dorothy Swick, Kay Vance

**Prayer List:** Mike Emmick, John (family of Kristi Murawski), Bob Davis (Sylvia's son), Corinne Kernin, Cindy Ransom, Dawn Ralph, Anita, Tim & Jeremy Heary, George (friend of Lynn Emmick), Barb Vollick, Sara Sroufe (Pam & Mark's daughter in law), Shirley Jones, Debbie Hansen, Elaine McCombs (Elisa Poole's mom), Linda Johnson, Sue Fallon, Fiona (friend of Rev. Laura), Sally (Kristi Murawski's mom), Doris (Carolyn Slessor's sister in law), Paul Westmoore, Margaret Quarantiello, Matt Bernat (friend of Grozios), Lesa Richmond's Mom & Uncle, Shirley Jones, The Scrivano/Winker family, family & friends of Joan Swearengen, family and friends of Bettie LaMacchia

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO UPDATE THE OFFICE and/or REV. LAURA ON YOUR PRAYER REQUESTS**