

Blessing our Gifts with Music and Prayer

Accompanist
& Lay Reader

Many Voices: Generous God, as we bring our tithes and offerings to you, we pray that our giving continues to point to the Christ who brings love and compassion. May our giving reflect our hope for the promised kin-dom to reign in this world. Amen.

Reading Scripture

Lay Reader

Matthew 2: selected verses (The Voice)

Reader: May God add blessing to the reading, hearing, and living of these words.

Many Voices: Amen.

Proclaiming

“Playing the Villain”

Pastor Dave

***Singing**

“Like a Child”

TFWS #2092

Sending Forth

Pastor Dave

Let us go now in peace, taking the words of hope and the story of peace into the world so that others beyond this place may hear it and find in this Advent God’s invitation into the abundant life of justice and renewal. Amen.

Exiting Music

Accompanist

**Stand if you are able.*

Leaders in Today’s Worship Service

ACCOMPANIST: JILL KOHLER
LAY READER: MARLIN HARTMAN
SONG LEADERS: GAIL GIRARD & SUSAN SPENCER

**Minooka
United Methodist
Church**

**Rev. Dave Buerstetta,
Pastor**

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Welcome to Minooka United Methodist Church

Sunday, December 10th, 2023

11:30AM

Matthew 2: selected verses (The Voice)

² Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem, in the province of Judea, at the time when King Herod reigned. *Not long after Jesus was born*, magi, wise men or seers from the East, made their way from the East to Jerusalem. These wise men made inquiries.

Wise Men: ²Where is this newborn, who is the King of the Jews? When we were far away in the East we saw His star, and we have followed its glisten and gleam all this way to worship Him.

³ King Herod began to hear rumors of the wise men’s quest, and he, and all of his followers in Jerusalem, were worried.

⁷ Herod called the wise men to him, demanding to know the exact time the special star had appeared to them. ⁸ Then Herod sent them to Bethlehem.

Herod: Go to *Bethlehem* and search high and low for this *Savior* child; and as soon as you know where He is, report it to me so that I may go and worship Him.

¹³ After the wise men left, a messenger of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream.

Messenger of the Lord (*to Joseph*): Get up, take the child and His mother, and head to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you *it is safe to leave*. For Herod *understands that Jesus threatens him and all he stands for*. He is planning to search for the child and kill Him. *But you will be safe in Egypt*.

¹⁶ *After a few months had passed*, Herod realized he'd been tricked. The wise men *were not coming back*. Herod, *of course*, was furious. He simply ordered that all boys who lived in or near Bethlehem and were two years of age and younger be killed. *He knew the baby King was this age* because of what the wise men told him.

Entering Music Accompanist

Welcoming Pastor Dave

Preparing Accompanist

***Gathering** Lay Reader

Reader: God of Surprising Generosity and Unexpected Grace, we are here today to encounter you.

Many Voices: We are here today to prepare our hearts for a new breakthrough of your light.

Reader: We are here today to open our whole selves to the divine birth.

Many Voices: In this sacred moment we ask for your Spirit to fill us, to captivate us, and to challenge us. Amen.

***Singing** "King of Glory Comes" TFWS #2091

Lighting the Advent Wreath Dale & Carol Lockwood

Reader: Every journey faces the unknown. Anxiety can sometimes overwhelm us. There is too much to do; our lists are long; our calendars are filled up; we worry that something will go wrong, or we won't end up in the right place. Getting lost is a real possibility on a journey. Yet we claim hope for this journey, because we follow the One who will travel with us and sustain us on the way.

Many Voices: Isaiah tells us that there is one who is to come who will be the fulfillment of all our hope. The Spirit of God will rest on this one, the Spirit of Wisdom and Discernment, the Spirit of Counsel and Strength, the Spirit of Knowledge and Reverence. We place our hope in this One!

Reader: We light the candles of peace and hope to give us strength for this journey.

[*Light two purple candles*]

Sung Response: "Light the Advent Candle" TFWS #2090, v1-2

Blessing Children Katrina Nolan, Sunday School Director

Singing "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" (x2) UMH #204

Praying Lay Reader

[Silent, centering prayer that we may become present in this moment to the Holy One]

Reader: Merciful God, on this second Sunday of Advent we come seeking you. We come from hectic weeks to this quiet place. We come from quiet weeks longing for companionship. We come from a variety of places compelled by your love. We come from diverse experiences joined together in worship.

Many Voices: We confess our sins. We are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Spirit of the Living God, have mercy on us, forgive us, and heal us.
[quiet reflection]

Reader: Hear the good news: in the name of Jesus the Christ, the Anointed, the Liberating King, we are forgiven! We are free to grasp the wonder in myriad gifts given, in the uniqueness of individuals, in the beauty of relationship. We are set free to serve God as agents of Jesus' reconciling love. We pray in Jesus' name, who taught us to pray... [Lord's Prayer, UMH #894]

***Singing** "We Three Kings" UMH #254, v1-3

Giving Pastor Dave

Like A Child

Verse 1

Like a child love would send
To reveal and to mend,
Like a child and a friend,
Jesus comes.
Like a child we may find
Claiming heart, soul, and mind
Like a child strong and kind,
Jesus comes.

Verse 2

Like a child we will meet,
Ragged clothes, dirty feet,
Like a child on the street,
Jesus comes.
Like a child we once knew
Coming back into view,
Like a child born anew,
Jesus comes.

Verse 3

Like a child born to pray
And to show us the way,
Like a child here to stay,
Jesus comes.
Like a child we receive
All that love can conceive,
Like a child we believe,
Jesus comes.

HYMNS

King of Glory Comes

Refrain

The king of glory comes,
The nation rejoices.
Open the gates before Him
Lift up your voices

Verse 1

Who is the king of glory;
How shall we call Him?
He is Emmanuel,
The promised of ages.
(Refrain)

Verses 2

In all of Galilee,
In city or village,
He goes among his people
Curing their illness.
(Refrain)

Verse 3

Sing then of David's son
Our savior and brother;
In all of Galilee
Was never another.
(Refrain)

Daniel Charles Damon

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Light the Advent Candle

Verse 1

Light the Advent candle, one:
Now the waiting has begun;
We have started on our way,
Time to think of Christmas day.

Chorus

Candle, candle, burning bright,
Shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle, burning bright,
Fill our hearts with Christmas light.

Verse 2

Light the Advent, candle two:
Think of humble shepherds, who
Filled with wonder at the sight
Of the child of Christmas night. (Chorus)

Mary Lu Walker
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Emmanuel, Emmanuel

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel.
God with us,
Revealed in us,
His name is called Emmanuel. (Repeat)

CCLI Song # 12949

Bob McGee

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We Three Kings

Verse 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.

Verse 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)

Verse 3

Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, voices raising,
Worshiping God on high. (Refrain)

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John Henry Hopkins Jr.

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