

TODAY'S SERVICE

CULTIVATING CONNECTION WITH SELF, OTHERS, THE WIDE WORLD, AND GOD

FEEL FREE TO USE PRONOUNS OF YOUR CHOICE FOR ALL SONGS AND PRAYERS

Chimes

Gathering Statement

We gather today to connect with the Divine, with ourselves, with each other, and with the Oneness of all Creation. We gather because inclusive community—built around the teachings of Jesus, shared stories, and rituals—inspires us to pursue justice and live out our values.

CALL TO WORSHIP: 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 angelic hosts proclaim,
 "Christ is born in Bethlehem"
 Hark, the herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the newborn king."
 Hail the Heav'n-born Prince of Peace
 Hail the Son of Righteousness
 Light and life to all He brings
 Ris'n with healing in His wings
 Mild He lays His glory by
 Born that we no more may die
 Born to raise us from the earth
 Born to give us second birth
 Hark! the herald angels sing:
 "Glory to the newborn King!"

Sarum Prayer

God be in my head
 and in my understanding;
 God be in my eyes
 and in my looking;
 God be in my mouth
 and in my speaking;
 God be in my heart
 and in my thinking;
 God be at my end
 and at my departing

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - LOVE

Advent Prayer

Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Advent season. As these candles are lit, light our lives with your imagination. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Magnify your love within us. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen

Dismiss the Kids

Announcements

Sermon

Candles

PRAYER FOR LOVED ONES

Gwen and John, Taylor and Damian, Laynie, Emma, AJ, Michael, Kathleen, Laura, Joanne, Rick, Patrick, Bev, Josh, Dark Angel, Joseph, Zara, Ella, Nicole, Wendi, Constance, Erica, Ashton, Landon, the Sarr family, Clark, Aine, George, Laura, Diane, Rae, Christina, Haevyn, Mindy, Calob, Janine, Bishop Yvette Flunder, Bishop Bonnie Perry, Bishop Darrell Goodwin, Bishop Tim Wolfe, Leah, David, Hope Clinic, JFS, Ozone House, immigrants, the Ypsilanti Youth Choir and those we lift up in silence.in silence.

WE REMEMBER

Michael Brown, Roger Fortson, Sandra Bland, Raymond Mattia, Jasmine Cannady, Jaswinder Singh, Ezell Ford, Hyun Jung Grant, Margus Morrison, Cornelius Fredericks, Corey Kanosh, Angela Carr, Walter Wallace Jr., Jerrald Gallion, Irvo Otieno, Gary Jackson, Ta'Kiya Young, Brandon Laducer, Brazil Johnson, Katherine Massey and those we haven't named. We hold them and their families in our hearts.

Confession

Merciful God,
 we confess that we have sinned against you
 in thought, word, and deed,
 by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
 We have not loved you with our whole heart;
 we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
 We are sorry and we repent.
 For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
 have mercy on us and forgive us;
 that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Absolution

Communion Instructions

COMMUNION:

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Call and Response

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kin_dom come, your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial,

and deliver us from evil.

For the kin_dom, the power, and the glory are yours. Now and forever. Amen.

Shared Communion Meal: We take communion to remember the story of Jesus and the radical love He embodied. We do this each Sunday to nourish our spirits and to symbolize becoming the Beloved Community God calls us to be.

COMMUNION SONG: Waymaker

You are here, moving in our midst

I worship You, I worship You

You are here, working in this place

I worship You, I worship You

You are here, moving in our midst

I worship You, I worship You

You are here, working in this place

I worship You, I worship You

[Chorus]

You are Waymaker, miracle worker

Promise keeper, light in the darkness

My God, that is who You are

Waymaker, miracle worker

Promise keeper, light in the darkness

My God, that is who You are

You are here, touching every heart

I worship You, I worship You

You are here, healing every heart

I worship You, I worship You

You are here, turning lives around

I worship You, I worship You

You are here, mending every heart

I worship You, yeah, I worship You, Lord

[Chorus]

[repeat]

CLOSING SONG: 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.

[Chorus]

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,

Born is the King of Israel.

They lookèd 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.

[Chorus]

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.

[Chorus]

Then let us all with one accord

Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord;

With open hearts and voices clear

Welcome the Savior, and hold him dear.

[Chorus]

Benediction

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