

We Celebrate Nativity! + We Celebrate God's Love!



+ The People of Mount Zion-Finksburg +

The First Sunday after Christmas Day + January 1, 2023+ Worship 9:55 a.m.

Leslie Gabler, Director of Music

Our Call to Worship

(Unison)

God of Time and Space,

**You are not bound by calendars, day timers, PDA's and watches,
teach us to not be bound by them either.**

**God of the stars, the heavens, the planets and their orbits,
you sent a star to guide the Magi on their journey to the Christ Child,
Send your star to guide us on journeys of faith.**

**God of Creation, your word spoke creation into being,
you sent your son as the light into a world of darkness,**

**God may your word still speak to us today,
May your son still be the light in our worlds of darkness.**

God, our dark world is a hotbed of fighting, pollution, starvation, and homelessness.

Teach us to once again be stewards of your earth.

Bring forth your peace in the midst of the battles.

May there be plenty for those who are starving.

May there be homes for those without homes.

**And just as the Magi brought gifts to the Christ Child
may we bring gifts to the Christ Child again. Amen and Amen**

Musical Prelude Let us prepare for the worship of God by listening. + God is still speaking +

Call to Worship (Unison) Our "Call to Worship" this morning is printed above

A New Hymn for a New Year

New Year's Hymn (Tune "Hymn to Joy")

**On this day of celebration, at this time when hopes are new,
God, we gather as your people, called to put our trust in you.
You have made the world we live in; you have worked through history.
In your plan we find our purpose, in your love, our unity.**

Long ago, you sent our Savior to this world in deep despair.
In your Word made flesh you came, our life to know, our sins to bear.
Christ has died and Christ is risen! At this new year we proclaim:
Yesterday, today, forever-- Jesus Christ is still the same!

Through two thousand years of changes, through these passing centuries,
You have called your church to witness to Christ's love that claims and frees.
Each new generation hears you, each must find a fresh new way
To make known the life you offer, to the people in their day.

On this day, we pause and wonder what the future years will bring,
Yet we know you clothe each flower and you make each sparrow sing.
How much more will you protect us with your guiding, caring hand!
By your Spirit, lead us boldly in the future you have planned.

Opening Prayer

Lighting of the Christ Candle (Unison)

The birth of the Babe of Bethlehem is what we have been preparing for.
Our Advent wreath is now completed
by the lighting of our Christ candle.
"For unto us a child is given,
unto us a Savior is born
and the order of the world will be upon his shoulders."
With the birth of Jesus, our lives will be forever changed.
We will be transformed by his model and message.
We light the Christ candle to represent
that Christ is truly the center of our lives.

A Song of Christmas The Blind Boys of Alabama "Last Month of the Year"

We'll know in the music field these popular African-American singers share a very
different but joyful song asking the question "when was Jesus born?"

We Welcome our Children

Even if we do not have children in congregational worship we remember all God's children.

Song Verse Three (3) "Away in a Manger" Hymnal #217

"Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay, close by me forever and love me I pray.

Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, an fit us for heaven to live with thee there."

Informal Moments + Reception of our Tithes & Offerings

Offering Response (Hymnal #95) "Praise God from all blessings flow"

Morning Prayer and our Lord's Prayer (Unison)

Together, around the Communion table, we pray:
Come, holy Spirit, Come
It is in our brokenness that we become whole.
Bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine.
Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be opened,
that we might recognize the Spirit rising in our midst
indeed, in one another.
Come, holy Spirit, come.

(Let us pray the "Our Father" together)

Our Father, which 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 that trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

A Hymn of Christmas "Angels, From the Realms of Glory" #220 "UM Hymnal

+ The Table of the Lord + The Holy Communion +

Lessons from our Holy Scriptures I Corinthians, Gospel of Luke

United Methodist Hymnal Pages 8-10

Consecration of the Bread and Wine (The Elements)

Invitation to the Table of the Lord

(Please come at the direction of the Ushers)

Communion of the Faith

(At Mount Zion ALL are welcome at the Table of the Lord)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Message Jesus is the "light of the world" but we are called to reflect that light in our daily lives!

The Gospel of John 1.1-5; 8.12; Matthew 5.14-16

Closing Song "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" Hymn #218 UMC

Closing Words – Sending Forth (Benediction)

(based on Isaiah 9:2-7)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in deepest night, are lit up with a brilliant sight.

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.

The spread of his influence and of his peace will never end.

Therefore, go out into the world with great joy,
and the grace of Bethlehem's matchless Child,
the love of the God who never ceases to amaze,
and the fellowship of the Spirit who never wearies,
will be with you this day and evermore.

Thanks be to God!

And may the God who gives peace be with each of you.

And remember

Share your faith wherever you go! Share the video!

Please invite someone to worship with you!