

Greeting

Rick Schlee

L: Merry Christmas!

**P: Merry Christmas!**

L: This is the day that the Lord has made!

**P: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Welcome and Announcements

Centering Bell

Music to Prepare Our Hearts

“Sleigh Ride”

Dr. Kristie Janczyk

*Music by Leroy Anderson. ©1948 and 1959 by Mills Music, Inc., admin. by Alfred Publishing Co., CCLI #1365061*

\*Call to Worship

L: We’ve gathered to worship on this Sunday-between.

**P: We’re here after all the joy and uproar, and all the loneliness, and all the memories of Christmases past.**

L: We’re here to claim the light and the glory of Jesus,

**P: born in our hearts once more, to be a blessing for each and for all.**

L: So we can step from this year to the next, praising God!

**P: Praise God! May we breathe in God’s peace, like a sleepy child breathing in the presence of a loving parent!**

\*Carol of Praise

“There’s A Song in the Air”

UMH 249

*Words by Josiah G. Holland, 1874; Music by Karl P. Harrington, 1904 ~ Public Domain*

**There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!  
There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry!  
And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,  
for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!**

**There's a tumult of joy o'er the wonderful birth,  
for the virgin's sweet boy is the Lord of the earth.  
Ay! the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,  
for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!**

**In the light of that star lie the ages impearled;  
and that song from afar has swept over the world.  
Every hearth is aflame, and the beautiful sing  
in the homes of the nations that Jesus is King!**

**We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song  
that comes down through the night from the heavenly throng.  
Ay! we shout to the lovely evangel they bring,**

and we greet in his cradle our Savior and King!

\*Morning Prayer (Unison) *(liturgist, please lead)*

**Loving God, after all the commotion for some of us, and all the challenges for some of us, we come to steady our lives in the presence of this community of faith. Thank you for your steadfast love which binds us together and will not let us go.**

**Bless each of us, and all of your whole creation, so together we might live with an awareness of your presence, gratitude for the gift of your son, and a yearning to stay centered in your Spirit as we begin a new year. Amen!**

Passing the Peace of Christ

L: ... May the peace of Christ be with you!

**P: And also with you!**

*Please share signs of peace with one another*

A Season of Prayer

Congregational Call to Prayer “Jesus, Name above All Names”

TFWS 2071

*By Naida Hearn ©1974 Scripture in Song (a div. of Integrity Music, Inc.) CCLI #1365061*

**Jesus, name above all names,  
Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord!  
Emmanuel, God is with us,  
Blessed Redeemer, living Word.**

A Time of Quiet for Personal Prayer

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

UMH 895

**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!**

Special Music

“Still, Still, Still”

Ellen White

*Trad. German Carol arr. by Douglas E. Wagner arr. ©1992 Jeffers Handbell Supply, Inc., a div. of J. W. Pepper, Used With Permission*

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:22-38

L: Word of God, word of life!

**P: Thanks be to God!**

Song of Preparation

“Away in a Manger”

UMH 217

*Music by James R. Murray, 1887; Words by Anon. ~ Public Domain*

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;  
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky  
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray;  
bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

Message

“Two Senior Citizens”

Rev. Pam Callahan

We Share Our Gifts

Invitation to Stewardship

Song During Offering

"Christmas Lullaby!"

Ellen White

*Based on W Zlobie LLezy and Cradle Song, arr. for bells by Christine Anderson; arr. ©1993 Word Music (a div. of Word, Inc) CCLI #1365061*

**\*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow**

UMH 95

*By Thomas Ken, 1674 ~ Public Domain*

**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!**

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)**

**God of all good gifts, thank you for the gift of Jesus. Thank you for the story of Simeon, and for those we've called to mind as strong people of faith. Receive these gifts and offerings of the symbols of our lives. Inspire each of us to become a blessing, demonstrating our love for you and for the body of Christ we know as the church. Amen!**

**\*Carol**

“Joy to the World”

UMH 246

*By Isaac Watts, 1719 ~ Public Domain*

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,**

**and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!**

**Let all their songs employ;**

**while fields and floods,**

**rocks, hills, and plains**

**repeat the sounding joy,**

**repeat the sounding joy,**

**repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,**

**nor thorns infest the ground;**

**he comes to make his blessings flow**

**far as the curse is found,**

**far as the curse is found,**

**far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,**

**and makes the nations prove**

**the glories of his righteousness,**

**and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,**

**and wonders, wonders of his love!**

**\*Blessing**

**\*Music for Going Forth**

**Dr. Kristie Janczyk**

**"The Christmas Song" (Chestnuts Roasting On an Open Fire)**

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