

Good Morning!

North Bend Church
a Global Methodist Congregation

Sunday, December 31, 2023
Because God is worthy we worship

GATHERING AND WELCOME

Prelude

Announcements

BIBLE STUDY: We wrap up our study of the book of Jonah on Tuesday. On the following Tuesday, January 9, we begin our study of the book of Daniel. Bible Study begins at 10 a.m.

CHOIR REHEARSALS: Beginning Thursday, January 4, choir practice will be at 6:30 p.m. on Thursdays. If you'd be like to join in singing with our choir, please don't hesitate to come to a rehearsal and learn more about the fun and fellowship.

BOARD MEETNG: Our church board will have its bi-monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 16, to discuss church business. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

FRANK'S TREE: Each year we light Frank's Tree with donations to charities. This year, the board decided we split funds between Lane of Roses, supported by Hope Stephens' ministry, and Hope Restored India, supported by Laura Meyers' ministry. Each \$10 donation lights one colored bulb. Once all those are lit, representing \$200, a white bulb is turned on. After we reach \$2,000, the entire tree is lit up.

TRAM: All non-perishable food, personal care and household items are welcome. The location is at the Miami Town Hall, 112 S. Miami Avenue, Cleves. TRAM is always grateful for monetary donations. Mail checks to TRAM Ministry Inc., P.O. Box 389, North Bend, Ohio 45052.

(Are there any other Announcements?)

COME BEFORE THE LORD

***Call to Worship¹**

Leader: We have welcomed the Christ child and declared the glory of God's salvation that comes to live among us. And yet, still, we wait.

People: We watch and work for God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

Leader: We prepare to welcome a new year, thankful for how God has brought us through the past year and anxious to discover what the new year might bring.

People: We watch and work for God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

Leader: Come, let us worship God, whose love endures from generation to generation, guiding us from one year to the next.

People: Come, let us worship as we live in anticipation of God's kingdom on earth as it is heaven. Amen!

***Singing**

Angels from the Realms of Glory

UMH #220

(vs. 1, 2, 3, 4)

**1. Angels from the
realms of glory,
wing your flight**

**o'er all the earth;
ye who sang
creation's story
now proclaim
Messiah's birth:**

Refrain:

**Come and worship,
come and worship,
worship Christ,
the newborn King.**

**2. Shepherds, in the
field abiding,
watching o'er your
flocks by night,
God with us
is now residing,
yonder shines
the infant light:**

Refrain:

Come and worship,

**come and worship,
worship Christ,
the newborn King.**

**3. Sages, leave
your contemplations,
brighter visions
beam afar;
seek the great
Desire of nations;
ye have seen
his natal star:**

Refrain:

**Come and worship,
come and worship,
worship Christ,
the newborn King.**

**4. Saints, before the
altar bending,
watching long
in hope and fear;**

**suddenly the
Lord, descending,
in his temple
shall appear:**

Refrain:

**Come and worship,
come and worship,
worship Christ,
the newborn King.**

PRAY UNTO THE LORD

***Praying Together²**

God of hope and joy, the gifts we offer to you pale when our minds try to grasp all we have been given in this season: wholeness in our woundedness, hope in our despair, peace in our turmoil, forgiveness in our rebellion. You gave us light in our darkness and hope in our discouragement. Help us embrace your extravagant generosity as we give ourselves to others. In our Savior's holy name, we pray. Amen.

Joys & Concerns

Silent & Pastoral Prayer

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 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

Special Music *Sing We Now of Christmas* YouTube video

Reading the Scripture Matthew 2:1-12 (NIV)

- 2:1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem
- 2 and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."
- 3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.
- 4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.
- 5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the

prophet has written:

- 6 “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”
- 7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.
- 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”
- 9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.
- 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.
- 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.
- 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

RESPOND IN THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD

***Singing**

We Three Kings

UMH #254
(vs. 1, 2, 5)

**1. We three kings
of Orient are;
bearing gifts we
traverse afar,
field and fountain,
moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**

Refrain:

**O star of wonder,
star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading,
still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

2. Born a King

**on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring
to crown him again,
King forever,
ceasing never,
over us all to reign.**

Refrain:

**O star of wonder,
star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading,
still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

**5. Glorious now
behold him arise;
King and God
and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through
the earth and skies.**

Refrain:

**O star of wonder,
star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading,
still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

GO IN THE GRACE OF THE LORD

***Receiving the Blessing**

Postlude

¹ Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, June 2023

² From Discipleship Ministries, December 31, 2023