

The liturgical color is white, signifying symbolize joy and festivities

**PRELUDE**

"In Dulci Jublio"  
Amy Bender, organist

J.S. Bach

**WELCOME**

Willie Dycks, Liturgist

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Every year we celebrate Christmas.

**Every month we break bread.**

Every week we gather for worship.

**Every day we count our blessings.**

Every minute God is near.

**Yes, every minute God is near.**

These are the rituals of our faith.

**Let us worship Holy God.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

"He Is Born"

#UMH 228

**OPENING PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

*Children are invited to stay in worship or meet in the Narthex to go to Sunday School*

**WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC**

"We Three Kings"  
Tracy Paroubek, clarinet

arr. Gary Lanier

**SCRIPTURE**

Isaiah 43:14-21

**KIN-DOM SIGNS**

Laurie Babcock

**SHARING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

You may place your offering in the Offering Box at the entrance of the Sanctuary or give online using the link on the back of the bulletin

**OFFERTORY**

"In The Bleak Midwinter"

arr. Charles J. Torian, Jr.

**\*DOXOLOGY #94**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Praise God, the source of all our gifts!**

**Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!**

**Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**SHARING STORIES OF GOD AT WORK THROUGH CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of rhythms, we confess: our faith would not be what it is without rituals. Unlike you, we depend on bread and water. We have to return to this space again and again to hear old, familiar stories. For if we stopped, we know it would not take long before we lost our way. Forgive us for our fragility, and thank you for giving us ordinary rituals and rhythms to hold onto. With grateful and humble hearts we pray, amen.**

**WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe that faith is a journey marked by rituals and rhythms. We come to worship. We confess our sins. We pass the peace. We offer grace. We hear the Word. We baptize children. We break the bread. And we tell the story of a loving God. And through these sacred rituals, we are reminded: we are not alone. God is near, and we have work to do. May this belief shape the rhythm of our lives. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE**

**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.**

**HYMN OF CENTERING**

"What Child is This?"

UMH #219

**SCRIPTURE**

Luke 2:21-38

**MESSAGE**

"How does a Weary World Rejoice? We Root Ourselves in Ritual"  
Rev. Steve Stultz Costello

**\*HYMN OF MISSION**

"There's a Song in The Air"

UMH #249

**\*FAITH IN ACTION**

*\*Congregation invited to stand if able*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION SUNG RESPONSE** "Go Now In Peace"

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true. Know He will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see.  
God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.  
Amen. Amen. Amen.**

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**POSTLUDE** "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" Walther

*Other than the Prayer of Dedication, the prayers used in this service were written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.*




Altar Flowers are presented by Jo Ann Greiner  
In Loving Memory of husband, Raymond & My parents

There are flower openings on January 14th and 21st.  
For flowers please call Kathy Fellows: 440-477-4485



**MENTOR**  
United Methodist Church  
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WIFI password: GodLovesYou

**Traditional Worship**  
**December 31, 2023**