



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

1st Sunday after Christmas — December 29, 2024

The Reverend Susan McGhee
Executive Presbyter of Presbytery of Ohio Valley
Guest Minister

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www.upcbloomington.org

United Presbyterian Church Worship Guide
December 29, 2024 – 1st Sunday after Christmas



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Elder Allen Pease

PRELUDE Benjamin Watkins, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP Elder Alejandra Haddad, liturgist

Liturgist: The Word was made flesh,
People: Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Liturgist: and dwelt among us.
People: Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Liturgist: Jesus, joy of the angels, and crown of all the saints:
People: Glory to God in the highest!
 Liturgist: Jesus, friend of all, protector of the poor, treasure of the faithful:
People: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

MORNING PRAYER

Liturgist: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
 Liturgist: Let us pray: All glory to you, great God,
 for the gift of your Son, whom you sent to save us.
 With singing angels, let us praise your name,
 and tell the earth his story,
 that all may believe, rejoice, and bow down,
 acknowledging your love;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

***OPENING CAROL No. 31** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

*** PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Liturgist: Let us confess our sin before God and one another:
People: God of grace and truth,
you sent Jesus to be among us as light shining in darkness.
We confess that we have not welcomed the light,
or trusted good news to be good.
We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst,
expecting little, and hoping for less.
Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope,
so that we may receive the fullness of your grace,
and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.

– all pray in silence

*** WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Liturgist: In this day, fresh-made,
 let us delight in God's goodness and be ready to start anew.
 Friends, believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
People: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.
 Liturgist: I invite you to stand and share the peace of Christ with one another.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Leader: Almighty God, you have shed upon us
the new light of your incarnate Word.

People: **May this light, enkindled in our hearts,
shine forth in our lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD IN SCRIPTURE AND SONG

Carol No. 22: *Angels, From the Realms of Glory*

Luke 2: 1—7

Stanza 1 *Angels, from the realms of glory...*

Luke 2: 8—20

Stanza 2 *Shepherds, in the fields abiding...*

Matthew 2: 1—12

Stanza 3 *Sages, leave your contemplations...*

Luke 2: 25—38

Stanza 4 *All creation, join in praising...*

REFLECTIONS ON THE WORD

Rev. McGhee

* CAROL No. 28 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (in unison)

Colossians 1:15-20

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Elder Alejandra Haddad

THE OFFERING OF OUR TREASURE

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

*Presentation of Gifts

*Prayer of Dedication – Rev. Susan McGhee

* CAROL No. 29 *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

* CHARGE AND BLESSING

Rev. Susan McGhee

THE POSTLUDE

Dr. Benjamin Watkins, piano

Today is the final Sunday UPC is receiving the annual PC(USA) Christmas Joy Offering. 50% of your gifts open doors which lead to relief for church workers and their families when critical needs arise. 50% of your gifts open doors of opportunity which lead to hopeful futures for young people at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

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

The UPC Congregation as they embark on their 192nd year
 Bob Hammel Kathleen Olds Anita Steverson
 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 Georgia, Lebanon, Nigeria, Middle East, Sudan, Syria and Ukraine
 Our military men and women stationed around the world
 The UPC Session as they seek a part-time Pastor for our congregation
 The faculty and staff of Monroe County United Ministries
 Prayers of gratitude and safety for our First Responders



For World Unity (Peace on Earth)

O God,
 you love justice and you establish peace on earth.
 We bring before you the disunity of today's world:
 the absurd violence, and the many wars,
 which are breaking the courage of the peoples of the world;
 militarism and the armaments race,
 which are threatening life on the planet;
 human greed and injustice,
 which breed hatred and strife.
 Send your Spirit and renew the face of the earth;
 teach us to be compassionate toward the whole human family;
 strengthen the will of all those who fight for justice and for peace;
 lead all nations into the path of peace,
 and give us the peace which the world cannot give. Amen.
A prayer from Zaire, Book of Common Worship (WJKP, 1993) 797-798.



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