



**Stand if you are able.*

Leaders in Today's Worship Service

ACCOMPANIST: JILL KOHLER
LAY READER: KAREN PUBENTZ
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 31st, 2023

11:30AM

Matthew 2: Selected Verses (The Message)

When the eighth day arrived, the day of circumcision, the child was named Jesus, the name given by the angel when he was conceived.

Then when the days stipulated by Moses for purification were completed, they took him up to Jerusalem to offer him to God as commanded... and also to sacrifice the pair of doves or two young pigeons as prescribed in God's law. In Jerusalem at that time there was man, Simeon by name, a good man who lived in the prayerful expectancy of help for Israel... The Holy Spirit had told him that he would see the Messiah before he died. Led by the Spirit, he entered the temple. As the parents of Jesus brought him in to carry out the rituals of the law, Simeon took him into his arms and blessed God.

Anna, the prophetess was also there, a daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher. She was by now a very old woman. She had been married seven years and a widow for eighty-four. She never left the temple area, worshipping day and night with her fastings and prayers. At the very same time Simeon was praying, she showed up, broke into an anthem of praise to God and

talked about the child to all who were waiting the freeing of Jerusalem.

When they finished everything required by God in the Law, they returned to Galilee and their own town of Nazareth..

Entering Music Accompanist

Welcoming Chris Vause

Preparing Accompanist

***Gathering** Lay Reader

Reader: God who is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, we are here today to encounter you.

Many Voices: We are here today to celebrate the end of one year and the beginning of a new year.

Reader: We are here today to open ourselves to new ways of following the examples of caring for one another in the New Year as we were provided by your Son Jesus Christ.

Many Voices: We ask for your Spirit to fill us and guide us. Amen

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

Blessing Children Katrina Nolan, Sunday School Director

Singing "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" UMH #224

Praying Lay Reader

[Silent, centering prayer that we may become present in this moment to our God] Reader: Merciful God, we ask you to guide the people of this land and of all nations, and all leaders around the world, in the ways of justice and peace. This new year, without resorting to violence, may we learn to honor one another and respect our differences.

Many Voices: God hear our prayers for peace in our country and throughout the world. [quiet reflection]

Reader: Loving and Compassionate God, comfort and heal those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit as we enter this new year; give them courage and hope amidst their troubles. May we serve Christ as we serve these neighbors who are in distress.

Many Voices: God hear our prayers for comfort for others and for ourselves. [quiet reflection]

Reader: Hear the good news! God will never leave us or forsake us! He walks beside us through the good times and the bad and all the times to come. We now pray together in Jesus' name, using the words he taught us to pray...[Lord's Prayer, UMH #894]

***Singing** "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" UMH #140

Giving Chris Vause

Blessing our Gifts with Music and Prayer Accompanist & Lay Reader

Many Voices: All things come from you, generous God, and with gratitude we return to you what is yours. All that we are, and all that we have is a trust from you. Remember in your love those who have brought it and those for whom it is to be used. Amen.

Reading Scripture Lay Reader

Matthew 2: Selected Verses (The Message)

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

Many Voices: Amen.

Proclaiming "New Year: Mrs. Horlick's Lesson" Chris Vause

Singing "Sent Out in Jesus' Name" TFWS #2184

Sending Forth Chris Vause

Lord, grant that what has been said with our lips we may believe in our hearts, and that what we believe in our hearts we may practice in our lives. May we go forth now to celebrate the beginning of a New Year filled with Your peace and love. Amen.

Exiting Music Accompanist

Sent Out In Jesus' Name

Sent out in Jesus' name,
Our hands are ready now
To make the earth the place
In which the kingdom comes.
The angels cannot change
A world of hurt and pain
Into a world of love,
Of justice and of peace.
The task is ours to do,
To set it really free.
O help us to obey
And carry out Your will.

HYMNS

The 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)

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Verse 1

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
News, news!
Jesus Christ is born today!
Ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today,
Christ is born today!

Verse 2

Good Christian friends, rejoice,
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
News, news!
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door,
and ye are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this,
Christ was born for this!

Verse 3

Good Christian friends, rejoice,
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
News, news!
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save,
Christ was born to save!

John Mason Neale
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O Little Town of Bethlehem

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Verse 1

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided;
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Verse 2

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. (Refrain)

Verse 3

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! (refrain)

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