



Our Mission: To serve and unite those we touch with the Grace of God.

Our Vision: Transforming lives to become the heart, hands and feet of Jesus in the world.

10:00 a.m. Service *Please stand as able

December 22, 2019

ORDER OF WORSHIP

4th Sunday of Advent

Prelude "Yuletide Echoes" - Hodson

Welcome and Announcements

Introit/Choral Call to Worship "The Advent of Our God is Nigh" - Butler

***Call to Worship**

One: The season of light is dawning, time for worship, celebration and praise!

All: The birth of hopes, the flame of compassion, the morning star of peace!

One: The cradle of wonder, the song of comfort! Darkness is fading.

All: Light more candles!

One: The candle of hope is shining. The candle of peace is bright. The candle of joy is dancing! Today we light the candle of love.

All: We are soon finished with the waiting. Bring in the light!

Lighting the Advent Candle

LOVE

Halsted Family

ADVENT CANDLE SONG *PAIGE MACKLIN*

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "Light the candle, light the candle, light the candle today. We celebrate a new beginning and Christmas on its way! Light a candle for hope like the old prophecy Of a savior to come and set his people free." The score includes a Refrain section, Verse 1, and a Double Bar Line section marked "D.C. al Fine".

Verse 2: Light a candle for peace, that Christ came to bring. In Bethlehem born, our Savior and King.

(continued on the next page)

Verse 3: Light a candle for the joy God has given each one, in our Savior and King, who is God's only Son.

Verse 4: Light a candle for love, and a birth in the night. For the child in our hearts is a candle burning bright.

Refrain: Light the candle, light the candle, light the candle today. We celebrate a new beginning and Christmas on it's way!

Prayer for Guidance *Unison*

Help us now, as we worship, O God, that in these days before Christmas, we may go to the Bethlehem of our heart and hear the story once again. Let us ponder the Gift of Gifts. In these prayers of hope and desires for peace, let us find the love of God, Our Emmanuel, Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

Children's Message

The children are invited to join Pastor Rory at the chancel steps. Afterwards, Pre-K to 5th graders are welcome to go to Sunday school or return to sit with their families.

Anthem

“Born in Bethlehem“

- Althouse

Scripture

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.



*Hymn #234

“O Come All Faithful” verses 1, 3 and 4

Message

Merry X-mas

Pastor Rory Swenson

Prayers of the People

Following each Joy

Pastor: God is good

Congregation: All the time

Following each Concern

Pastor: Lord in Your mercy

Congregation: Hear our prayer

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer *Unison*

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.

Offertory "Plains, Woods, Trees, Bushes, Rejoice" - Ancient Carol

*Doxology - Hymn #94

Offertory Prayer

As we offer our gifts, some will receive mittens and toys. Some will receive food, medicine and shelter. Some will find the gifts of hope and peace. Others will discover the gifts of Word and welcome. We dedicate all these gifts in the name of Jesus Christ, the holy gift of Love. It is our joy to share the Gift! Amen.

Hymn #242 "Love Come Down at Christmas"

*Benediction

*Song of Peace

Go in peace, my friend, till we meet again.
May God's blessing be on you, may you be a blessing too.
May God's Spirit burning bright, be your ever-guiding light.
God go with you, making all things new.

Postlude "Angels We Have Heard on High" - arr. Bock

WELCOME

- **Children are welcome in worship.** We welcome the wiggles, curiosity and expressions of children in worship. Children's bulletins and crayon bags may be found in the wicker basket just outside the Sanctuary doors. Child care is provided in our well-equipped nursery for children up to the age of three during the service.
- **Hearing assistance devices** for use during service are located at the Welcome Center.
- For your safety, please make sure that your valuables are not in plain sight and that your car doors are locked when attending any function at Grace UMC.

WORSHIP NOTES

Serving us TODAY: **Greeter:** Gloria Hanson; **Usher:** Rhonda Brown; **Sound:** Dave Chmielewski; **Liturgist:** Carol Greibrok; **Acolyte:** Chmielewski; **Nursery:** Jamie Moeller and _____.

Serving us Sunday, December 29th: **Greeter:** Doris Marek; **Usher:** John Podratz; **Sound:** Roy Koenigsberg; **Liturgist:** Diane Martin; **Acolyte:** Sean Litterer; **Nursery:** Jamie Moeller and _____.

12/22 SUN	9:30 am	Coffee and Treats in the Narthex	THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE
	10:00 am	Worship Service	
	10:10 am	Nursery & Children's SS	
12/24 TUE		OFFICE CLOSED	
	4:00 pm	Family Christmas Eve Service	
	10:00 pm	Candlelight Christmas Eve Service	
12/25 WED		OFFICE CLOSED	
12/26 THUR	7:30 pm	AA	
12/27 FRI	6:15 am	Men's Fellowship/Cracker Barrel	
	8:00 pm	AA	
12/28 SAT	9:30 am	Al-Anon	
	12:00 pm	Friends, Fellowship and Food/Chart House in Lakeville	

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL will not be taking place on December 29th.



CALLING ALL HANDS: We are looking for people who can help out as worship helpers for both the 4:00 and 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve services. A sign-up can be found on the table in the narthex. TODAY is your last chance.

Tuesday, December 24th;
Wednesday, December 25th;



Tuesday, December 31st;
and Wednesday, January 1st

Ruth Voll Circle will not be meeting during the months of January and February.

Pastor Jen sent Grace UMC a Christmas card. It can be found next to December's Grace Notes. There's an Anderson family update on the back side.

GATHERING AT THE PASTOR'S HOUSE: Pastor Rory and Beth would like to invite church members to sign up for a Sunday afternoon at the pastor's house. This is an opportunity for us to get to know each other better. We will have coffee and punch. We ask each family to bring a small appetizer or treats to share. We will gather from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. and each go around the circle to introduce ourselves. A sign-up sheet can be found on the table in the Narthex. It would be great if you joined group that you aren't as familiar with.

Gathering Dates: January 12th, 19th and 26th



I so appreciate the Christmas gift (Amazon gift card and adorable gray gnome) that appeared on my desk this past week from Grace UMC - so very kind of you.

Linda Shook, Admin. Asst.