

First Sunday After Christmas

Sunday, December 31, 2023

*Children and Youth are invited to remain in the service.
Special program materials are available at the table
on the right side of the Sanctuary.*

Welcoming & Announcements

Centring Music Of the Father's Love Begotten
13th Century Plainsong, arr. Carol Tornquist

Lighting of the Christ Candle *by Laura Turnbull*

Light shines in shadowed places.
Hope abounds where once there was fear.
God's Chosen One is born into our hearts.
We honour Jesus with gifts.
of devotion, love and commitment.
We worship with gladdened hearts.

Passing of the Peace

Opening Hymn **Spirit, Open My Heart** (More Voices 79)

Words: Ruth Duck, 1994; Music: traditional melody, Ireland; arr. Arthur G. Clyde, 1997
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Refrain Spirit, open my heart
to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
in receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open my heart.

- 1 God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear
to your grace I now surrender. *Refrain*

- 2 Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
each thought, word, and deed
my living bring you glory. *Refrain*

- 3 May I weep with those who weep,
share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ
may we welcome one another. *Refrain*

A Christmas Creed *by Janet Norman, DM (retired)*

**We believe in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
Our brother , our Christ.**

**We believe in the one
who lived the good news of God's reign.**

**We believe in the One for whom
there was no room in the inn for his birthing,
no place to lay his head in life,
and only a borrowed tomb at his death.**

**We believe in the One whose message of peace was hidden
from the wise and the learned and revealed to little children.**

**We believe in the One
who welcomed the sinners and outcast,
the unclean and unvalued,
the poor, the oppressed,
the sick and blind.**

**We believe in the One who was not welcomed by the
establishment, the powerful, the wealthy or the pious.**

**We believe that peace on earth is God's plan
and Jesus has shown us how to cooperate with that plan.**

**We believe in reconciliation between enemies,
forgiveness for ourselves and others
and the power of the gospel to transform our lives.**

**We believe that Christmas is God's great Yes to the world
and that the Christmas message of peace and good will for
all shall change the world by transforming us, one by one.**

A Time to Wonder

Scripture Reading

Luke 15:1-32

Reflection Lost and Found

Hymn of the Day **I Have Called You by Your Name** (More Voices 161)

Words and music: Daniel Charles Damon, 1995; Words and Music © 1995 Hope Publishing Company.
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- 1 I have called you by your name,
 you are mine;
 I have gifted you
 and ask you now to shine.
 I will not abandon you;
 all my promises are true.
 You are gifted, called, and chosen;
 you are mine.

- 2 I will help you learn my name
 as you go;
 read it written in my people,
 help them grow.
 Pour the water in my name,
 speak the word your soul can claim,
 offer Jesus' body
 given long ago.

3 I know you will need my touch
 as you go;
 feel it pulsing in creation's
 ebb and flow.
 Like the woman reaching out,
 choosing faith in spite of doubt,
 hold the hem of Jesus' robe,
 then let it go.

4 I have given you a name,
 it is mine;
 I have given you my Spirit
 as a sign.
 With my wonder in your soul,
 make my wounded children whole;
 go and tell my precious people
 they are mine.

Invitation to Offering

Choral Response **In the Bleak Midwinter** (Voices United 55, v.4)

Words: Christina Georgina Rossetti ca. 1872; Music: Gustav Theodor Holst 1906

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I was a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise one, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

Offering Prayer

Pastoral Prayers & The Lord's Prayer

Parting Hymn

Will You Come and Follow Me (Voices United 567)

*Words: The Iona Community; Music: Scottish traditional; arr. The Iona Community 1987
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- 1 Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?
- 2 Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?
- 3 Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?

- 4 Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?
- 5 Christ, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

Benediction

Postlude

In Dulci Jubilo

J. S. Bach

Worship Leaders – Bill and Clare Walker
Music Leader – Sharon Prindle-Collins
Welcoming – Stephen Godfrey
Scripture Reading – Barbara Waldner
Greeters – Deanna Bertelsen and Blyth Hughes
Offering Invitation and Prayer – Stephen Godfrey
Technical Support – Karen Clark and Louise Johnston
Fellowship Time – Caring Ministry