

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP  
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS  
December 30, 2018  
11:00 A.M.

*Together in Christ, Reaching Beyond Our Doors.*

**GATHERING TO PRAISE**

PRELUDE "The Old Year Passes Away" J.S. Bach

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, GETTING ACQUAINTED  
*Please take a moment to fill out the Attendance Card as it is passed.*

\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*This is God's house – a place of peace where we befriend one another in the name of Christ. Greet those around you as a sign of God's peace and Christ's friendship.*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Howard Thurman's poem "The Work of Christmas")

One: When the song of the angels is stilled,  
**ALL: When the star in the sky is gone,**  
One: When the kings and princes are home,  
**ALL: When the shepherds are back with their flock,**  
One: The work of Christmas begins:  
**ALL: To find the lost, To heal the broken,**  
One: To feed the hungry,  
**ALL: To release the prisoner, To rebuild the nations,**  
One: To bring peace among brothers,  
**ALL: To make music in the heart.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE "There's A Song in the Air" No. 249

A TIME TO CELEBRATE OUR CHILDREN

"Like A Child" (sung processional)

***Like a child love would send to reveal and to mend, like a child and a friend, Jesus comes. Like a child we may find claiming heart, soul, and mind, like a child strong and kind, Jesus comes.***

(sung recessional)

***Like a child born to pray and to show us the way, like a child here to stay, Jesus comes. Like a child we receive all that love can conceive, like a child we believe, Jesus comes.***

REMEMBERING OUR OUTREACH GUESTS NOW DEPARTED

James "3-finger" Conley (age 56)	Thomas D. Hoedeman (age 49)
James Alexander (age 64)	Gary Weyerman (age 61)
Anthony Palumbo (age 62)	Steve Thompson (age 59)
Roger McWain (age 57)	Allen Hall (age 77)
Herb John Beaulieu (age 45)	Patty Karpowicz (age 53)
'Liz' Mullany (age 53)	

-

**CONNECTING WITH GOD IN PRAYER**

UNISON PRAYER OF APPROACH

(from Uganda)

**Blessed are you, O Christ child, that your cradle was so low  
that shepherds, poorest and simplest of earthly people,  
could yet kneel beside you,  
and look, level-eyed, into the face of God.  
Blessed One, we come to you in reverence, with all who call on your name.**

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

No. 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. 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.**

**PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

SPECIAL MUSIC

"I Wonder as I Wander"

John Jacob Niles

*Diane Clark, vocalist*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 43: 19 ; Luke 2: 25-33

(OT p. 672; NT p. 59)

*Key verse: I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?*

Leader: The Word of God. **All: For the People of God.** Leader: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

"Our God is Always Starting Things"

**OUR GIFTS FOR GOD'S WORK**

OFFERTORY MUSIC

"Music of the Christmas Season"

(see below)

-

**Angels We Have Heard on High**

**Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply  
echoing their joyous strains. Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**It Came Upon the Midnight Clear**

**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all gracious King." The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.**

**Joy to the World**

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;  
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and heaven, and nature sing.**

**Away in the Manger**

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**The First Noel**

**The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.**

\*DOXOLOGY No. 95 (sung to the tune "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel")

**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.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. Amen.**

\*UNISON PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

**May these gifts open others to the blessings you give this Christmas:  
the gift of childlike wonder;  
the gift of peace which passes all understanding;  
the gift of seeing a new beginning – for ourselves and others;  
With these gifts, we also bring ourselves, O God,  
in response to the greatest gift of all - the Babe of Bethlehem.**

**GOING OUT TO SERVE**

\*HYMN FOR DEPARTING IN PRAISE "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" No. 224

\*BLESSING

\*POSTLUDE

"In Thee is Gladness"

J.S. Bach

*You are invited to remain seated for the postlude as part of your worship experience.  
(If you choose to exit the sanctuary during the postlude, please do so quietly. Thank you.)*

*\*All who are comfortable standing are invited to stand.*