

ORDER OF WORSHIP

July 26, 2026

WELCOME

Pastor Kelli

PRELUDE

Ding Dong! Merrily on High

French Carol

Chamber Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Abbey Reed

Friends, please rise to your feet, or rise in your heart, as we offer our Call to Worship before God.

People of God, come and remember the Light that shines in every season.

We come to welcome Christ, the Word made flesh, full of grace and truth.

For generations, God has been faithful in this church and its people.

We give thanks for those who came before us and the faith we now share.

God calls us to bear witness to the Light.

We come to reflect Christ's love in our words and in our lives.

Let us worship the God who is with us yesterday, today, and always.

We come with joy to celebrate Emmanuel—God with us. Alleluia! Amen.

Please remaining standing for our Gathering Hymn,

***HYMN** O Come, All Ye Faithful UMH 234

vs 1— Congregation Latin verse — Chamber Choir vs 3 & 6 — Congregation

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION & NEW LIFE

George Meinecke

You may be seated [pause for folx to settle.]

Friends, please join me as we pray together our prayer for transformation and new life.

O come, Emmanuel, full of grace and truth. Fill us again with the light of your love and the gift of your presence. We thank you for all you have done in our lives and in the life of this church. Help us remember our past with gratitude and embrace our future with hope. By your Spirit, transform our hearts, that we may bear witness to Christ's light with joy and share your grace freely wherever we go. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

George Meinecke

Siblings in Christ, hear the good news: the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness will not overcome it. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and sent to live in God's grace.

Thanks be to God!

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST*George Meinecke*

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Let us exchange signs of Christ's peace with one another.

***HYMN** Joy to the World (vs 1, 4) UMH 246

SCRIPTURE LESSON*Abbey Reed*

You may be seated.

Today's scripture lesson comes from the Gospel of John, chapter one, verses six through sixteen.

One: Listen for the Word of God.

All: Our ears are open.

John 1:6-16

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.

One: Friends, this is the Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM O Holy Night Adam, arr. Sally DeFord Chamber Choir

SERMON Christmas in July Rev. Alisa Lasater Wailoo

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** Angels We Have Heard on High UMH 238

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE*Abbey Reed***THE PRAYER OF JESUS***Abbey Reed*

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 who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING*Abbey Reed*

Friends, revival begins when ordinary people respond to God's extraordinary grace. Through our prayers, our service, and our generosity, we participate in God's work of renewal and hope. As an act of gratitude for all God has given us, let us present our tithes and offerings to God at this time.

OFFERTORY MUSIC The Friendly Beasts French Carol, arr. Daniel Cummings

“Thus all the beasts, by some good spell, in the stable dark were glad to tell of the gifts they gave Emmanuel.”

***DOXOLOGY** *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow* O Tannenbaum
Praise God from whom all blessings flow, in every generation.
Praise God, all creatures here below, who gives to us salvation.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.
Let all creation praise the Lord with love and adoration.

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HOLY COMMUNION Sung Responses: Greensleeves
Invitation to the Table

Pastor Kelli

One: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.
 One: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them up to the Lord.
 One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
 always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
 Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through every generation, you have called ordinary people
 to do extraordinary things through your grace.
 When we wandered, you remained faithful.
 When hearts grew cold, you kindled new fire.
 When the world longed for hope, you raised up witnesses to your love.

George Meinecke

In every age, you have renewed your church,
 calling us back to the love we had at first.
 Through the faith of those who came before us,
 through the witness of this congregation,

and through the movement called Methodism,
you have continued your work of grace in the world.

And so, with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**O Holy God of power and might! Hosanna in excelsis!
Blessed be the one who in your name comes! Hosanna in the highest!
Lift, lift your hearts up high! Sing praise to God, and glorify!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ.
Jesus proclaimed good news to the poor,
welcomed those who had been pushed aside,
healed the brokenhearted,
and called people into a life of love and grace.

When religion became routine,
Jesus called people back to the heart of faith.
When fear ruled the day,
Jesus taught the way of courage and compassion.
Through his life, death, and resurrection,
you opened the way to new life for all people.

On the night in which Jesus offered his life for us,
Jesus took bread, gave thanks to God, 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."

Abbey Reed

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."

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:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
Hosanna in excelsis! Hosanna in the highest!**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and cup.
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 love and sent by his grace.

Pastor Kelli

Revive us where we have grown weary.
Renew us where we have lost our way.
Rekindle in us the love that first called us to follow.
Make us people of hope in a hurting world,
people of courage in fearful times,
and people of love wherever you send us.

By your Spirit, unite us with Christ,
with one another,
and with all your people in every time and place,
until that day when we feast at your heavenly banquet
and all creation is made new.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God,
now and forever.

Amen, Amen! Hosanna in excelsis! Amen, Amen! Hosanna in the highest!

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

Love Came Down at Christmas	Karen Marrolli	Karen Marrolli, mezzo-soprano
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (vs 1,2)	UMH 216	
Silent Night	UMH 239	

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Abbey Reed

***SENDING HYMN** Go Tell it on the Mountain UMH 251

***DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

Pastor Kelli

My sisters and brothers, my dear siblings in Christ, go now in the light of Christ, the Word made flesh, full of grace and truth. As you give thanks for God's faithfulness through the generations, bear witness to that same light with your words and your life. May you receive grace upon grace, share that grace freely with others, and carry the hope of Emmanuel wherever you go. Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

POSTLUDE Dr. Daniel Cummings