

## Welcome!

We are so happy to be here together! Here are a few guidelines for how we can worship safely together:

Please stay seated until the ushers come to guide you out of the Sanctuary. If you would like to make your offering while you are here today, there is an offering plate by the door. You may also continue to give using our website or by mailing a check.

In order to help keep everyone safe, please take your bulletins and any trash with you when you leave.

This service will be livestreamed on YouTube and a recording will be posted on social media for watching at a later time.

### Bible Reading for January 3

**Matthew 2:1-12** “In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’” (NRSV, vs. 1-2)

### Discussion Questions

• *At the end of the scripture selection, we hear that the wise men return home by a different road rejoicing after meeting Jesus. We are heading into a new year, what good news has God given you to carry into 2021? How can you see God making a way for you this new year?*

As you ponder these things in preparation for Sunday, I would love to hear what God is saying to you. Call me in the church office at 256-353-6941 or email me at [miriam@centralunitedmethodist.com](mailto:miriam@centralunitedmethodist.com).



Love GOD



Love OTHERS



SERVE the World



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## More Christmas

**Luke 2:22-40**

*First Sunday after Christmas*

**December 27, 2020**

Musical Gift

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship #246 “Joy to the World” (vs.1, 4)

Watts

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders, of his love.**

## Prayers of the People

Rev. Miriam Smith

**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 for ever. Amen.**

Bible Reading — Luke 2:22-40

—[Prayer]

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed,  
we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts

of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Message — “More Christmas”

Rev. Miriam Smith

Closing Hymn #238 “Angels We Have Heard On High”

Trad.

**Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

Benediction

Musical Gift

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Pianist: Kim Osborn