

Good Morning Church!

NORTH BEND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, December 26, 2021

Because God is worthy we worship

**indicates to stand, if able*

GATHERING AND WELCOME

Prelude

Announcements

(Are there any other Announcements?)

COME BEFORE THE LORD

***Call to Worship¹**

Leader: We who knelt in the stable—

People: Let us come and kneel in the temple!

Leader: Let our hearts give thanks, and our hands rejoice!

People: Let our spirits sing, and our bodies dance!

Leader: O children, enter the house of the Lord!

People: Enter God's presence, and be reborn!

***Singing**

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

UMH #213

(verses 1, 2)

**1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
behold, the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near;
the Savior of the world is here!**

**2. Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.**

PRAY UNTO THE LORD

***Praying Together²**

O Lord God, your chosen dwelling is the heart of the lowly. We give you thanks that you revealed yourself in the holy child Jesus, thereby sanctifying all childhood in him. Make us humble in faith and love, that we may know the joy of the gospel hidden from the wise and prudent and revealed unto babes. This we ask in the name of the One, who, wearing our mortal flesh, grew in wisdom and in favor with God and all people, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Joys & Concerns

Silent & Pastoral Prayer³

Holy God, heaven and earth are met this day in the newborn Child, Savior of the world. We celebrate his birth; for in him you come to be close to us, that we might be close to you.

Especially, we give thanks

for the birth, life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus

Christ and all he means to us . . .

for prospects of peace in the world . . .

for confidence in your almighty love . . .

for those who generously give . . .

for those who graciously receive . . .
for the Church's nurturing us in the faith . . .

God of all mercy, as you have come in Jesus Christ to be our guest,
inspire our hearts to a hospitality that welcomes all your children
in his name.

Especially we pray

for those who have not heard your good news . . .
for the sick and suffering . . .
for those who know no laughter, only tears . . .
for those who govern and rule . . .
for those enslaved by tyranny . . .
for prisoners of addiction or abuse . . .
for the Church as a refuge for the needy . . .

All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord who taught
us to pray...

**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.

HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

Anthem

Reading the Scripture

Luke 2:42-52 (NIV)

2:42 When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom.

43 After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it.

44 Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends.

45 When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him.

46 After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

47 Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers.

48 When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother

said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

49 "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"

50 But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

51 Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.

52 And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Proclaiming the Gospel

The Three of Him

RESPOND IN THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD

***Singing**

The First Noel

UMH #245

(verses 1, 2)

**1. 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.**

Refrain

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.**

**2. They looked 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.**

Refrain

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.**

GO IN THE GRACE OF THE LORD

***Receiving the Blessing⁴**

People who have been found, loved, and forgiven, go into God's world bringing messages of peace, love and hope to all you meet. Be prepared for lives of service, helping others in all kinds of needs and situations. Go in peace. Amen.

Postlude

¹ *From Litanies and Other Prayers Year C, Copyright © Abingdon Press*

² *BOW313, from Book of Congregational Worship, p. 100, 1920, © The United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom. URC; 86 Tavistock Place; London WC1H 9RT; England.*

³ *BOW279, altered from DAILY PRAYER (Supplemental Liturgical Resource #5, p. 300). © 1987 The Westminster Press. Altered and used by permission of Westminster/John Knox Press; 100 Witherspoon Street; Louisville, KY 40202-1396.*

⁴ *From “Worship Connection: December 26, 2021” Nancy C. Townley, ministrymatters.com.*