



United Presbyterian Church
1701 E. Second Street
Bloomington, IN 47401

December 31, 2023

The Reverend Cheryl Montgomery
812-332-1850 www.upcbloomington.org

United Presbyterian Church
December 31, 2023 First Sunday of Christmas



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

PRELUDE *We Three Kings* Benjamin Watkins, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 98)

Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

Pastor: O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

People: **Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

Pastor: Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

People: **With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.**

Pastor: The Lord has brought comfort to all people. Let us break forth into singing, for God has done marvelous things!

Call to Confession

Jesus our Lord came into an indifferent world, yet his life revealed the inner thoughts of many. Let us confess our sins before God and one another that we may receive release from our sin.

Prayer of Confession (in unison with Rev. Montgomery)

Merciful God, we confess that we have not lived as your faithful children. We have kept silent in midst of prejudice and hatred. We have been idle in the face of violence and injustice. We have not been a light to the nations, and our lives have not revealed your glory. Forgive us, Merciful God. Repair the ugliness of our sin and restore in us your beautiful grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news: the light of Christ shines in our darkness, to bring light and life to all. By the gift of Christ, our sins are forgiven. Praise God for our victory in Christ.

PASSING OF THE PEACE (Pastor & congregation)

Pastor: In this time of glory and praise, let us rejoice by sharing signs of Christ's peace.

The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**



Gospel Reading

John 1:1-18 (Pew Bible p.809; large print p.1632)

MEDITATION *The Stories Behind Our Christmas Carols* Reverend Cheryl Montgomery
We'll remain seated as we sing the first verse of every carol.
Angels, from the Realms of Glory #22
Angels We Have Heard on High #23
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice #28
Go, Tell It on the Mountain #29
In the Bleak Midwinter #36
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear #38
While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night Verses 1-4 #58; Verses 5 and 6 #59

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

Offertory

**Doxology* #592

Prayer of Dedication – In unison with Rev. Cheryl Montgomery

O Majesty on high, whom angels worship in thanksgiving for your Son, bless these gifts we offer that they may bring light to the darkened corners of our world; in Christ's name we pray. Amen.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

POSTLUDE *Auld Lang Syne*

Benjamin Watkins, piano

*Please stand if you are able

UPC Prayer List - Email requests to: upcbloomington@gmail.com.

Shea Henry Olivia McKenzie Kathleen Olds Rev. David Rosen Anita Steverson

Roby Lorimer Patty Lucas Diana Trowbridge

His Eyes Mission in Honduras led by the Colby's

Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project in Uganda led by Jackson Kaguri

Our military men and women around the world

The people of Ukraine The people of the Middle East

Our military people around the world Faculty & staff of Monroe County United Ministries

Candidates and Inquirers: In the POV: Jerusha Van Camp is a member at First Presbyterian Church in Evansville, where she also works as the Parish Visitor. She is continuing to grow her ministry skills as a Pastoral Intern. Please pray for Jerusha and all Candidates and Inquirers in their preparation for ministry, their health, wellbeing and wholeness. May the Lord protect and bless them as we bless them on their journey and hold them and lift them up in our prayers.



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