

Sunday, January 5, 2025

Guest Preacher: Barb Carswell

Music Director: Victoria Warwick

Reader: Cathy Metzgar

Tech Team: Glenn Erwin, Gabriela and Rick Dell, Bruce Wilcox, Marina Commisso

WELCOME AND CALL TO THE GATHERED

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE LAND

HYMN: VU# 87 "I Am the Light of the World"

"Refrain: I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!"

If you follow and live you'll learn the mystery of what you were meant to do and be.

1. When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the shepherds have found their way home,
the work of Christmas is begun: **Refrain:**
2. To find the lost and lonely one, to heal the broken soul with love,
to feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
to feel the earth below, the sky above! **Refrain:**
3. To free the prisoner from all chains, to make the powerful care,
to rebuild the nations with strength of good will,
to see God's children everywhere! **Refrain:**
4. To bring hope to every task you do, to dance at a baby's new birth,
to make music in an old person's heart,
and sing to the colours of the earth! **Refrain:**

OPENING PRAYER: read by Cathy Metzgar

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE: As we light this Christ candle may it remind us that God is in us and in our world.

SUNG RESPONSE: MV#21 "Open Our Hearts"

Open our hearts. Open our minds. Open our lives to you O loving God. Open our hearts.

THEME CONVERSATION:

SCRIPTURE:

HYMN: VU#72 "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

1. From heaven above to earth I come to bring good news to everyone!
Glad tidings of great joy I bring to all the world, and gladly sing:
2. To you this night is born a child of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
this newborn child of lowly birth shall be the joy of all the earth.
3. These are the signs which you will see to let you know that it is he:
in manger bed, in swaddling clothes the child who all the earth upholds.
4. Our hearts for very joy now leap, our voices cannot silence keep;
we too must join the angel throng to sing with joy his cradle song.
5. "Glory to God in highest heaven, who unto us a Son has given."
With angels sing in pious mirth: a glad new year to all the earth!

SERMON:

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS and SPECIAL MUSIC:

SUNG RESPONSE: VU#136 "When Hands Reach Out and Fingers Trace" (verses 1, 5)

1. When hands reach out and fingers trace the beauty of a loved one's face,
we thank you, God, that love relies on gifts of grace not seen with eyes.
5. Your Spirit gives us differing ways to serve you well and offer praise.
When all are joined as one, we'll be your able, strong community.

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER read by Cathy Metzgar

CLOSING HYMN: VU#81 "As With Gladness Men of Old" (verses 1, 3, 5)

1. As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold,
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright,
so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore your splendour see.
2. As they offered gifts most rare at that manger crude and bare,
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy;
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you, our heavenly King.
3. In the heavenly country bright none shall need created light;
you its light, its joy, its crown, you its sun which goes not down;
there forever may we sing hallelujah to our King.

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

SUNG BENEDICTION: "Go In Love"

Go in love; have no fear. God will guide you, God is always near. Go in love; take God's hand.
God will hear you, God will understand. May God's light forever shine upon you; may God's peace be
always in your heart. Go in love; face each day. God will lead you, God will show the way.
Go in love and live in faith. Amen.

POSTLUDE: