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First Sunday after Christmas| December 31, 2023

\*Please stand as you are able

**Welcome and Announcements**

Trinity Chimes

**Prelude**  *Joy to the World*

setting by Joel Raney

 Kathy Ferguson, piano;

 Janet Tolman, organ

\*Call to Worship:

One: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

**All: From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.**

\*Hymn of Praise 224 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* IN DULCI JUBILO

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice

with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: news, news!

Jesus Christ is born today!

Ox and ass before him bow,

and he is in the manger now.

Christ born today, Christ is born today!

2. Good Christian friends, rejoice

with heart and soul and voice;

now ye hear of endless bliss: news, news!

Jesus Christ was born for this!

He hath opened heaven’s door,

 And ye are blest forevermore.

Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!

3. Good Christian friends, rejoice

with heart and soul and voice;

now ye need not fear the grave: news, news!

Jesus Christ was born to save!

Calls you one and calls you all

to gain his everlasting hall.

Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!

**Opening Prayer**

**God of stars and angles, God of sheep and lambs, God of abundance and grace: You know us well, better than we know ourselves. Walk with us in our efforts to change and turn, to grow and learn, make us ever more loving and courageous and hopeful, in Christ’s name we pray. Amen.**

**Responsive Scripture Reading** Psalm 148 UMH 861

Praise the Lord!

 Praise the Lord from the heavens,

 praise the Lord, in the heights!

**Praise the Lord, All his angels,**

 **praise the Lord, all his hosts!**

Praise the Lord, sun and moon,

 praise the Lord, all shining starts!

**Praise the Lord, highest heavens,**

 **and all the waters above the heavens!**

Let them praise the name of the Lord,

 who commanded and they were created,

**who established them for ever and ever,**

 **and fixed their bounds which cannot be passed.**

Praise the Lord from the earth,

 sea monsters and all deeps,

**fire and hail, snow and smoke,**

 **stormy wind fulfilling God’s command!**

Mountains and all hills,

 fruit trees and all cedars!

**Beasts and all cattle,**

 **creeping things and flying birds!**

Kings of the earth and all peoples,

 princes and all rulers of the earth!

**Young men and maidens together,**

 **old men and children!**

Music of Preparation 245 *The First Noel*

 THE FIRST NOEL

1. 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.
Refrain:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

2. They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
(Refrain)

3. And by the light of that same star
three Wise Men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.
(Refrain)
4. This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay.
(Refrain)

5. Then entered in those Wise Men three,
full reverently upon the knee,
and offered there, in his presence,
gold and myrrh and frankincense.
(Refrain)

Gospel Lesson Luke 2:22-40

Sermon When the time came

Music of Response

Affirmation of Faith

We are not alone, we live in God’s world.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God. We are called to be the church: to celebrate God’s presence,

 to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, Our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us. We are not alone.

Thanks be to God, Amen. UMH 883

Prayers of the People

A Prayer for the New Year

Creative God, you make all things new in heaven and on earth. We come to you on the edge of a new year with new desires and old fears, new decisions and old controversies, new dreams and old weaknesses. Because you are a God of hope, we know that you create all the possibilities of the future. Because you are a God of love, we know that you accept all the mistakes of the past. Because you are the God of our faith, we enter your gates with thanksgiving and praise, we come into your presence with gladness and a joyful noise. So shape us in ways that serve and bless all the world this year, Amen.

Pastor: Hear the Good News, now is the time to forgive as we are forgiven, to start anew – in the name of Christ you are forgiven.

People: In the name of Christ, you are forgiven!

All: Glory to God, Amen!

The Lord’s Prayer:

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, the power, and the glory, forever, Amen.

\*Passing of the Peace

Invitation to Offering

Offertory *Away In a Manger*

 arr. J.E. Spilman

 Kathy Ferguson, piano;

 Janet Tolman, organ

\*Doxology THE FIRST NOEL

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel

Born is the King of Israel.

\*Offertory Prayer

\*Sending Hymn 219 *What Child Is This*

 GREENSLEEVES

1. What child is this who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
Refrain:
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

2. Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
(Refrain)

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.
(Refrain)

Benediction

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace, Amen!

Postlude *The MESSIAH Medley*

 arr. Don Wyrtzen

Thank you to all of the volunteers and staff who made this service possible!

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Stephen Minister: Susan Schreiner

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“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Words: 14th cent. Latin; trans by John Mason Neale, 1855

“The First Noel”

Words: Trad. Englis carol (Lk. 2:8-14, Mt. 2:12)

“What Child Is This”

Words: William C Dix, 1865 (Lk. 2:6-20; Mt. 2:1-12

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