

*indicates an invitation to stand, **Bold** indicates congregational participation

Greeting

Rev. David Petty

Prelude

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

John Baptiste Calkin & Arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

Jubilee Bells

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Bill & Ruth Morr

Reader 1: Today is the fourth Sunday in the advent season. As we draw closer to Christmas, we wait just a little longer.

Reader 2: The candle lit today represents Peace. This is not to say that there is peace in all places or all hearts.

Reader 1: we light this candle to symbolize our commitment to be instigators of Peace in a world filled with chaos.

Reader 2: This candle is a constant reminder to seek peace.

Congregation: This is the day that the Lord has made. We shall rejoice and be glad in it!

***Gathering Song**

Angels We Have Heard on High

vs. 1, 2 UMH #238

WORDS: Trad. French carol; trans. *Crown of Jesus*, 1862, alt. (Lk 2:6-20)

1. Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a, in excelsis Deo! Glo - - - - - ri - a, in excelsis Deo!

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a, in excelsis Deo! Glo - - - - - ri - a, in excelsis Deo!

Scripture Reading

Hosea 3:1

CLM Twinkle Gordon

The LORD said to me again, “Go, love a woman who has a lover and is an adulteress, just as the LORD loves the people of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love raisin cakes.”

Mystery Box

Invitation to Prayer

Rev. David Petty

Anyone wishing to come forward to the Communion Railing to pray or light a prayer candle may do so.

Prayer Song

Savior of the Nations, Come

vs. 1, 2 UMH #214

WORDS: Sts. 1, 2 Martin Luther, 1523, trans. by William Reynolds, 1851; st. 3-5 Martin L. Seltz, 1969

1. Savior of the nations, come; Virgin's Son, here make thy home! Marvel now, O heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.

2. Not by human flesh and blood; by the Spirit of our God was the Word of God made flesh, woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

Pastoral Prayer, Silent Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Pastor Donnie Sturgill

Our Father who 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 to 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.

Prayer Response

Savior of the Nations, Come

vs. 3, 4 UMH #214

WORDS: Sts. 1, 2 Martin Luther, 1523, trans. by William Reynolds, 1851; st. 3-5 Martin L. Seltz, 1969

3. Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child of the Virgin undefiled! Human and divine in one, eager now his race to run!

4. God the Father is his source, back to God he runs his course; down to death and hell descends, God's high throne he reascends.

Invitation to Offering

CLM Twinkle Gordon

Offertory

Meagan Horst & Jylyn Clark ~ Dancing

Prayer of Thanks & Dedication

Rev. David Petty

***Doxology**

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH #94

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!

Scripture Reading

Matthew 25:40

CLM Twinkle Gordon

And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'

Anthem

Creation Will Dance and Rejoice!

By David Angerman

Sanctuary Choir

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: May the words of my mouth,

People: and the meditations of all of our hearts

All: be acceptable in your sight, O Lord our rock and our redeemer.

Psalm 19:14

Message

The Real Gifts of Christmas ~ Jesus' Wisblist - Scandalous Love

Rev. David Petty

***Affirmation of Faith**

Pastor Donnie Sturgill

We believe in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking a humble form, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God:

We believe in the triune God, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit. We believe that WE are the people of God. We are St. Paul's United Methodist Church. We celebrate the unconditional love of God, We follow the way and teachings of Christ, through the power and guidance of God's Holy Spirit. We believe we are

called to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to Love our neighbor as ourselves.

***Sending Hymn**

Go Tell it on the Mountain

UMH #251

WORDS: John W. Works, Jr., 1907 (Lk. 2:8-20)

Refrain

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold throughout the heavens there shown a holy light.

Refrain

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

2. The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth, rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth.

Refrain

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

Announcements

Benediction

Rev. David Petty

Postlude

Stephanie Shorden