

For Prayer & Contemplation

"The best way to predict the future is to create it. There are two mistakes one can make along the road to truth...not going all the way, and not starting."
Anon

Welcome & Sharing Information

Prelude "Coventry Carol" – arr. Evans

Call to Worship

One: Welcome this new year as the time of God's presence. Our Creator offers a new heaven and a new earth.

All: This is the season for rebirth of our best. God gives us new opportunities.

One: God is aware of our needs and our strengths. We receive resources for the tasks God gives us.

All: We have come to thank and praise God. Let us worship God!

***Hymn No. 138** "Who Would Think That What Was Needed"

Call To Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of all creation, the world of our prayers is so small and the needs of your people are so great. We are people with misplaced values and our wrong priorities have brought much distress. We have missed your kingdom among us when we ignored those who were hungry and thirsty, when we turned away from the oppressed and those yearning for justice. Restore us by your mercy. We want to be forgiven and forgiven to lead faithful lives. Amen.

Moment of Silence

Words of Assurance

One: The promise of wholeness is meant for each one of us, and all us together. Our lives begin to experience holy fullness when they focus beyond ourselves. Take time to discover God's presence around us. Beloved, this is the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn No. 581** "Glory Be to the Father"

"Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen."

Passing of Peace

One: May the Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also, with you.

Anthem "Star-Led and Wonder Bound" – Beall
Family Pick Up Choir

Time with Children (Dismissal to Sunday School)

Pastor: It is time for you to depart.

Adults: God be with you there.

Children: God be with you here.

Scripture

1st Reading: *Ecclesiastes 3: 1-13*
Old Testament PG 616, Large Print 756-57

2nd Reading: *Matthew 2: 1-15*
New Testament PG 2, Large Print 2

Sermon "Thank Goodness It Wasn't Crypto" - Rev. Jim Mehler

***Affirmation of Faith** (*The Apostle's Creed*)

**I believe in God, the Father, almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

***Doxology No. 606** "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

"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. Amen."

*Unison Prayer of Dedication

O God, when we recount your gracious deeds and generous acts, we want to imitate them. Because of your mercy and the abundance of your love, we are moved to respond. Thank you for the gift of life, for all you have entrusted to us, for your care of us, for surrounding us with love when loss and suffering overwhelm us. Receive these gifts and our lives and bless all for service in Christ's name. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion - Receiving the Grace to Fulfill Our Commitment in This New Year, 2023

One: We dare not come to this table trusting in our own goodness or virtue.

All: We come knowing we need forgiveness and trusting God to grant it.

One: We come because we are hungry for meaning and need to be fed.

All: O God, forgive and feed us.

One: We come because Jesus Christ invited us.

All: We come as Christ's guests to the heavenly banquet.

One: We join here not in passive recollection of ancient signs, but in active reflection of the flesh and blood realities which these elements represent.

All: Jesus, stand among us today as host of this holy meal.

One: God in Christ breaks down the walls that make us strangers to ourselves and divide us from one another. We are the body of Christ. Around this table, we enact our faith. The body broken is restored to wholeness. Lifeblood poured out brings healing to our world.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And, with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise to God.

The Prayers of the People

Gertrude Monaghan, the family of Margaret Fortney, Mavis Finch, Dan, Cindy, Jason, Tina, Joan Wagner, Nic Albadine, Erin Fitzpatrick, Meg Yanefski, Sara Crispin, Jim Taylor, David, William Loeb, Rachael Lodholz, Aaron Hill, Douglas Hoffman, Jason Bell, Greer and Graham, Marta, The family of Dot Clay, Rev. Bruce Gillette, Bonnie MacGibeny, Harrison Gianfortune, Jane Sheridan, Family of Bill Herzer, Nick, Sandra, John Polhamus, Maureen St. John, Roxanne Somers, Terri D'Onofrio, Mike & Terry Savage

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Prayer after Communion

All praise is yours, O God. You bring us to this table as your children. Lead us now, through each of our moments, to that

glorious day when all your children will gather as family. We pray in the name of Jesus our Lord, giver of healing and wholeness. Amen.

*Hymn No. 147 "The First Nowell"

Charge

Engage the world as faithful disciples of Christ. Treat all God's children as next of kin. God has called us into community. Jesus leads us into a life of service. And as you serve, may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the holy spirit.

***Benediction**

*Benediction Hymn No. 62 "Love the Lord Your God"
 Love the Lord your God with all your heart.
 Love the Lord your God with all your soul.

Postlude "What Star is This, with Beams So Bright" – arr. Burkhardt

***** Please stand as you are able. *****



<i>This Week's Calendar January 1-8</i>	
<i>Sunday</i> January 1	10 AM Worship – Sanctuary/Livestreamed, Sunshine Singers 11:15am
<i>Monday</i> January 2	Session Meeting 7pm
<i>Tuesday</i> January 3	Girl Scouts 6:30pm
<i>Wednesday</i> January 4	Sparrow Chorale 6:30pm,
<i>Thursday</i> January 5	Sanctuary Choir 8pm
<i>Friday</i> January 6	
<i>Saturday</i> January 7	
<i>Sunday</i> January 8	Deacons Meeting 8:30am, 10 AM Worship – Sanctuary/Livestreamed, Sunshine Singers 11:15am



"God's Open House"

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<i>Thank you to our Worship Servers</i>	
Ushers	Mike Ballard & Margaret Ginter
Liturgist	Carol Owens

Music Notes

Today's prelude is Lee Evans' 1982 jazz arrangement of "Coventry Carol," which is also known as "Lullay, Lulla, My Little Tiny Child." Scholars have traced its roots back to 16th century England, when it was part of the nativity play presented by the guilds in Coventry. It presents the story in the second chapter of Matthew in which enraged King Herod orders his soldiers to kill the young children of Bethlehem after Joseph, Mary and Jesus have fled to Egypt. The postlude is a movement from contemporary American composer Michael Burkhardt's set of variations on the tune "Puer Nobis," which first appeared in the 15th century and is often associated with the text "What Star is This, with Beams So Bright." We thank the Family Pick Up Choir for sharing special music with us this morning.



<i>This Week's Birthdays</i>	
January 1	John Donofrio & Emily Owens
January 3	Gregory Leach
January 4	Kathy Morgan-Wible & Christopher Gilmore
January 5	Karen Conroy-Grobman & Vince Gerace
January 6	Kimberly Wallace Gilmore & Greg Golden
January 7	Renee Sheridan
January 8	Debby Leach



10 AM Worship Service
 January 1, 2023
 1st Sunday of Christmas
 Rev. Jim Mehler

Happy New Year!