

FRIENDLY REMINDER

Our Sunday service is live-streamed, and microphones pick up sound throughout the sanctuary.

Recording begins at least 15 minutes before the service to include announcements.

Livestream Notice: Our worship service is live-streamed and recorded. By attending, you consent to being included in the broadcast. Thank you for joining us!



Prelude

Pastor Eduardo
Carrillo

Epiphany Sunday

January 4th, 2026

CCLI License:
3430384-01-1829

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WELCOME,
ANNOUNCEMENTS,
and
CELEBRATIONS

Livestream Notice: Our worship service is live-streamed and recorded. By attending, you consent to being included in the broadcast. Thank you for joining us!

CALL to WORSHIP

Leader: We gather as people looking for the star, a sign that God is at work in the world.

People: **God, help us find your glory.**

CALL to WORSHIP

Leader: We gather as people listening for the whispers of the Spirit, hints of the good news in the least likely places.

People: **God, help us notice your glory.**

CALL to WORSHIP

Leader: We gather as people yearning for Love's presence, the assurance that we are not alone and Love will have the last word.

People: **God, help us encounter your glory.**

CALL to WORSHIP

Leader: On this Epiphany Sunday, may the
Light of Love shine among us,
revealing divine glory through
neighbors known and unknown,
vulnerable children, and
unexpected gifts.

CALL to WORSHIP

All: **God, reveal to us anew the glory of your expansive Love that gathers us together and sustains us in loving service to one another and all creation. Amen.**

OPENING PRAYER

**Light of God, illumine the
path that leads us to
healing, hope, and
salvation. Glory of God, fill
this sanctuary and expose
the darkness that stalks
our souls. Light of God,
shine with such
brightness**



OPENING PRAYER

that we marvel in awe.

**Glory of God, fill each
temple of the Holy Spirit
present today. Light of
God, Glory of God, we
welcome you in this place.**

Amen




“We Three Kings” UMH 254

WORDS and MUSIC: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain,
moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

The background features a soft, stylized illustration of a desert scene. In the lower-left foreground, three camels are depicted in silhouette, walking across a light-colored, sandy dune. The sky is a pale, hazy blue, and a bright, multi-pointed star is visible in the upper right quadrant, with a faint, glowing trail or comet-like streak extending from it. The overall aesthetic is gentle and evocative of a winter night.

“We Three Kings” UMH 254

WORDS and MUSIC: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.


O-oh star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

“We Three Kings” UMH 254

WORDS and MUSIC: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever,
ceasing never,
over us all to reign.

The background features a soft, light blue and yellow gradient. In the lower-left corner, there is a faint, stylized illustration of three camels walking in a line towards the right. In the upper-right corner, a bright star is depicted with a long, curved, dotted line trailing behind it, suggesting a comet or a celestial body.

“We Three Kings” UMH 254

WORDS and MUSIC: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

O-oh star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

“We Three Kings” UMH 254

WORDS and MUSIC: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising,
voices raising,
worshiping God on high.

“We Three Kings” UMH 254

WORDS and MUSIC: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

O-oh star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

“We Three Kings” UMH 254

WORDS and MUSIC: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing,
bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

“We Three Kings” UMH 254

WORDS and MUSIC: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

O-oh star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

“We Three Kings” UMH 254

WORDS and MUSIC: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857

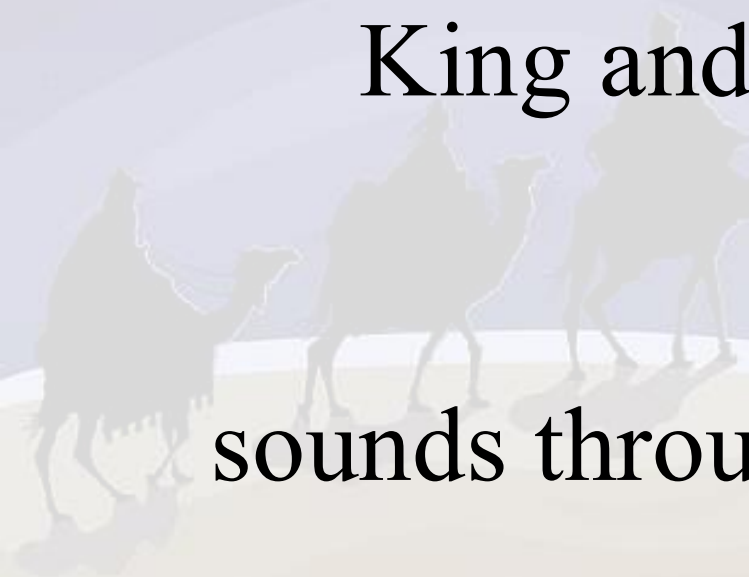
Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:

Aleleluia,

Alleluia,

sounds through the earth and skies.



“We Three Kings” UMH 254

WORDS and MUSIC: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

O-oh star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

Young Disciples' Message



Prayer For Illumination

**Spirit of the living God, fall
afresh on me.**

**Spirit of the living God, fall
afresh on me.**

**Melt me, mold me, fill me,
use me.**

**Spirit of the living God, fall
afresh on me.**



Jeremiah

31: 7 – 14

NRSVUE



⁷ For thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel."

⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor together; a great company, they shall return here.

⁹ With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back; I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path where they shall not stumble, for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock."

¹¹ For the LORD has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again.

¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

John 1: 1 – 18

NRSVUE



¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

² He was in the beginning with God.

³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being

⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of
all people.

⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the
darkness did not overtake it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose
name was John.

⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light,
so that all might believe through him.

⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to
testify to the light.

⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone,
was coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him.

11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,

13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

15 (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'")

16 From his fullness we have all received,
grace upon grace.

17 The law indeed was given through Moses;
grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

18 No one has ever seen God. It is the only
Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's
heart, who has made him known.

Sermon

“God Revealed”

“In the Bleak Midwinter” UMH 221

WORDS: Christina G. Rossetti, 1872 MUSIC: Gustav Holst, 1906

Please stand as you're able and comfortable

In the bleak midwinter,
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter,
long ago.

“In the Bleak Midwinter” UMH 221

WORDS: Christina G. Rossetti, 1872 MUSIC: Gustav Holst, 1906

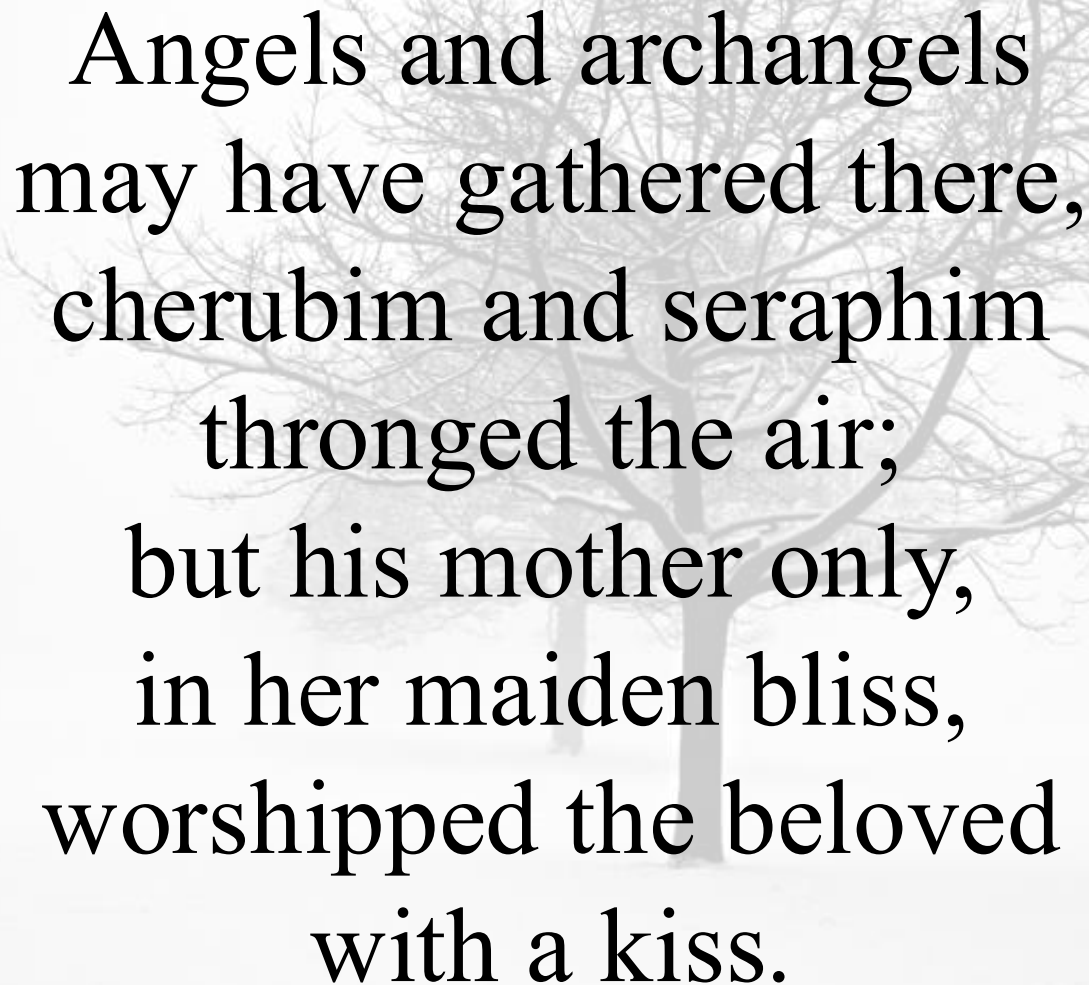
Please stand as you're able and comfortable

Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter
a stable place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.

“In the Bleak Midwinter” UMH 221

WORDS: Christina G. Rossetti, 1872 MUSIC: Gustav Holst, 1906

Please stand as you're able and comfortable

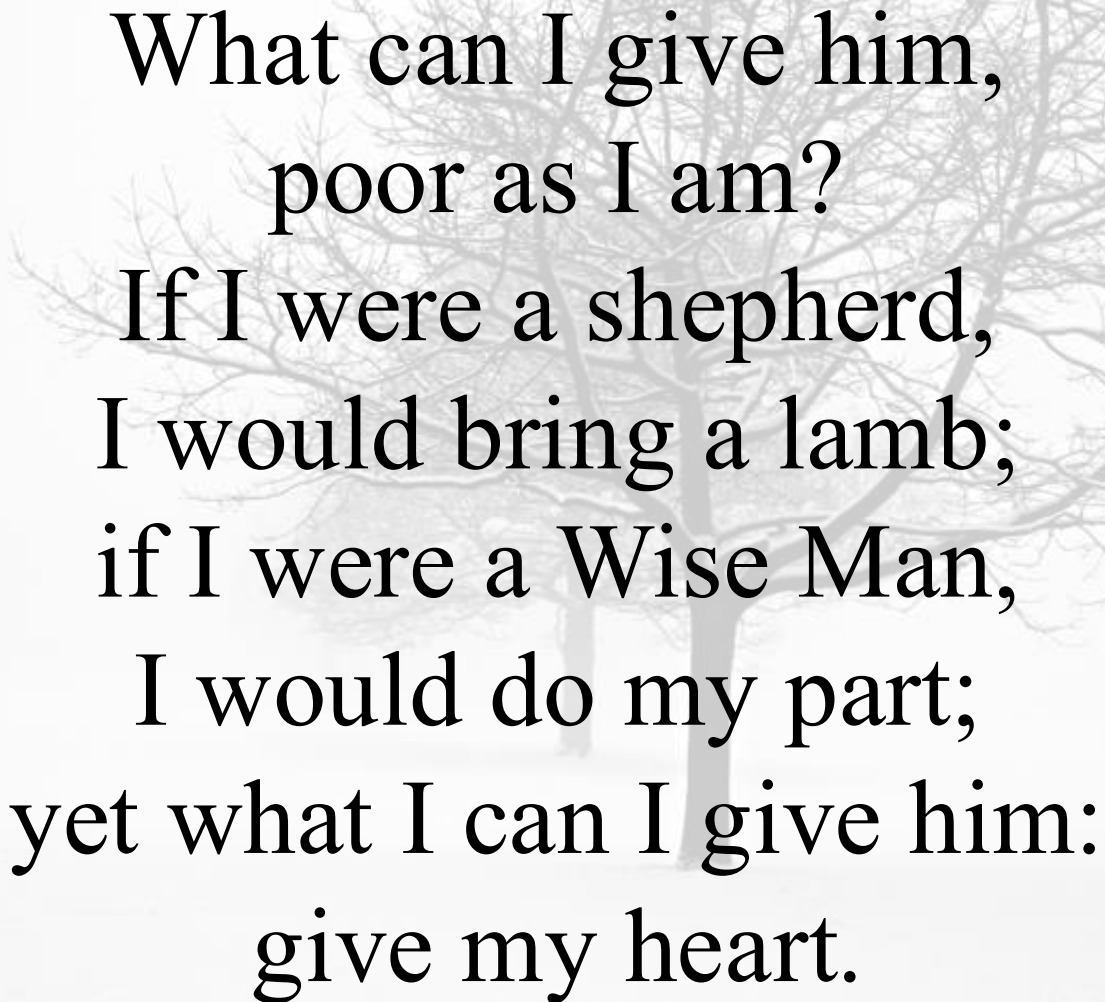


Angels and archangels
may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim
thronged the air;
but his mother only,
in her maiden bliss,
worshipped the beloved
with a kiss.

“In the Bleak Midwinter” UMH 221

WORDS: Christina G. Rossetti, 1872 MUSIC: Gustav Holst, 1906

Please stand as you're able and comfortable



What can I give him,
 poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man,
 I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him:
 give my heart.

INVITATION, CONFESSION, & PARDON

***Please continue to stand as
you are able and
comfortable.***

INVITATION, CONFESSION, & PARDON

Leader: Christ our Lord invites to his table
all who love him, who earnestly
repent of their sin and seek to live
in peace with one another.

Therefore, let us confess our sin
before God and one another.

INVITATION, CONFESSION, & PARDON

People: **Merciful God, we confess that
we have not loved you with
our whole heart.**

**We have failed to be an
obedient church.**

INVITATION, CONFESSION, & PARDON

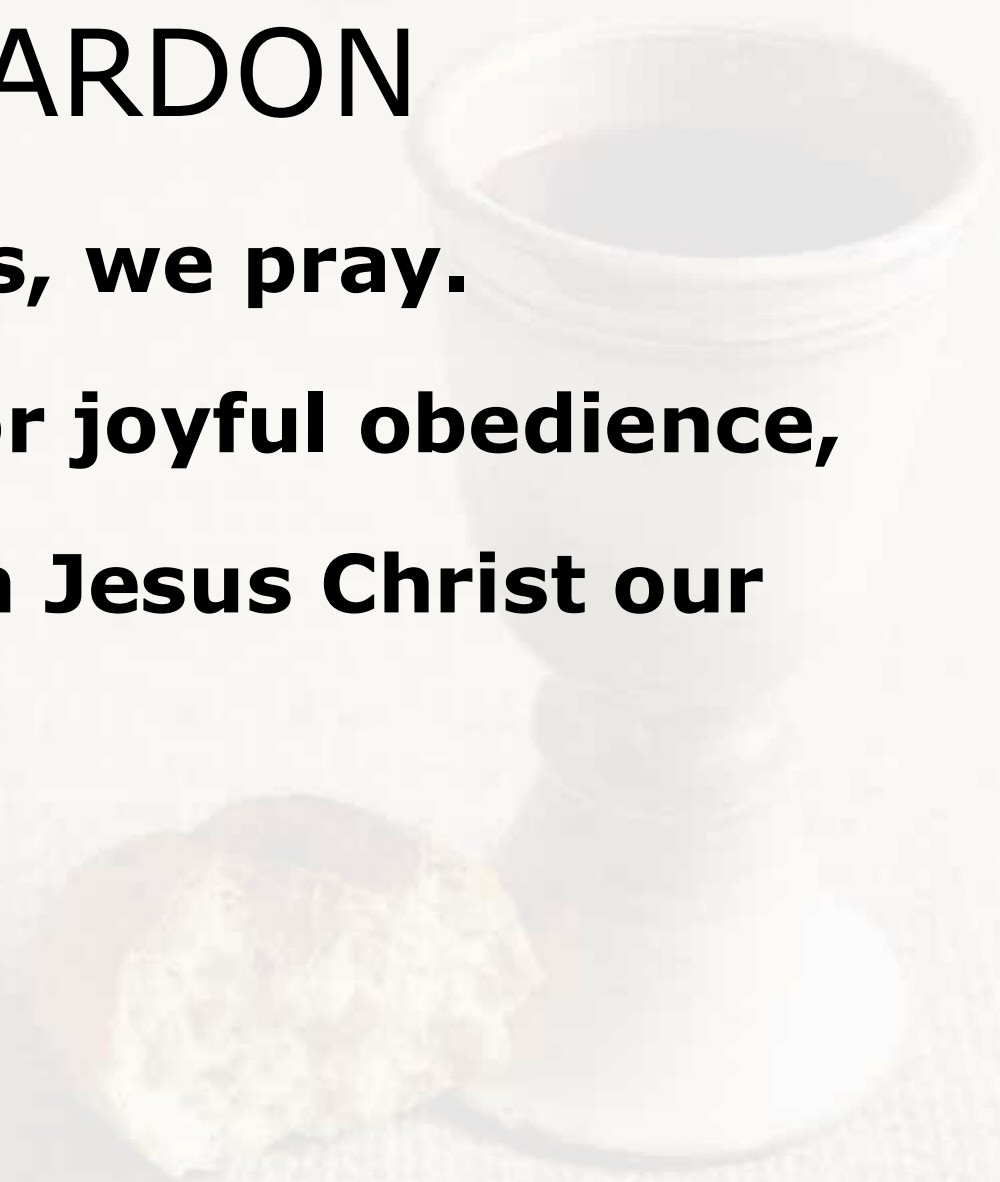
People: **We have not done your will, we
have broken your law, we
have rebelled against your
love, we have not loved our
neighbors, and we have not
heard the cry of the needy.**

INVITATION, CONFESSION, & PARDON

People: **Forgive us, we pray.**

**Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our
Lord.**

Amen.



INVITATION, CONFESSION, & PARDON

Leader: Hear the good news:

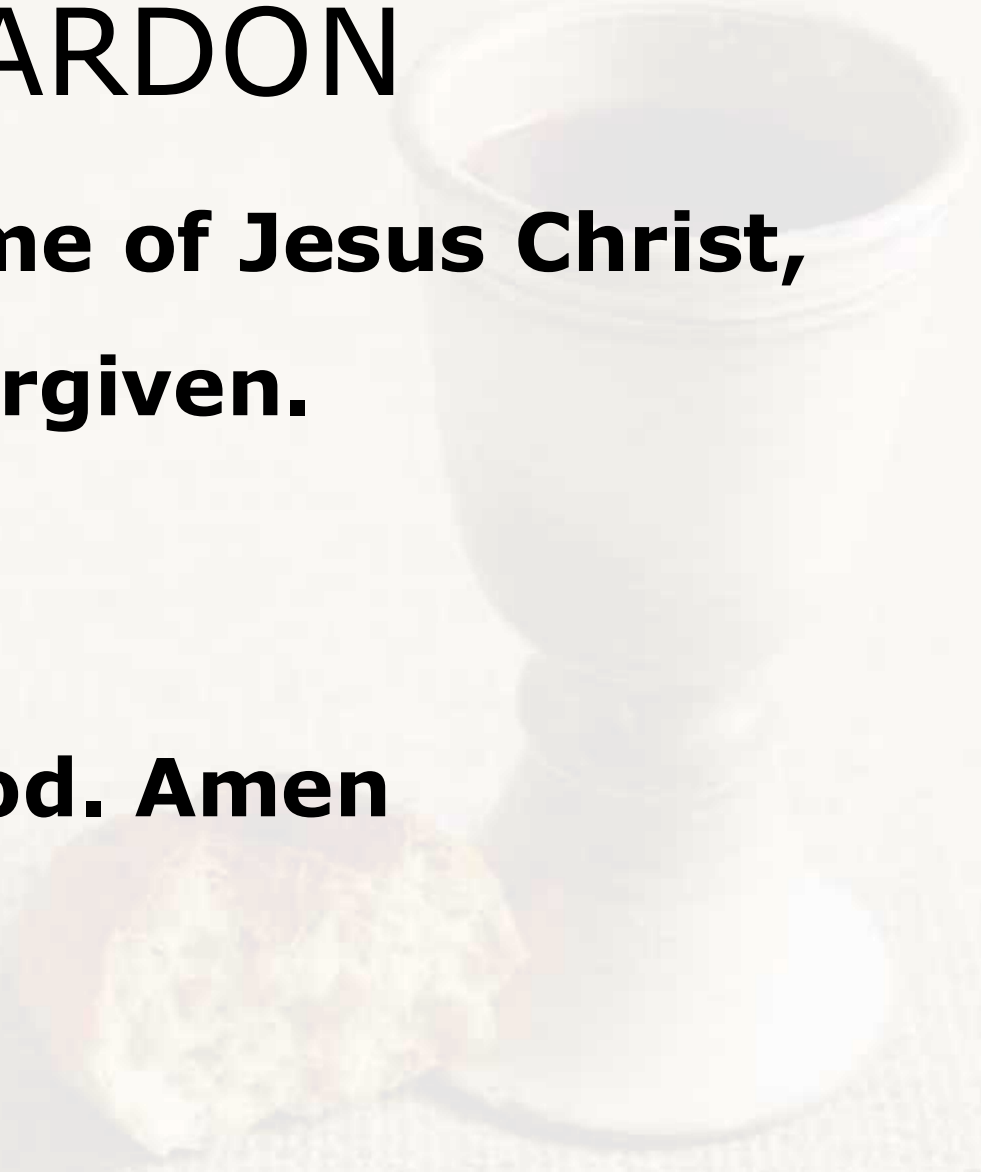
Christ died for us while we were
yet sinners; that proves God's
love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you
are forgiven!

INVITATION, CONFESSION, & PARDON

People: **In the name of Jesus Christ,
you are forgiven.**

All: **Glory to God. Amen**





Passing of the Peace

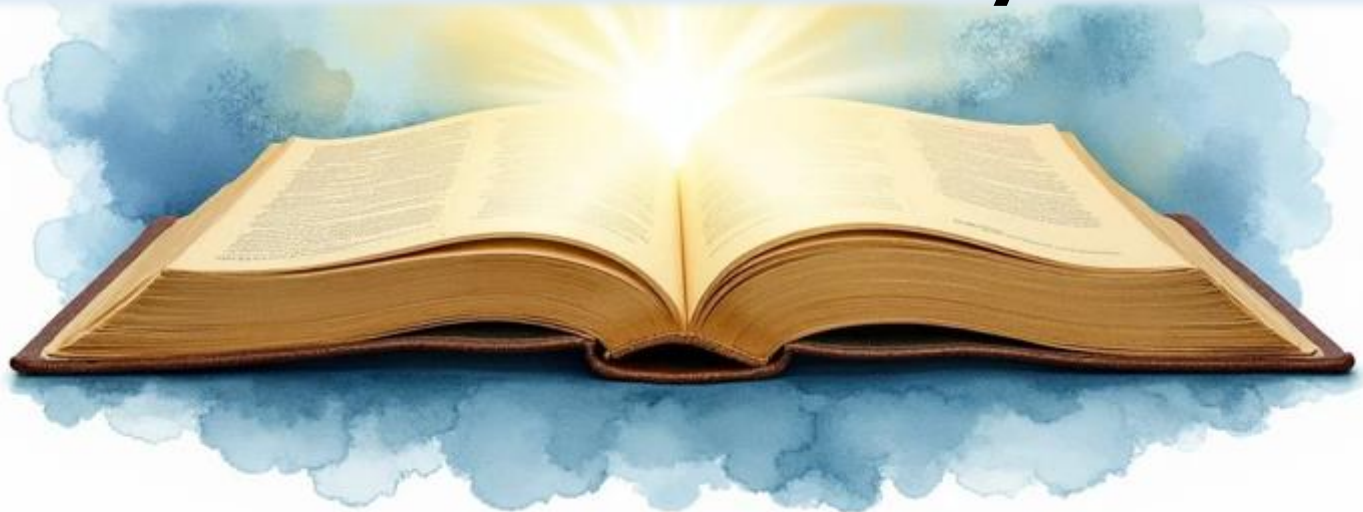


Prayers of the People

Lord,
hear our prayers
as we lift up to
you, our joys
and concerns.



Pastoral Prayer



The background of the slide features a soft-focus photograph of a church interior. In the foreground, the back of a person wearing a white, textured robe is visible. In the background, a large, colorful stained glass window is partially visible, with light streaming through it. The overall atmosphere is serene and spiritual.

Tithes and Offerings

Worship through giving

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” UMH 94

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted by Gilbert H. Viera, 1978

MUSIC: Geistliche Kirchengesange, 1623; harmonized by Ralph Vaughn Williams, 1906

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

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!

A pair of hands wearing white, textured gloves are positioned to form a heart shape. The background is a soft-focus scene of falling snow or a snowy landscape, with some blurred lights visible in the upper right. The overall tone is gentle and serene.

Offertory Prayer

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH 13

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the
Lord.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH 13

Leader: Let us give thanks to the
Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give
thanks and praise.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH 13

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth...
and so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

TFWS 2257 (sung)

***All:* Holy, holy, holy Lord;
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth
are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Hosanna in the
highest.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH 13

Leader: Holy are you, and blessed
is your Son Jesus Christ...

By the baptism of his suffering, death
and resurrection you gave birth to
your church, delivered us from slavery
to sin and death, and made with us a
new covenant by water and the Spirit.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH 13

Leader: On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH 13

Leader: When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH 13

Leader: And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH 13

***All*: Christ has died; Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.**

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH 13

Leader: By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH 13

Leader: Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now, and forever.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

UMH 895



Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be
done

on earth as it is in heaven.

The Lord's Prayer

UMH 895



Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as
we forgive those who trespass
against us.

The Lord's Prayer

UMH 895



And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power,

and the glory,

forever.

Amen

Breaking the Bread & Giving the Bread and Cup

The body of Christ, given for you.

Amen.

The blood of Christ, given for you.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

“There’s a Song in the Air” UMH 249

WORDS: Josiah G. Holland, 1874 MUSIC: Karl P. Harrington, 1904

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

There’s a song in the air!
There’s a star in the sky!
There’s a mother’s deep prayer
and a baby’s low cry!
And the star rains its fire
while the beautiful sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem
cradles a King!

“There’s a Song in the Air” UMH 249

WORDS: Josiah G. Holland, 1874 MUSIC: Karl P. Harrington, 1904

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

There’s a tumult of joy
o’er the wonderful birth,
for the virgin’s sweet boy
is the Lord of the earth.
Ay! the star rains its fire
while the beautiful sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem
cradles a King!

“There’s a Song in the Air” UMH 249

WORDS: Josiah G. Holland, 1874 MUSIC: Karl P. Harrington, 1904

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

In the light of that star
lie the ages impearled;
and that song from afar
has swept over the world.
Every hearth is aflame,
and the beautiful sing
in the homes of the nations
that Jesus is King!

“There’s a Song in the Air” UMH 249

WORDS: Josiah G. Holland, 1874 MUSIC: Karl P. Harrington, 1904

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

We rejoice in the light,
and we echo the song
that comes down through the night
from the heavenly throng.
Ay! we shout to the lovely
evangel they bring,
and we greet in his cradle
our Savior and King!

A small, rustic wooden church with a dark roof and a white cross on top. The church is surrounded by snow-covered evergreen trees. The ground is covered in a thick layer of snow, and the sky is a pale, hazy blue. The church has a small arched entrance and a window with a warm glow inside.

Benediction

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION



Love. Grow. Serve.

This service has ended, and now
your service in the world begins!

Rectortown United Methodist Church

**serving God with
Prayer, Action, and Love
through Service.**